

The Most Valuable Voice in AA: The Groups!

A Word From Our SENY Delegate - Panel 71

Greetings, fellow AA members! There is a wonderful balance within AA's 36 Spiritual Principles. While there are both obvious and deeper connections between these principles, one of the most intriguing threads is between Tradition Two and Concepts I & II, because they all center on one word: "conscience".

Merriam-Webster defines conscience as "consciousness of the moral right and wrong of *one's own* acts or motives." (*Italics* are mine – I don't get to determine *your* conscience). During my drinking there were a lot of words in that definition that I didn't want to think about, and I struggled mightily with Step Three because I couldn't "pick up the key of willingness" to change. One of the many graces of Alcoholics Anonymous is that we have sponsorship and our group to help us get sober – and our 36 Spiritual Principles to help us stay that way, but I digress...

Tradition Two refers to one ultimate authority, as it manifests in our group conscience. Concept I says "Final responsibility and ultimate authority... reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." And Concept II says that the General

Service Conference is "the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society."

As a sober alcoholic, I need to strive for balance and thoughtfulness in both my actions and motives; to realize that my voice is of the most value when I join in with other voices in my group (on whatever level of the service structure that group resides); and to listen to, consider and honor the other voices in that group. If the other group members act in the same loving matter, then we have one of the deepest values of our Fellowship:

An informed group conscience.

This is what I seek in my home group. This is what the General Service Conference seeks each year, as it considers matters of policy. As we come out of a year like no other (for AA and for the world), I hope all of us in SENY will seek the same: to be fully informed, and ready to listen without judgment; to remember that the Group is how we survive and thrive; and to let our conscience – and a spirit of love and mutual respect – guide our thinking, because that's the way of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In Love and Service,
Tom B.



WHATS INSIDE

- *When Perfectionism Goes Wrong*
- *Embracing The Unknown*
- *Each One / Reach One - A New Initiative From The Accesibilities Committee*

Next Month's Theme:

"...IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS"

Deadline For Submissions:

APRIL 24TH

The Ultimate Enemy Of An Informed Group Conscience: Perfectionism



From the GSR of the Now You Understand Group

Most fellows know that the ‘group conscience’ is the point when substantial unanimity is reached by an AA group on any issue that affects its wellbeing or smooth operation. Anyone who has participated in their home group’s business meeting—and certainly those who have been given the opportunity to be a trusted servant below the group level—is familiar with the term ‘informed group conscience’

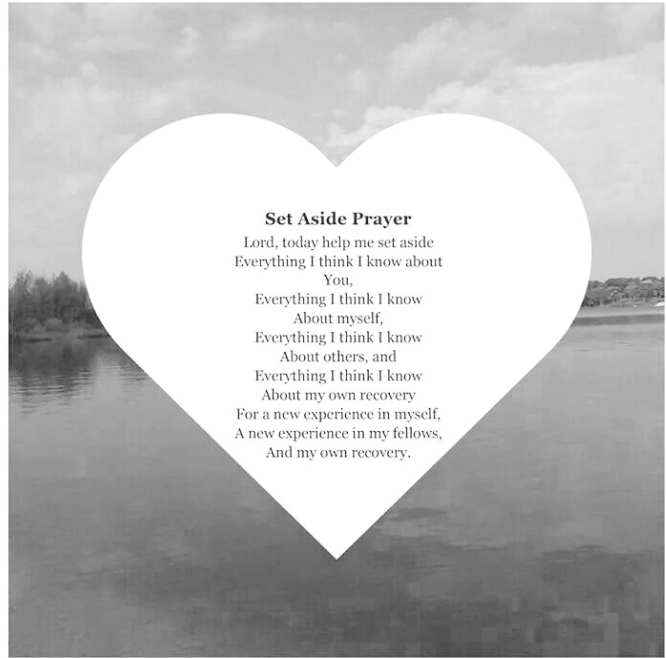
The goal is to review all of the relevant information, adhere to AA principles, to hear and discuss all differing viewpoints before a vote is taken. After the vote we might hear the minority opinion and if that opinion sways such group conscience, a second vote is then called for.

As the saying goes, this is a simple program for complicated people. In our zeal to be ‘informed’ we sometimes overlook the most basic tenets of our teachings. We do our due diligence, check

our facts and figures, our group’s history and attendance trends and contribution records, but many is the discussion, whether it be about the delegate’s Questionnaire, changing a meeting script, moving a meeting from in-person to virtual (and back again!), or divvying up Seventh Tradition funds above a group’s prudent reserve, in which strident overdetermination to do the “right thing” actually becomes the enemy of an informed group conscience.



