



The Link

Issue 635 - DECEMBER 2023
CONFESSIONS FROM THE
DELEGATES FIRST YEAR!

Confessions from the Delegates First Year!

A few months ago, the Link Editor asked me to write about my first year as your Delegate. I thought I would have a bunch of juicy stuff to write about. Truth is, not much juice. I am just another alcoholic who tries to practice our principles in all my affairs. I have a commitment that gives me the privilege of serving all of you and it has been amazing so far. I have attended many events to show my support and I have also participated in some of them. I have had the honor of meeting many of you, in-person and virtually. I was your voice at the 73rd General Service Conference. One confession I have is that sometimes it does feel lonely. Mainly because people think I am so busy and don't have time to talk so they don't reach out. I encourage you to reach out when you have questions, need guidance or if you just want to talk. I am available as I promised when I took the commitment.

Another confession is most of my Link articles have been about experiences I have had during this first year of my commitment. Situations brought to my attention around our Area have prompted me to share my thoughts. More recently, a few situations have come up having to do with Tradition 2. Tradition 2: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our

group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." In the years I have been sober and a member of this fellowship I have seen trusted servants who sincerely want to help our fellowship. I have also seen some of those same trusted servants who don't understand or just disregard Tradition 2. Page 133 of the 12X12; "Perhaps it would be a good idea if we continue to keep a firm hand on A.A. in this town. After all we are experienced. Besides, look at all the good we've done these drunks. They should be grateful!"

Now let's move to page 135 after the much-needed elections; "Let's turn again to the deposed founder and his friends. What becomes of them? As their grief and anxiety wear away, a subtle change begins. Ultimately, they divide into two classes known in A.A. slang as "elder statesmen" and "bleeding deacons." The elder statesman is the one who sees the wisdom of the group's decision, who holds no resentment over his reduced status, ... The bleeding deacon is one who is just as surely convinced that the group cannot get along without him, who constantly connives for reelection to office and who continues to be consumed with self-pity."

When our commitments end, we should all be willing to pass the torch and everything that goes along with it. There is a saying I have heard along my journey; "let go or be dragged." My commitment ends December 31, 2024, and I fully intend to pass the torch that was given to me.

Jo Ann M., *Delegate Area 49*

WHATS INSIDE

- [2024 NERAASA Registration Flyer](#)
- [A.A. Movie Night Flyer](#)
- [A.A. Historical Book Club Flyer](#)

"Excerpts from A.A. literature and current publications (text and graphics) are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. and The Grapevine, Inc."

Unity has been a cornerstone of the Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) fellowship since its inception, but its significance became even more apparent after the challenges posed by the global shutdown. A.A. members found solace and strength in their shared commitment to recovery and unity.

The shutdown forced A.A. groups to adapt quickly to the new reality of social distancing and restrictions on in-person meetings. “Almost without exception alcoholics are tortured by loneliness.” In the face of these challenges, the A.A. community demonstrated remarkable resilience and innovation. Virtual meetings became the lifeline for many individuals in recovery, providing a platform for connection, support, and the sharing of experience, strength, and hope.

“Nothing matters more to A.A.’s future welfare than the way we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination.”

The essence of unity within A.A. was evident as members embraced technology to ensure that the message of recovery continued to reach those in need within the principles of the 12 Traditions. Virtual meetings, online speaker shares, and virtual fellowship events became the norm, breaking down geographical barriers and

allowing individuals from diverse backgrounds to come together in the spirit of recovery. The virtual format not only sustained the sense of unity but also opened new avenues for communication and support within the fellowship. The General Service Conference was held virtually, and it worked. So much so there is a Proposed Agenda Item to have it one year in person and one year virtually so that we can be financially prudent.

The pandemic served as a poignant reminder that, despite the physical distance, the bonds forged in recovery are resilient. The collective commitment to sobriety and mutual support transcended the limitations imposed by the shutdown, reinforcing the idea that the heart of A.A. lies not only in physical meetings but in the shared journey of recovery. The experience strengthened the fellowship’s resolve to adapt, grow, and support one another, underscoring that unity in A.A. is not just a principle but a living, breathing force that sustains the collective journey toward recovery.

