



The Link

Happy New Year Everyone!

This is the start of the second year of my commitment, and I am ready to get started. As the chair of the General Service Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions, I have the privilege of attending Board weekend at the end of the month. I have not received an updated list of proposed agenda items and was told the final list will be decided during Board weekend and should be available shortly after.

I did receive a communication from GSO regarding Bill W.'s writings and was tasked with speaking to the members of Area 49 to try to develop a group conscious on what should or should not be done. With that in mind, I have scheduled multiple sharing sessions where any A.A. member can attend. The suggested questions are posted on our website along with the dates, times and virtual meeting information. This is an opportunity for us to come together and discuss this issue which has been a very hot topic around the U.S. and Canada. During the conference there will be a sharing session where the delegates will share their Area's opinions and suggestions.

The lottery for 2024 NERAASA is in full swing. The email blast went out with the link to register. I invite registered trusted servants to click the link. The deadline is January 18. NERAASA is a wonderful event for any A.A. member to attend and I encourage GSR's DCM's or any other

WHATS INSIDE

- 2024 NERAASA Registration Flyer
- A.A. Movie Night Flyer
- A.A. Historical Book Club Flyer

Issue 636 - JANUARY 2024

TRADITION ONE: A PATHWAY TO UNITY

general service trusted servant who has not attended yet to come and see what you are missing. Last year there were over 1,000 attendees at NERAASA, and I am hoping for a better turnout for 2024.

Delegate's Day of Sharing is scheduled for March 2, 2024. It will be a short turnaround from receiving the final list of agenda items and the background material which was promised by February 23rd so we will have to be on our toes. I will also have virtual agenda item sharing sessions like I did for the 73rd General Service Conference. I would strongly encourage GSR's to talk to your group in advance to ask for a separate business meeting to go over the delegates questionnaire. The pre-conference assembly will be on April 6th and the conference starts on April 14.

Lastly, I want to encourage everyone to attend our 2024 SENY Convention which will be from March 15-17th at the Westchester Marriot in Tarrytown NY. We had over 1200 attendees for 2023 and of course I would love to see that number go up. There are many committees that could use your help and it's a great way to give back to a fellowship that saved our lives. I really hope to see you there!

Jo Ann M., Delegate Area 49

UNITY Attraction Rather than Promotion
Common Welfare is Paramount
No Opinion on Outside Issues
SERVICE Paramount
DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS NO OTHER AFFILIATION
One Ultimate Authority RECOVERY SELF-SUPPORTING
Non-professional
Each member is a small part of a great whole. Principles Before Personalities
Singleness of Purpose Anonymity

"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."

Tradition One: A Pathway to Unity

Another Traditions article. Are you excited? I definitely am. If you don't care about the Traditions, don't worry; I didn't care about them until I had been through all 12 steps and cared about the future of AA. You know that's what the Traditions are? The 12 points to assure AA's future.

There's a simple analogy that I like about the Traditions and why we should care. Imagine that you're a goldfish. You're happily swimming in your bowl living an awesome life. The water is like the steps. It keeps you alive. However, the fishbowl is like the Traditions. It keeps the water in place, just like the Traditions keep the place where we practice the steps in place. Every time we break a Tradition, it's like a crack in the fishbowl. If we put too many cracks in the bowl, it breaks. The water would go everywhere, and the fish would flip flop until it dies.

There's no AA without unity. If there's no AA, then I have nowhere to go to hear and give the message. Sure, I could try to be like Bill and Bob and seek out individual alcoholics, but I'm not sure I'm that willing in all honesty. My life is really full so my brain would likely come up with plenty of excuses to not go to the same lengths that Bill and Bob did. So, I am very interested in preserving the unity of AA as we have it today because doing

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/8 - SENY Area Committee Meeting

1/13 - NYCPAA Elections & Fellowship

1/14 - SENY Convention Planning Mtg (VIRTUAL)

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

AA today is very easy. Maintaining AA and its unity is the much easier and softer way.

