



The Link

Issue 621 - August 2022
WELCOME TO GENERAL SERVICE

Welcome to General Service

Warm greetings A.A. Friends. Since I'm sure that last month's Link resonated for many of you, with its call to action of "A.A. Needs You", I think it's time to welcome those of you who are about to do so! And the best way I can think of to do that is to expand on the three thoughts I gave on the "participation void", as I call it. Because we learn early in our Fellowship to share from the heart, I'll give you a few heart-lessons from my own recovery and service.

1) Service enhances recovery: over my last seven years doing service at the county, SENY and Conference level, I've had amazing changes take place in my "character darknesses". Among these are tolerance of others' ideas, and the willingness to listen to them; learning to seek out and honor additional information; realizing that the role of a Trusted Servant is one to be embraced and cherished; and (perhaps most of all) of allowing my perspectives to be expanded. Maybe these are all simply variations of allowing myself to be right-sized. As always, progress, not perfection...

- 2) Concept X, Authority and Responsibility: as a SENY Past Delegate taught me years ago in a Concepts study, "balance, balance, balance". In each position in my service journey, I've been shown the duties I need to perform, and then given the freedom to do them as best I can, mistakes and all. One of the best gifts I've given myself is to try to do the same for others – just like my recovery, I get to keep it by passing it on. This is NOT how I lived life in the zero-sum game that made up my life of business and drinking; this is much, much better.
- 3) The joy of living, and the joy of service: I still marvel at the changes our program and my Higher Power have wrought in my life, and one of the most amazing is that I am most satisfied, most at peace when serving others. On some level, I still don't understand it – perhaps it's that "new freedom and new happiness" that our Big Book promises us. I may not understand it, but I'll certainly take and accept it!

Take and accept a journey into a different dimension of your own recovery in the coming months – and welcome to General Service!

In Love and Service,
Tom B., Delegate
Area 49-SENY, Panel 71

WHATS INSIDE

- WELCOME TO GENERAL SERVICE.....
- Available Service Positions
- Theme Flyer for September

"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."

Five years ago, I returned to AA after a horrible relapse. I was always a strong member of AA and sponsored many women, so you could imagine the humiliation I felt. I was drinking around the clock. One day I became willing to hear my Higher Power tell me to go to detox and I did. I knew that I had a better chance if I went directly to a meeting after being discharged from detox. At that meeting, I raised my hand and asked for a ride home because I was afraid I would want to drink. A "soon to be" great friend replied "I got you". He took me to meetings every day. He told me it was his way of doing service. Here it all began. While working my steps, my sponsor suggested I go back to the Detox to share my experience. Coming back from a relapse, my story interested them. My service then took me to helping with hospitality at our County's Spiritual Breakfast. Then I went on to do more as the secretary in my home group. One day a member of my home group asked if I would help him out. He was the Area Chair with Panel 49 that year and needed an Agenda Chair. I was scared but I couldn't say no. I learned so much more by doing service on the Area level. It gave me such a feeling of courage and strength. It was exactly what I needed after having my relapse. Panel 49 came to an end, and I was feeling a concern for my recovery. Service made me feel safe. God heard me because today's Area Chair called to ask me if I would Chair the NYSIW! I was honored and said yes. I have learned so much by chairing a committee. I was not only learning our traditions, but I was living it! Still today I continue with serving my District as a DCM. I love AA and I love service! I know that my life will include service until the end of my sobriety. I have never been happier.

Jeannette K
DCM 504

Our Third Legacy

The general service structure was formed with the intention of turning over the duties of running our organization to its members. We as members of A.A. now share the responsibility of carrying this message to the alcoholic who still suffers. At the group level we share experience, strength, and hope. We make sure our meeting spaces are accessible, attractive, and the doors are always open. We sponsor newcomers and help them not only to stop drinking but much more importantly, to stay stopped a day at a time. We have different meeting formats to help A.A.'s experience everything our program has to offer. During our sharing at meetings, we repeatedly remind each other of our 12th Step which is carrying the message. I find there are limited commitments to go around especially when you have a large group with many active members. Even with the spirit of rotation practiced in the group there may not be enough service opportunities to keep us all busy. That's where we find how service below the group level becomes a valuable option to all of us.