Kimberly Jean, *DCMC, Suffolk County*



UPCOMING EVENTS

12/4 - *SENY Area Committee Meeting*

12/10 - *SENY Convention Planning Mtg (VIRTUAL)*

12/21 - *NYCYPAA Snow Ball Disco Holiday Party*

For more events go to AASENY.org

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

Unity and Service After the Pandemic

Unity and service after the pandemic has been challenging to say the least. Brooklyn County General Service (BCGS) was left with an immense service void. We had three out of fourteen District Committee Members (DCM) and no standing committee members. We have filled three quarters of the standing committee chairs. Now we are working with General Service Representatives (GSR) district by district to elect DCMs. It is not easy. I'm asking anyone in Brooklyn that would like to do service as a DCM to please stand in your district. We need experienced GSRs to take it to the next level and stand in their District to be a DCM.

We lost our spaces as well as our trusted servants. The space we have used for county meetings is no longer available to us. With the help of a GSR, who recommended a church, she has a long-standing relationship with, we revived in-person/hybrid general service meetings in May. The school we used for share-a-day was temporarily unavailable, but we were able to renegotiate with them and we'll have an in-person Brooklyn County Share-A-Day in 2024. We also lost our Spiritual Breakfast Location because the property was sold. Due to inflation, we have not found a catering hall that is affordable. It remains virtual. BCGS had its first Spiritual Picnic in Prospect Park in early fall. I hope this becomes an annual event.

District by District I'm trying to help GSRs get organized for elections. It is slow going. There are now four out of fourteen DCMs. Many of the GSRs are new to service, which adds to the difficulty. It is a daunting task to come back after the pandemic. I have a great group of officers and trusted servants that have stepped up. Also, the past DCMC has been a great help. It all takes teamwork. I can be reached at dcmc@brooklynaa.org if you want to do service.

Charlene B, *DCMC, Brooklyn County*

A LINK INTERVIEW: (From Link Issue No. 172 - January 1977)

At a recent Anniversary meeting the main speaker revealed the full name of four A.A. members during his talk. He prefaced his remarks with, "I know he won't mind me breaking his anonymity but..."

He would only grant this interview if I agreed to protect his anonymity. Therefore, for the purposes of this interview, we will refer to him as "Johnny Namedropper".

Your Editor: "Why did you find it necessary to use the full name of four members at an open meeting?"

Johnny Namedropper: "It kinda lends an air of class and nobody would know who I meant if I just used initials."

Your Editor: "How can we expect the newcomer to believe us when we tell him that we will protect his anonymity and he hears speakers give full names?"

Johnny Namedropper: "If a little thing like that should turn him away, he won't stay sober anyway."

Your Editor: "What about the old timers whose names you revealed?"

Johnny Namedropper: "Hey! They liked it. You shoulda seen the smile on 's face."

Your Editor: "My sponsor told me that when you place a person on a pedestal, he has four or five more feet to fall."

Johnny Namedropper: "Who the heck do you think you are? This is an individual program. I can do whatever I want."

How do you feel about this? Discuss it with your G.S.R.



AA SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS



OPEN SERVICE POSITION IN YOUR DISTRICT, COUNTY, OR AREA?
OUR NEW SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS CAN HELP!

ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE:

- CORRECTIONS
 - ACCESSIBILITIES
- CONTACT DCMC@ORANGE.ASENY.ORG

SUFFOLK COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- ACCESSIBILITY
 - ARCHIVES
 - LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VINA
 - CPC
 - TREATMENT FACILITIES
 - HISPANIC LIAISON
- CONTACT DCMC@AASUFFOLKGS-NY.ORG

NASSAU COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- CORRECTIONS
 - PI (PUBLIC INFORMATION)
 - TREATMENT FACILITIES
 - SERVICE SPONSORSHIP
- CONTACT DCMC@NASSAU.ASENY.ORG



Send a brief description of the position, any sober time/other requirements involved, and a contact email, and we'll post your "ad" here where other AA's eager to do service can find it!



Secrets the Chair Doesn't Share

Ooo. Juicy topic. To be honest, there isn't anything that I wouldn't share if prompted. I think the biggest secret I have is that it's not that hard and is absolutely doable if you insist on maintaining balance in your life. That's been my position from the get-go.