This Tradition is all about emphasizing that unity needs to be my number one priority. How we maintain that unity is what the rest of the Traditions are about. I sacrifice my wants and my ego in order to preserve the unity of AA. That does NOT mean that what I think and want doesn't matter in AA. It matters a lot. It just matters a little less than preserving unity. I think of it like this—in my individual life, I have to put AA above everything else, including my family. That does not mean that I don't value my family, it just means that I know I will lose them if I don't put AA first. The same thing applies to the unity of AA. We will lose anything that we place before the unity of AA because every time I put myself first, I put another little crack in that fishbowl. That's why I care about the Traditions and this Tradition in particular. I want AA to be around for me and for anyone who needs it.

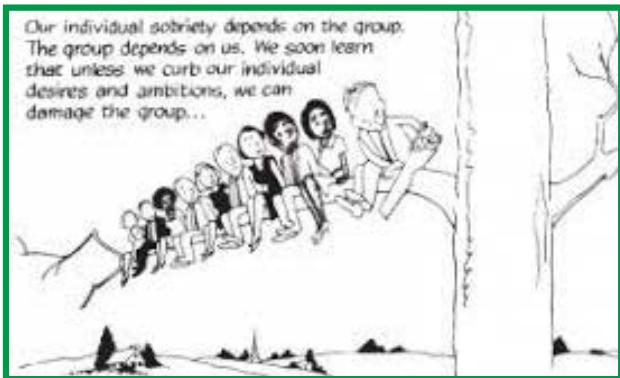
Paola A., *Area 49 Chair*
she/her

Declaration of Unity

*This we owe to A.A.'s future;
to place our common welfare first;
to keep our Fellowship united.*

*For on A.A. unity depend our lives,
and the lives of those to come.*

Tradition One: A Pathway to Unity



Did you ever really read Tradition One?? “Our” individual sobriety depends on the group. This Tradition sets the tone for the remaining eleven. If my house is not in order, how can I possibly think I will be able to help another? I am but a small part of a big piece of fabric – forever being woven into another piece of fabric.... tying us together as one – helping each other stay on that limb. That limb that we are all on and then here I come with my crazy and a saw (ha)...looking to saw off the limb with all of US on it. We would certainly die! Letting go of myself in order to help another live, that’s what it is all about. I was told that the Traditions were in place to protect the group from me. Well, that’s true! I sometimes can come up with some bright ideas (oh, how selfish I can be) and then I can also get an attitude (self-righteous) – depending on my spiritual condition of course. That’s why I must always keep GOD and AA first and try to remain right size.

Gina Maria D., Link Editor

Tradition One: A Pathway to Unity

It was hard for me to say I had a problem with alcohol, but even harder to ask others for help. A big part of sobriety is being able to put my ego aside and trusting others. In order to truly trust another person I would have to stop thinking that I run the show and realize that we need to run the show together. Such is the group. If a single person of Alcoholics Anonymous can try to run a group on their own and declare themselves the owner, there’s a good chance the group will fail. The same is true if I believe I can stay sober on my own. It takes a group of people with the same purpose - to stay sober.

Having accepted I have a problem and we are all here for the same reason, the next question for me became, “How can I help spread this purpose?” Simple. Keeping the doors open by working with my group members. This in turn will help me keep my sobriety. Yes, I have a sponsor, but with a homegroup it’s as if I have many sponsors in one place. They help to keep me in check and trust me, they will definitely know if you aren’t yourself.

If I continue to put the group first and listen to the suggestions of fellow members in a respectful manner (yes, even at business meetings!) I am putting insurance on my own sobriety. Tradition One reminds me to put my foolish thinking aside, practice love & tolerance, and to protect the group and the gift of A.A. at all costs. Without a place to call home, that only leaves me one option - back to the streets.

Bradley B., Secretary 2024 SENY Convention



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.AASENY.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.AASENY.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!