When I started my service journey below the group level, I began to get a better understanding of how big A.A. really is. I found out there were so many ways and opportunities to help carry this message. I felt like the blinders were taken off and I began to see the bigger picture. It was like; now that I know, what am I going to do?! Complacency is not a good place for an alcoholic to be. I have been in this program for many years and there have been times when I rested on my laurels. Luckily, I didn't drink but found myself crazy as a bedbug. I love being a group member and attending meetings but noticed something was missing. I realized I needed more to keep myself content in my sobriety. Not only have general service commitments kept me busy; they have also helped me stay sober. There is a certain kind of camaraderie that happens at the General Service level. Service done with a smile, and everyone always willing to help and share knowledge so we are successful when we stand. With elections coming in the very near future please consider standing with us. I say welcome to General Service, you won't regret it!

Jo Ann M.
Alt Delegate A49P71

UPCOMING EVENTS

8/20 - Area 49, special Voting Assembly: Proposed Agenda Items for the 73rd General Service Conference

8/27 - Westchester County "Spiritual BBQ & Family Picnic Day"

8/28- Service Sponsorship Committee
Concept 12 Workshop (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



Hello and welcome to general service! First of all, if you are new to general service and reading this article in The Link, you are already killing it. Second, if you are overwhelmed and confused, welcome to the club.

I first became involved in general service because I dislike awkward silences. I was at a business meeting where they needed a GSR, and no one raised their hand. In order to end the agony of watching the overall chair try to get someone to do this service, I volunteered. I had no idea what a GSR was, what I was supposed to do, or anything at all about service beyond making coffee and chairing meetings. I found out I was supposed to go to an area assembly coming up. I had no idea what that was, but I showed up (terrified because I didn't recognize anybody there). Most of what was said went over my head, and, honestly, I was a little bored. However, I stuck around because I had made a commitment.

As time passed, I became more and more involved in general service, again, due to my dislike of awkward silences. The more involved I got in general service—the more I learned and experienced—the more interesting it became. I actually started under-talking about, and, even standing what was being more shocking, I actually started to care. I realized how much the work done in general service benefits the average AA member and how much it had helped me.



I came to AA through the Bridging the Gap program. As self-centered as I am, I had taken it as a given that obviously there were people to help me get sober. It had not even crossed my mind that me getting to AA was because of people doing general service! When I realized how many times that people doing general service work had made my early sobriety possible, I switched gears to doing this type of service work out of gratitude.

This is all to say that, even if you are confused, bored, overwhelmed, or even just don't get the point of this service, you are a rock star for getting involved because you are ensuring that AA will be there for future members just like it was there for us... and you'll figure out the rest with time and experience, as long as you show up.

-Paola A., A49 PI Chair

Why Service?

What's in it for me? (I'm selfish and self-centered.)
[You will grow]

How much time is involved? (That depends)
I don't know how to do this? !!!!!
(You'll learn)

I don't know anyone. (You'll meet them)

What if I make a mistake? (You can't break AA)



**The A.A. group...
...where A.A.'s service structure begins**

- An A.A. meeting...
 - ...is a gathering of A.A.'s at a specified time and place
 - ...is generally concerned with A.A.'s program of recovery
- An A.A. group...
 - ...is a *spiritual entity* that exists outside walls of the meeting room
 - Members have frequent contact with other members
 - Members perform service work together
 - ...is founded upon the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous

AA SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS



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



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!

ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE:

- ACCESSIBILITIES CHAIR
- WEB CHAIR
- NEWSLETTER CHAIR

CONTACT DCMC@ORANGE.AASENY.ORG

AREA 49 SENY GENERAL SERVICE:

- POSTAL MAILING COORDINATOR
- ARRANGES MAILINGS OF MINUTES, DELEGATES QUESTIONNAIRE, ETC. USE OF CAR MAY BE NEEDED. 1.5 YEAR COMMITMENT.