When I stood for this service position, it seemed daunting. I had heard horror stories of how busy past Chairs were; how they spent almost every weekend and weeknights doing SENY activities. It made me balk at the idea of standing for Chair. If being Chair meant not having a life, I wasn't sure it was for me. After all, I have a very full life. I have a family (which includes a small child), a career, friends, and hobbies. I also attend and do service at my home group and other meetings and have a gaggle of sponsees. However, I truly believe that A.A. is not meant to take over my life but to be a bridge back to life. So, when I was elected, I decided that this service position and that belief could co-exist.

I have not said yes to absolutely everything. Honestly, I don't really attend SENY events unless directly invited. I try as best I can to just stick to the position description as it is outlined in the SENY Handbook. I am trusting my fellow trusted servants to do their positions. I don't need to look over their shoulders. As a result, it has been a joy to be the Area Chair. It has not been burdensome or taken over my life; it has only enhanced it. I get to serve SENY AND be an active participant in all areas of my life. So, the biggest secret about being Area Chair is that you can do it too.

Paola A., *Area 49 Chair*
she/her

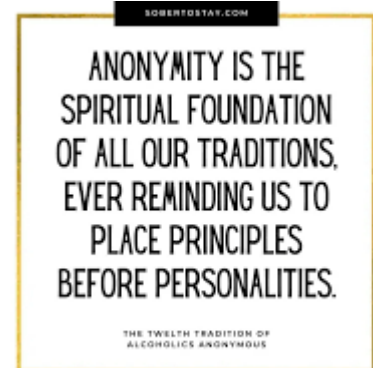
"Do I want to be right or do I want to be happy", said my sponsor, many years ago. This question has guided my personal recovery for many years. Through serving at the group and below the group level I have learned about what I can bring to my group and to A.A. as a whole. I have learned that my sobriety, which is maintained by relying on a higher power and the unity of A.A. is the most important fact in my life. Practicing the spiritual principles of this program has freed me from active alcoholism and the bondage of self.

I am so grateful for the structure of A.A. I know the steps, traditions, and concepts have allowed our fellowship and members to navigate through many dark and scary periods in its 88 years of existence. The most recent calamity, a global pandemic, has of course affected our society. However, our fellowship has survived and thrived because of the service of its members and the knowledge that group unity is of paramount importance.

The traditions and concepts guarantee our survival by reinforcing the ideals of a democracy guided by spiritual principles. Wow, I am so grateful to be a member. Our society's unity is protected by the knowledge that for the individual to survive, A.A. through its membership must continue to serve.

In my recovery and in A.A. service, I have wanted to be right, to be heard and to be understood. It is a painful place. Through learning about our organization's principles, I have discovered I do not have to be right or afraid, like the early members of A.A. Our organization has and will, by grace weather our many differing outlooks by accepting the guidance of our founders. We are blessed to have the instructions, which include, follow the dictates of an ultimate authority as heard through our group conscious, trust our trusted servants, all members have a voice, listen to, and consider the minority opinion and elect the best suited leaders. Let's continue to love, serve, and support the unity of our great fellowship. Grateful to Serve!

Maura Z., *Alt DCMC, Queens County*



SUFFOLK COUNTY
AL-ANON IN PARTICIPATION WITH AA
DISTRICT 120 AREA 49

"A JOURNEY THROUGH
THE STEPS"

FREE EVENT

This is a Quarterly Workshop focusing on 3 steps at a time.

SESSION 4 (STEPS 10-12)

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16TH
10AM-2PM
*DOORS OPEN @ 9:30AM

Have a question? Put it in the "Ask It" Basket.

The basket will be passed honoring our 7th Tradition

TRUE NORTH CHURCH
1101 LAKELAND AVENUE BOHEMIA, NY 11716

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
AALIAISON@AL-ANON-SUFFOLK-NY.ORG
DCM120@AASUFFOLKGS-NY.ORG

NYCYPAA | YOUNG & WISE. INVITE YOU.

SNOW BALL
DISCO HOLIDAY PARTY

Meetings, dancing, games, fellowship
Costume contest!
Desserts welcome!