How can that be? Well, in our effort to be right, to be perfect, we forget some of the simplest yet strongest tools at our disposal. Among them: This is a “WE” program; we must value the other person’s opinion as much as we do our own. We must practice rigorous honesty—both in our speech as well as our listening, having the patience to hear a fellow’s statement or question all the way through to the period or the question mark, without formulating our reply based on what we think they will say or “really mean.” We must be honest, open-minded, and willing, the fundamental H-O-W of how this all works. We must guard against expectations, those sneaky premeditated resentments.



Set Aside Prayer

Lord, today help me set aside
Everything I think I know about
You,
Everything I think I know
About myself,
Everything I think I know
About others, and
Everything I think I know
About my own recovery
For a new experience in myself,
A new experience in my fellows,
And my own recovery.



The set aside prayer is a wonderful tool to read—and HEAR—at the top of any difficult discussion, for it is as relevant at the top of a potentially heated new business debate as it is at the start of a Big Book Study. The same holds true with the Third Step Prayer. First and foremost, “Thy will, not mine, be done.” Finally, our hallowed Traditions are as valuable as any detailed, pertinent research on a given issue is, and must always inform any important discussion and the group’s resulting group conscience on anything, no matter what.

Ken K. (he, him, his)

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LET’S *Link* UP!

Sharing is caring... Write an article about your experience, strength, and hope in AA service. Please limit your article to 350 words, and email it to link@aaseny.org or mail it: The Link Editor, P.O. Box 571, NY, NY 10116



EMBRACING THE UNKNOWN

From the GSR of the Gift Of Desperation Group

My homegroup is a low-key bunch. We meet on Thursday nights to share round-robin style as we read the personal stories from the back of the Big Book. This welcoming group is always centered on identification and acceptance. We do a great job of looking out for each other, always making room for the newcomers as our circle grows.

The average attendance at our meetings has steadily grown to triple the size of what it was when I first joined. Along with this growth has come changes in the dynamics of the group. These changes certainly have shown themselves in business meetings. As new members join, we learn and benefit from every one of them. Some new members are truly 'new' to the rooms of AA. Their fresh perspectives can benefit us if we, as a group respect these newcomers enough to listen to them. Some members have brought experiences with other AA homegroups and new ideas of how our group can do things as well as cautionary tales of pitfalls we would be wise to avoid.

It has been very beneficial for us to begin our monthly business meetings by reading the

'Tradition of the Month'. Those Twelve Traditions are the legacies of the Spiritual Entities that are the Groups of AA. These Traditions come from hard-won experiences. Our homegroup can benefit from these lessons only if we are aware of them. Any informed group conscience means that we must be informed – not just aware of our personal opinions. We can't embrace what we don't know.

In December of 2020 my homegroup of over eight years elected me to be the general service representative, their first GSR since I joined. As a new GSR I strive to deepen and strengthen my personal knowledge of AA literature, the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. I reach out to other GSRs for guidance and suggestions. I look forward to working closely with my homegroup, District 301 and Area 49 in an active dialog – not just passively listening, but truly communicating. I believe that the heart of my GSR commitment is sharing this growth with my homegroup.

This journey is helping me to stay sober today, as I see the promise that "more will be revealed" manifesting itself in my daily life.

Henry O.

UPCOMING EVENTS

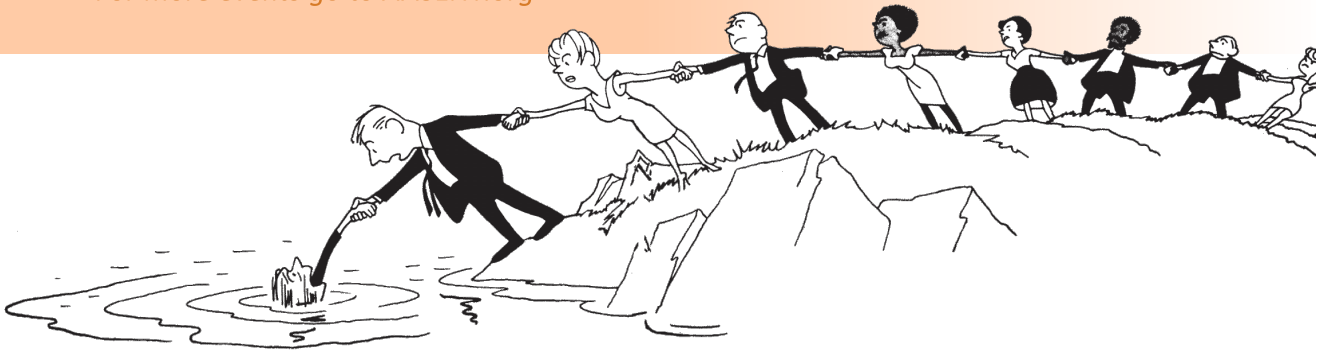
4/18 - 4/24 - 71st General Service Conference