CONTACT TCO@AASENY.ORG

PUTNAM COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- ARCHIVES CHAIR

CONTACT DCMC@PUTNAM.AASENY.ORG

SUFFOLK COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- HISPANIC LIAISON

CONTACT DCMC@AASUFFOLKGS-NY.ORG

BROOKLYN COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE:

- SECRETARY
- INTERGROUP LIAISON CHAIR
- TREATMENT FACILITIES CHAIR
- WEB CHAIR
- JUNCTION EDITOR
- ARCHIVES CHAIR
- COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC) CHAIR

- GRAPEVINE CHAIR

- LITERATURE CHAIR
- PUBLIC INFORMATION CHAIR
- ACCESSIBILITIES CHAIR

CONTACT DCMC@BROOKLYNAA.ORG





**ATTENTION:
ARTICLES NEEDED FOR:
“THE LINK”**

“ANYONE WHO IS IN SERVICE OR HAS DONE
SERVICE AT THE GENERAL SERVICE LEVEL”

**SEPTEMBER’S THEME:
“THE SPIRIT OF ROTATION”**

(PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES WITH 250-350 WORDS)
SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES ARE DUE BY: AUGUST 19, 2022

**PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO
LINK@AASENY.ORG
CONTACT: GINA D. (347) 285-4700**

Orange, Putnam & Rockland Counties General Services
AA, AL-ANON, WORCYPAA

SOBERJAM SUNDAY 9/25/2022 10AM-4 PM
HAVERSTRAW COMMUNITY CENTER
50 WEST BROAD ST. HAVERSTRAW, NY

SE HABLA ESPANOL

10AM: KICKOFF MEETING
AA & AL-ANON SPEAKERS

11AM: WHAT'S THE MYSTERY?????????????
BEHIND SERVICE

12 NOON: DUAL MEMBERS/ DOUBLE WINNERS

1PM: LUNCH BREAK/ ENTERTAINMENT

BRING A DISH TO SHARE

LIVE MUSIC: BAND & DJ
FACE PAINTING
OUTDOOR GAMES
RECOVERY MEETINGS
COMMITTEE INFORMATION
WRITE YOUR STORY 5TH EDITION BIG BOOK INFORMATION

DUNK THE DELEGATE/DCMC'S
CASH ONLY 3 balls for \$5.00

3PM: HISPANIC WORKSHOP

3:50 PM: SOBRIETY COUNTDOWN/CLOSING

ESCYPAA VIII

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
\$40

Campout

***Day Passes available at site \$15**

Wildwood State Park
790 Hulse Landing Rd,
Wading River, NY 11792

Register at
escypaa8.org/campout



SCAN TO REGISTER

Open to all AA, Al-Anon & Alateen Members

Visit us at:
www.escypaa8.org
or email us at:
events.escypaa8@gmail.com

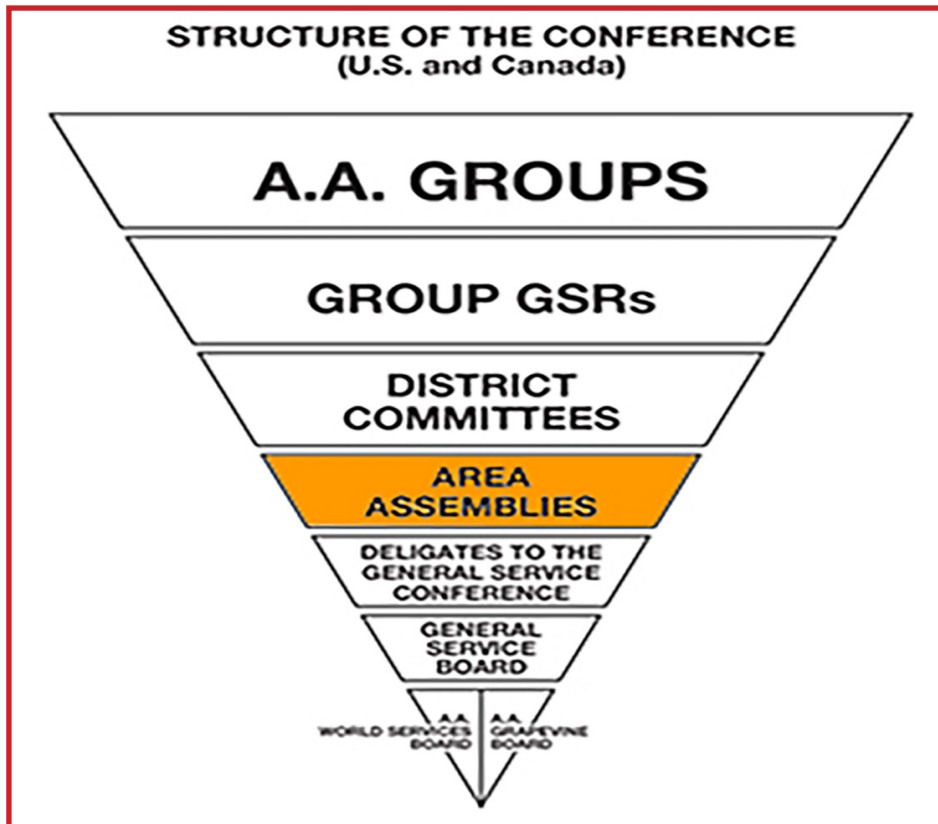
DETAILS

Event Date
September 9-11, 2022

Schedule includes

- AA Meetings
- Yoga
- "Drop the Rock" workshop w/ Cathy
- Beach
- Campfire
- Outdoor Games
- Nature Walk