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21, 2023
263 W 86TH ST, NY, 10024
MEETING 7-8 | DANCE 8-11

All are welcome!
Register here



Suggested contribution
\$15 pre registration
\$20 at the door

District 620
will host a
Christmas Alca-thon
12/24/2023 6pm - 12/25/2023 6pm

6pm Christmas Eve through
Christmas Day - Last meeting 6pm
@
Grace Congregational Church
310 West 139th Street
(Between Eighth Avenue & Edgecombe)
New York NY 10030

For monetary contributions send funds to:
District 620 PO Box 963
Lincolnton Station
New York NY 10037
Earmarked Christmas Alca-thon

For hospitality and food contributions call:
Dawn W. (646)664-7741

All are welcome to participate
www.aadistrict620.org

Have a Happy, Sober Holiday

SUFFOLK INTERGROUP PRESENTS
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
ALCATHON

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24th, 2023 @ 10:00 PM
THROUGH CHRISTMAS DAY UNTIL 4 PM

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER RC CHURCH
510 NARRAGANSETT AVE., EAST
PATCHOGUE, NY, 11772

Groups can participate by
taking a time slot
without you there is no us!

If interested in taking a time
slot please e-mail:
specialevents@suffolkny-aa.org

Alcoholics Anonymous Historical Book Club is back--Sunday Nights at 7:00 pm on Zoom!

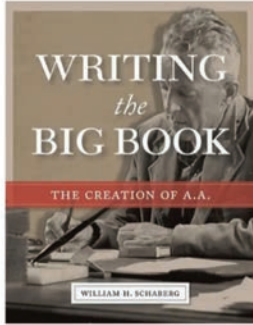
ID: 961 9888 5103 Passcode: 069497

We will be reading

Writing the Big Book, by William H. Schaberg

We read the chapter in advance & discuss at the book club meeting. A weekly schedule of the chapters can be found on brooklynaa.org."

The book club runs for 31 weeks from July 16, 2023 to March 10, 2024, but will be off for holidays on September 3, November 26, December 24, and December 31.



For more information contact dcmc@brooklynaa.org or (917) 865-9551



ROCKAWAY AA – DISTRICT 312

10th Annual

NEW YEARS EVE EVENT

Sunday, December 31st, 2023

St. Camillus/Springman Hall

185 Beach 99th Street, Rockaway Park, NY 11694

8:00 pm Open Meeting – Sober Countdown

9:15 pm to 12:30 am – Food, Dancing & Fellowship

RING IN THE NEW YEAR SOBER WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Parking available in back parking lot

FOOD/DESSERT DONATIONS WELCOMED



There is no charge for this event but there will be a donation box at the door. 50/50 chances will be available.

A.A. Movie Night

Bill W. Discusses The 12 Traditions

Presented: By The One Day At A Time Group



Date: 02/03/24 Time: 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 PM

**Where: St. Anthony's School
110 Anchor Avenue
Oceanside N.Y. 11572**



Suffolk Intergroup
Association of
Alcoholics Anonymous

AREA 49
SOUTH EASTERN NEW YORK
SENY

Suffolk County
General Service

FALL 2023 CONTRA STUDY

(virtual study of the CONcepts, TRAditions & The A.A. Service Manual)

presented by District 120, Area 49, in cooperation with SIA Suffolk Intergroup Association moderated by Trusted Servants from Area 49 (New York)

every Thursday, 8pm – 9pm, August 3 thru November 16

ZOOM Meeting ID 928 3884 9973, passcode 164

dial in: (720) 707-2699, Meeting ID 928 3884 9973#, passcode 164#

We will cover approximately three chapters of reading material per week, with associated questions. Only those who have read the assignment and have written answers to the weekly questions will be invited to read their answers to the group. All others are welcome to join the meeting and listen.

Schedule:

Aug. 3: Registration and Orientation	Sept. 28: Service Manual chap. 7-9, pgs. 169-173
Aug. 10: Traditions 1, 2, 3	Oct. 5: Service Manual chap. 10-12, pgs. 155-159, 163
Aug. 17: Traditions 4, 5, 6	Oct. 12: Service Manual pgs. 115-154
Aug. 24: Traditions 7, 8, 9	Oct. 19: Concepts pgs. 1-VI, C1-C2, Concepts 1, 2 & 3
Aug. 31: Traditions 10, 11, 12	Oct. 26: Concepts 4, 5, 6
Sept. 7: Service Manual pgs. VIII, 1-6, 85-104	Nov. 2: Concepts 7, 8, 9
Sept. 14: Service Manual chap. 1-3, pgs. 105-114, 160-162	Nov. 9: Concepts 10, 11
Sept. 21: Service Manual chap. 4-6, pgs. 164-168	Nov. 16: Concept 12