We Stick Together or We Die

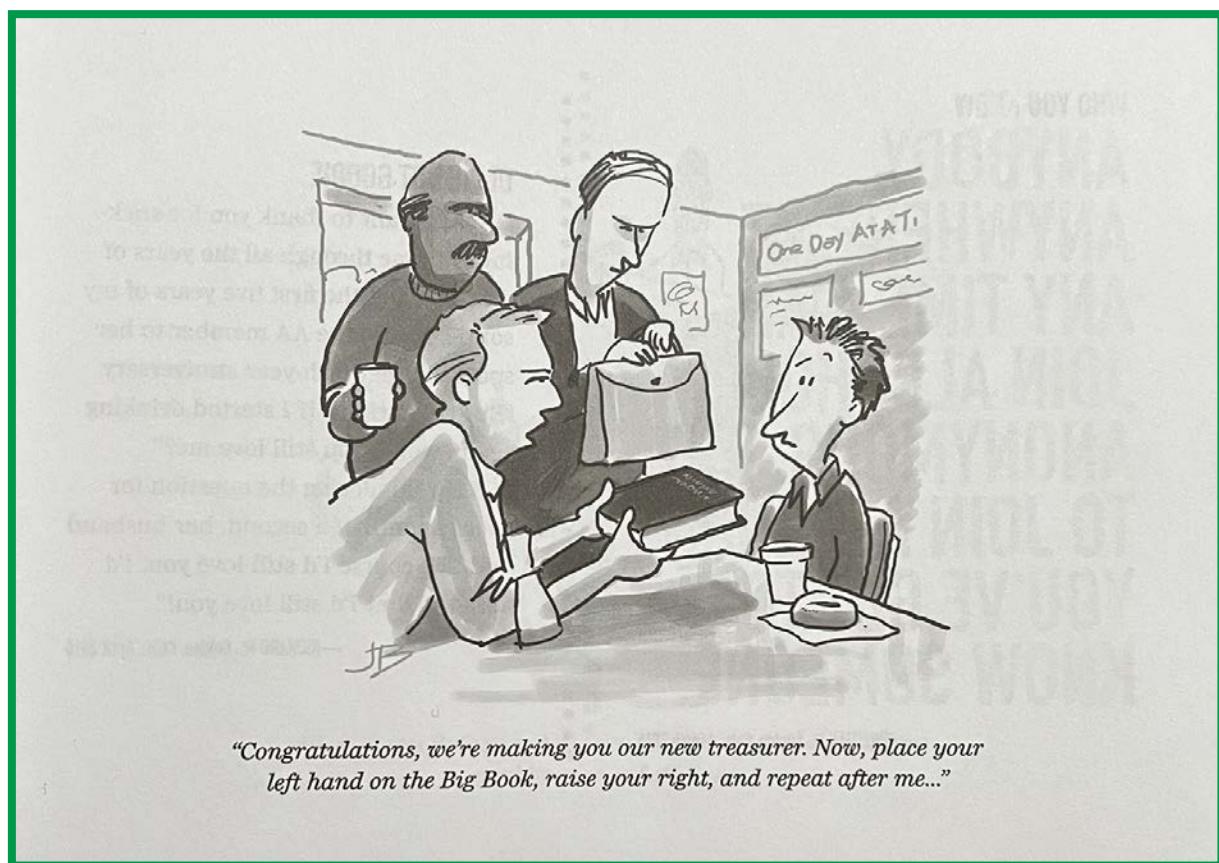
I remember the first time that I understood unity. I had finally achieved the requisite sobriety time to become chair of my home group. I was so excited. My sponsor was also a member so I knew she would keep me on the beam and not let my ego run wild. I learned to listen and listened to learn. By listening to the experience, strength, and hope of others, I learned that I was not expected to have an opinion on their share. Also, no one asked me what I thought which was humbling. Then something occurred.