5/1 - SENY Treatment Facilities Bridging The Gap Workshop

5/3 - SENY Committee Meeting

6/9 - 6/11 - 6th Annual Unity & Service Conference

For more events go to AASENY.org



SAVE THE DATE!



6th Annual Unity & Service Conference

July 9-11, 2021 | Virtual on Zoom



"Applying our 12 Traditions & 12 Concepts in all of our affairs"

Unityandserviceconference.org | 925.222.5639



SAVE THE DATE

SOUTHEASTERN NEW YORK (SENY) AREA 49 TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

PRESENTS

BRIDGING THE GAP – A COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSION

Saturday May 1, 2021 - 12:00pm until 2:00pm

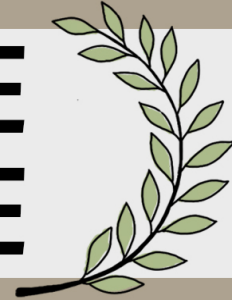
Zoom and event details to follow



If you have a question, please contact tf@aaseny.org / 914-523-0746



EACH ONE REACH ONE



AN AA CALL FOR ACTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically impacted the rooms of AA. While many people have found ways to connect with other alcoholics, via video call and other forms of communication, there are still members of the Fellowship who have remained isolated from their community during this time. **EACH ONE, REACH ONE** is an idea that encourages each and every member of AA to reach out to someone in the Fellowship who you haven't seen or heard from in a while, practicing the AA legacy of service, unity and recovery.

Pick up the phone and make a call.

Go for a socially distanced walk.

Invite someone to a virtual meeting.

Attend an outdoor meeting.

Teach someone to connect via technology.

Meet up somewhere outside, like a park!

Deliver a copy of The Grapevine or La Niña.

Write a letter.

Offer to deliver groceries to a fellow in your neighborhood.

AA's Responsibility Statement

I am responsible... When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there.

And for that, I am responsible.



Brought to you
by Area 49 SENY's
Accessibility Committee
access@aaseny.org



UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS

To add or update email agenda@aaseny.org

Brooklyn District 405 Meeting	4/10	3:15p	Zoom ID: 536 413 6776 Passcode: 120712
Staten Island General Services Meeting	4/11	7:00p	Zoom ID: 847 1858 9467 Passcode: 2021
Brooklyn County General Service Meeting	4/14	6:30p	Zoom ID: 828 3147 4891 Passcode: 403618
Bronx-Upper Manhattan (BxUM) County Meeting	4/14	7:00p	Zoom ID: 429 704 8123 Passcode: Serenity
SENY Public Information (PI) Committee Meeting	4/15	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Hispanic District Asamblea	4/18	9:30a	Grupo Solo Por Hoy, 161 North Main St, Freeport, NY
SENY Literature Committee Meeting	4/18	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
SENY Intergroup Committee Meeting	4/18	4:00p	Zoom ID: 631 669 1124
Nassau County General Service Meeting	4/19	7:30p	Zoom ID: 922 8787 8377 Passcode: 12345
Orange County General Service Meeting	4/20	7:00p	Zoom ID: 999 6809 5777 Passcode: Acceptance
Rockland County General Service Meeting	4/21	7:30p	Zoom ID: 996 6281 8407 Password: 280593
Westchester County General Service Meeting	4/21	7:30p	Zoom ID: 868 370 8260 Password: WGSA
SENY Service Sponsor Committee Meeting	4/25	4:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
SENY Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting	4/25	6:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Queens County General Service Assembly	4/26	7:30p	Zoom ID: 733-111-2611 Password: 98765
SENY CPC Committee Meeting	4/27	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
District 312 Virtual Meeting	5/5	6:30p	Zoom ID: 312 815 7427 2176 Passcode: 2580

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*Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)