***Daily Meals Included**



WESTCHESTER GSA SPIRITUAL BBQ

**SATURDAY AUGUST 27
10 AM - 3 PM
VE MACY PARK, ARDSLEY**

10:30 am - Daily Reflections Meeting
2 pm - Open Meeting

**Tickets - \$10 per person
Cash or Venmo: @Treasurer-WGSA**

**50/50 Raffle
Games for kids of all ages**

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS

To add or update email agenda@aaseny.org

Nassau County General Service Meeting	8/15	7:30p	Zoom ID: 922 8787 8377, Password: 12345
Orange County General Service Meeting	8/16	7:00p	Venue: First Presbyterian Church, 142 Stage Rd, Monroe, NY 10950
Rockland County General Services Meeting	8/17	7:30p	Zoom ID: 859 3872 9240, Password: 406571
SENY Public Information (PI) Committee Meeting	8/18	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Literature Committee Meeting	8/21	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
Sullivan County General Service Meeting	8/21	3:00p	Zoom ID: 870 301 30182, No PW listed
SENY Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee Meeting	8/22	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
Queens County General Service Meeting	8/22	7:30p	Zoom ID: 733 111 2611, Password: 98765
SENY Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting	8/23	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921

SENY Officers

Delegate	Tom B.	delegate@aaseny.org
Alt. Delegate	Jo Ann M.	altdelegate@aaseny.org
Chair	Nisaa A.	chair@aaseny.org
Treasurer	Richard S.	treasurer@aaseny.org
Technology & Communications	Mike O.	tco@aaseny.org

County DCMCs

Bronx / UM	Laura G.	dcmc@bxum.aaseny.org
Hispanic	Jorge L.	distritoshispanos@aacdhseny49.org
Brooklyn	Deborah L.	dcmc@brooklynaa.org
Manhattan	Larry W.	dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org
Nassau	Marty K.	dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org
Orange	Eric O.	dcmc@orange.aaseny.org
Putnam	John L.	dcmc@putnam.aaseny.org
Queens	Bert L.	dcmc@qcgsa.org
Rockland	Thomas K.	dcmc@aarockland.org
Staten Island	Dan S.	dcmc@stateninsulaa.org
Suffolk	Melissa J.	dcmc@aasuffolkg-sny.org
Sullivan	Jeff P.	dcmc@sullivan.aaseny.org
Westchester	Kevin T.	dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org

SENY Standing / Ad Hoc Committee Chairs

Accessibilities	Annabel B.	access@aaseny.org
Agenda	Vicky B.	agenda@aaseny.org
Archives	Jeff P.	archives@aaseny.org
Convention 2021	Kathy W.	convention@aaseny.org
Corrections	Lucas O.	corrections@aaseny.org
Email Update Editor*	Mike O.	email-update@aaseny.org
CPC	Kristen D.	cpc@aaseny.org
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Intergroup Liaison	Christine D.	intergroup@aaseny.org
Link Editor	Gina D.	link@aaseny.org
Literature	Kingsley T.	literature@aaseny.org
Office Manager	VACANT	office@aaseny.org
Public Information	Paola A.	pi@aaseny.org
Recording Secretary	Jessica V.	secretary@aaseny.org
Service Participation*	Jo Ann M.	altdelegate@aaseny.org
Service Sponsorship*	Keith P.	sponsorship@aaseny.org
Translation	VACANT	translation@aaseny.org
Treatment Facilities	Hank G.	tf@aaseny.org
Web Chair	Claire M.	web@aaseny.org
AIAnon Liaison*	VACANT	alanonliaison@aaseny.org
Ad Hoc Finance	Larry W.	finance@aaseny.org
YPAA Liaison*	Jo Ann M.	altdelegate@aaseny.org

*Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)