A member was being disruptive at our meeting. This went on for some time. Then, in the midst of a share, the disruption brought us to our breaking point. The issue came up at the next business meeting. What were we going to do about this issue? The members discussed Tradition 1 and our common welfare. Are we creating a safe meeting space? Is the message of recovery being heard? Are we enabling this behavior? What is considered proper behavior? Who are we but just a bunch of drunks? Our solution became a small “t” tradition: we would have a trusted servant (in the spirit of rotation) gently and loving address the disruption. That way it did not seem like one person was always THE person managing the situation.

This experience made me examine my personal relationships. Am I creating a space where there is balance, harmony, love, and trust? I realized at that point that though I was sober, I needed to do better. In order for us to be of support to one family member or friend, we needed to have a common language.

Bill W. writes that we have to be vigilant. We have to work to maintain unity, or we will die. We often hear in the rooms that Step 1 is the only step we have to get 100%. We also need to get Tradition 1 100% for without it, the rest of the traditions are naught.

Malini M., *Queens County Recording Secretary*





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

ID: 961 9888 5103 Passcode: 069497

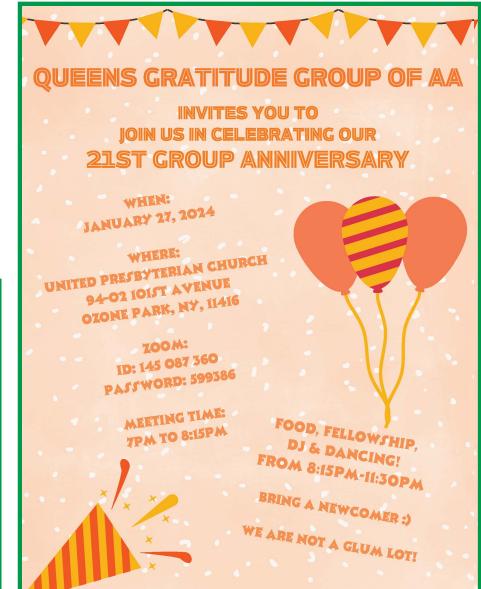
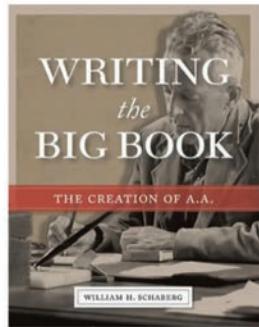
We will be reading

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



NYC Deaf Access Committee

Helping ensure we carry the message to ALL those seeking recovery



Want to be a better ally to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community?

Want to make sure the hand of AA is there for ALL those reaching out for help?

The NYC Deaf Access Committee of AA is looking for members to do service

You DO NOT need to know ASL (American Sign Language) to get involved!

For more info, email info@nycdaca.org or visit www.nycdaca.org



New York City Deaf Access Committee

Helping ensure we carry the message to all those seeking recovery



NYC Deaf Access Committee of AA
Available Service Positions

ASL (American Sign Language) Interpreter Co-Coordinator

Suggested Sobriety Requirement: 1 year

Length of Commitment: 6 months (January 1 thru June 30, July 1 thru Dec 31)

Note: You do not need to know ASL – just have good organizational and communication skills

Duties:

- Work with the other ASL Interpreter Co-Coordinator to book ASL interpreters for NYC meetings/events and maintain the interpreter schedule.
- Maintain interpreter bookings for regular meetings at least 2 weeks in advance - communicate any scheduling issues to Deaf fellows and Committee Chair ASAP.
- Act as point person for Deaf people requesting interpreters and respond to all requests in a timely manner.
- Maintain list of contact info for our roster of interpreters - including email, cell, and payment information (Venmo, Zelle, PayPal).
- Work with other committee members on interpreter outreach, to continue growing our network.
- Stay in contact with Committee Treasurer to ensure we have the funds to book interpreters and that interpreters are getting paid in a timely manner.