CONTRA STUDY Materials (provided upon request):

- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, B-2
- The A.A. Service Manual combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service, BM-31, 2021-2023 edition
- AA Grapevine Traditions Checklist, July 2018 revision
- A.A.W.S. Concepts Checklist, SMF-91, 08/18 edition (above items available free from www.aa.org)
- 2023 CONTRA Study Service Manual Questions

For more information contact:

- Jim S., DCM District 120
dcm120@asuffolkgs-ny.org
- Dawn D., SIA Institutions Chair
institutions@suffolkny-aa.org
- Laurie A., SIA Third Legacy Chair
thirdleg@suffolkny aa.org

NERAASA 2024

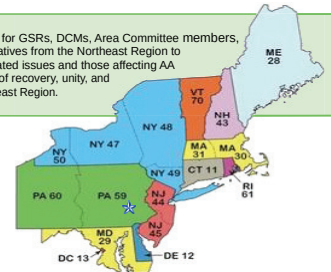
NorthEast Regional A.A. Service Assembly

PURPOSE The purpose of NERAASA is for GSRs, DCMs, Area Committee members, and Intergroup/Central Office Representatives from the Northeast Region to discuss General Service Conference-related issues and those affecting AA as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity, and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region.

**February
22–25, 2024**

Hershey Lodge
325 University Dr.
Hershey, PA 17033

**Deadline for registration by mail:
February 14, 2024**



ROUNDTABLES: Area Chairpersons • Archives • Accessibilities • Corrections • Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) • Delegates / Alternates • DCMs / DCMCs / Alternate DCMs • Grapevine / La Vita • GSRs / Alternate GSRs • Intergroups / Central Offices • Literature • Newsletters • Public Information (PI) • Registrars • Secretaries • Technology • Treasurers • Treatment & Bridging the Gap (BTG) • Young People in A.A. (YPAA)

Hotel Rooms: \$175 + 11% tax = \$194.25 per room per night. Room block cut-off date is Feb 1, 2024; rates may be higher after that date. Credit cards are charged one night's advance deposit, including tax, at the time of booking.

Rooms may be reserved by calling Hershey Lodge at (717) 533-3311, 7 days a week, 8AM–8PM (Eastern) only. Ask for the room block for NERAASA 2024 at Hershey Lodge, from Thursday, Feb 22 to Sunday, Feb 25, 2024.

For complete information browse to www.neraasa.org/register



Questions? info@neraasa.org | **Information:** neraasa.org

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS			To add or update email: agenda@aaseny.org
Staten Island General Service Assembly (HYBRID)	12/3	7:00p	Zoom ID: 740 881 0586, Password: Freedom22*
SENY Area Committee Meeting	12/4	7:30p	TBD
Technology & Communications Committee Meeting	12/5	7:30p	Zoom ID: 894 0024 2856, Password: 033597
SENY Convention Planning Meeting	12/10	2:00p	Zoom ID: 8916 576 4327, Password: 549468
Service Sponsorship Committee Meeting	12/12	8:15p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Password: 714921
BXUM General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	12/13	7:00p	Zoom ID: 429 704 813, Password: Serenity
SENY Archives Committee Meeting	12/14	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting	12/16	3:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
Hispanic District Asamblea	12/17	9:30a	TBD: Due to Rotating locations
SENY Intergroup Liaison Meeting	12/17	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting	12/18	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Literature Committee Meeting	12/24	4:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921

SENY Officers				SENY Standing / Ad Hoc Committee Chairs			
Delegate	Jo Ann M.		delegate@aaseny.org	Accessibilities	Moses H.		access@aaseny.org
Alt. Delegate	Nisaa A.		altdelegate@aaseny.org	Agenda	Sherry P.		agenda@aaseny.org
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				Ad Hoc Finance	Larry W.		finance@aaseny.org
				YPAA Liaison*	Nisaa A.		altdelegate@aaseny.org

*Special committees (neither standing nor adhoc committees)