Communications Chair

Suggested Sobriety Requirement: 1 year

Length of Commitment: 1 year (January 1 thru Dec 31)

Duties:

- Make sure Committee members remain informed about important upcoming events – especially business meetings, district/area meetings.
- Coordinate Committee member attendance at these events, to make sure at least 1 member is attending, so that we maintain good relations with other AA bodies.

For more info, email info@nycdaca.org or visit www.nycdaca.org



Connecting with Love,
Unity & Service



SCAN ME

2024 AREA 49
56TH SENY CONVENTION
March 15-17, 2024
Westchester Marriott

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

Conectando con Amor,
Unidad y Servicio



SCAN ME

2024 ÁREA 49
56^a CONVENCIÓN DEL SENY
15-17 de Marzo de 2024
Marriott Westchester

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@aasuffolkgs-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 Vida • 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. (YPA)

Map of Northeastern US showing state abbreviations and areas: NY 50, NY 47, NY 48, NY 49, NY 31, NY 30, VT 70, NH 43, MA 44, CT 11, RI 61, NJ 44, DE 12, MD 29.

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

SENY Tech & Communications Committee Meeting	1/2	7:30p	Zoom ID: 894 0024 2856, Password: 033597
SENY Area Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)	1/8	7:30p	TBD
Service Sponsorship Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)	1/9	7:30p	Zoom ID: 908 938 7641, Password: 714921
DISTRICT 618 Meeting (IN PERSON)	1/10	7:30p	Holy Name Church, 207 W. 97th St., NY, NY.
SENY Archives Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)	1/11	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Password: 714921
SENY Convention Planning Meeting (VIRTUAL)	1/14	2:00p	Zoom ID: 8916 576 4327, Password: 549468
Nassau County General Service Workshop (HYBRID)	1/15	7:30p	Zoom ID: 992 8787 8377, Password: 12345
Brooklyn County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	1/17	6:30p	Zoom ID: 961 9888 5103, Password: 069497
Suffolk County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	1/18	8:00p	Zoom ID: 932 6450 5176, Password: 713704
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)	1/20	3:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Intergroup Liaison Meeting (VIRTUAL)	1/21	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921

SENY Officers

Delegate	Jo Ann M.		delegate@aaseny.org
Alt. Delegate	Nisaa A.		altdelegate@aaseny.org
Chair	Paola A.		chair@aaseny.org
Treasurer	Kimbley G.		treasurer@aaseny.org
Technology & Communications	Ray W.		tco@aaseny.org

County DCMCs

Brooklyn	Charlene B.		dcmc@brooklynnaa.org
Hispanic	Nelson		distritoshispanos@aacdhseny49.org
Manhattan	Justin K.		dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org
Nassau	Cathy C.		dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org
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Putnam	Gregg S.		dcmc@putnam.aaseny.org
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Rockland	Kevin F.		dcmc@aarockland.org
Staten Island	Dan S.		dcmc@statenislandaa.org
Suffolk	Kimberly L.		dcmc@asuffolkgs-ny.org
Sullivan	Jeff P.		dcmc@sullivan.aaseny.org
Westchester	Peter C.		dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org

SENY Standing / Ad Hoc Committee Chairs

Accessibilities	Moses H.		access@aaseny.org
Agenda	Sherry P.		agenda@aaseny.org
Archives	Marty K.		archives@aaseny.org
Convention 2024	Saadi H.		convention@aaseny.org
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Grapevine/La Vña	Thomas K.		grapevine@aaseny.org
Intergroup Liaison	Kristina F.		intergroup@aaseny.org
Link Editor	Gina D.		link@aaseny.org
Literature	Eric O.		literature@aaseny.org
Office Manager	Steven W.		office@aaseny.org
Public Information	Jeannette K.		pi@aaseny.org
Recording Secretary	Claudia T.		secretary@aaseny.org
Service Participation*	Nisaa A.		altdelegate@aaseny.org
Service Sponsorship*	Matt F.		sponsorship@aaseny.org
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Web Chair	Joseph C.		web@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)