



The Link

Issue 625 - December 2022

"FLYING BLIND IN SERVICE -
BUT DOING IT"

Rotating On

Warm greetings, Fellow A.A. Members! In "The Principle of Rotation" (Appendix E, page 107 of your A.A. Service Manual) there is a sentence that says "To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard." But the last phrase in the essay tells us that, after we do rotate on, "... we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed." There is a lot packed into both those thoughts.

I started serving as an Alternate DCMC in early 2016, coming in midway through the rotation. I had no idea that, almost seven years later, I'd be about to rotate on from serving as your Area Delegate. I suspect that anyone who has walked such a journey in service to Alcoholics Anonymous will probably confirm: what I learned along the way has gone way beyond knowing the Traditions, Concepts, and "A.A. comes of Age."

For my final article as your Panel 71 Delegate, I'd like to share a few of the very special things I've picked up, or perhaps re-learned, over these past seven years - "sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly." Perhaps, although each person's service journey is different, you will be able to recognize some of these things as they enhance your own service journey.

I learned that an active, vibrant relationship with my Higher Power is mission-critical, if for no other reason than to help me with that oh-so-challenging word Balance. Similarly, a

close relationship with my service sponsor was as important as having my sobriety sponsor take me through the steps a number of years ago.

I now know that there are times to stand my ground, and times to acknowledge that another approach or opinion can be better than mine - and in either case, to do my best to carry on in the loving spirit of A.A. Simply put, it's been a long, grinding exercise in ego-suppression. On a higher, or simpler, plane it's continually learning to play well with others.

'Let Go' to Grow — The Spirit of Rotation Keeps A.A. Alive

There are so many other things I could say, but I want to end with this one: in doing General Service, I've learned to listen in a way that I never dreamed possible. In doing so, perhaps I've become a slightly better member of the Fellowship.

Please, give yourself the gift of taking a General Service journey of your own. It will change your perspective, and your life. You won't regret it.

In Love, and Continuing Service,

Tom B., Delegate

Area 49-SENY, Panel 71

WHATS INSIDE

- *2023 SENY Registration Form - in English and Spanish*
- *Letter from the GSO Office - Reopening*
- **NEW* Available Service Positions*

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FLYING BLIND IN SERVICE

I would love to say “I know” exactly what I am doing when it comes to anything in my life. Don’t you? Living this program has allowed me to comfortably admit that I don’t know everything which has allowed me the opportunity to be open minded and learn from others. Some of the commitments I have had were easy and self-explanatory. Make the coffee, set up the chairs, find someone to read How It Works, etc. Service below the group level has been a little more challenging. I loved being County and Area Treasurer because there was no gray area. The numbers had to add up and that was all there was to it. Adding and subtracting is simple math.

Serving as the Alt Delegate, I knew my primary purpose was to assist our Delegate as needed and be available and prepared to attend the General Service Conference if he was unable. That part was easy but what about the other responsibilities attached to the commitment? I found those responsibilities to be a little more challenging. I wanted to do a good job and do it as well as the last Alt Delegate. It came to me that I was thinking about it all wrong. I realized I needed to make the commitment my own and do it to the best of my ability one day at a time. When I stand for a commitment, I am saying I want to give back what was so freely given to me. I want to cover my responsibilities and be supportive of others in service. There is no wrong way to do it and when in doubt there is always someone who has the answers to help guide me if I am willing to seek them.

I would encourage anyone wanting to enhance their sobriety and their spirituality to give service below the group level a try. Over the years, I have stood for many service commitments at the group level and below. I haven’t always known how to do it but have done it. To my surprise and delight I have found that my higher power will help me do anything I am willing to try. Our literature says we are responsible for the effort. If I give a commitment my best effort I can’t go wrong.

Jo Ann M. Alt Delegate Area 49 Panel 71

FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

Flying Blind in Service – But doing it!

My story begins at day 1...while at a woman’s meeting and admitting for the first time that I was an alcoholic. That same evening, they held their business meeting and gave me the coffee commitment. What?!! And here I go... “I don’t drink it, and I don’t know how to make it”... willing to go to any length. From that day forward, my sponsor told me what I had to do. I either *change* or *die*. I remember my sponsor telling me it was time to speak at a meeting. I had 91 days. I was so afraid to speak. I asked myself, “were people going to like me”? “What do I say, how do I say it”? And the same response from my sponsor – “change or die” Any service position I ever held has been blindly done. I had absolutely no clue what I was doing and how I should do it. Even when I got instructions from the prior person holding that same position, I was still in the dark and didn’t understand. This is what I knew – I didn’t want to drink. And it was all about finding out. Getting acquainted with people I’ve never met before. Asking a lot of questions and, most importantly, paying attention. You know it’s a funny thing, doing service has molded me into the woman I am today. In February 2022, I received a call from my sponsor, Jo Ann M. She asked me, “so, what are you doing for the next 9 months”? And I said to myself, well, here we go again. She’s got something up her sleeve. Then she said, there’s a position that just opened up that I think you would be perfect for. And here you have it, the Link Editor! Who would have guessed that I would be doing service at the area level. I also never realized how talented I am. Amazing! But of course, flying blindly, making phone calls, getting information from other people who have held this position from past years...it’s amazing how flying blind in service – but doing it works out!!!

Gina Maria D., Link Editor



UPCOMING EVENTS

12/3 - THE BIG HYBRID MEETING (SUFFOLK)

12/4 - BROOKLYN COUNTY SPIRITUAL BREAKFAST

12/31 - PUTNAM COUNTY ALKATHON (HYBRID)

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

Flying blind into Service...but doing it

That is exactly how I started my service journey. I was picked as an Alternate GSR. At my first District meeting my sponsor dropped me off and said “good luck kid “and out the door he went. I was alone and frightened, and here I was at a district meeting with nothing to go by. I was determined to make the best of it for my group. They were talking about an upcoming election at Lehman College in the Bronx. My sponsor was the group’s prior GSR, so he was of some help in guiding me along. This was the Rotation election for Panel 69. So I decided to go. I didn’t know anything or anyone and here I was, at an area election. I heard someone say why we were here and what our task was for that morning. I had no idea what a third legacy was and how it was used for an election. All this was foreign to me. I stayed calm, but I started to take notes. In the crowd of people, I managed to meet two women from my district, and they were as lost as I was. They liked my idea of taking notes while the candidates presented their resumes. I managed to figure out some of what was going on and was able to explain to them what little bit I had discovered. I was truly flying blind through the whole process. In the end, I learned first-hand what a Three Legacy Election was, and how they were run and what happens when you go to the hat. At that election, 2 of the 5 positions voted on wound up going to the hat. I was excited to go back to my group with my report and explain how 2 people were elected by being selected blindly from a hat. I will never forget that moment. Although elected to be the GSR for my group, I had no idea what I was getting myself into and was truly flying blind in service.

*Kevin F.,
DCMC Elect Rockland County-District 1000*

Flying Blind in Service...but doing it anyway

Exciting! That’s the first thing that comes to mind when I think about doing service even though I didn’t always know what I was getting myself into. For me, AA has so much to offer than just sitting around in a group setting hearing the same speakers’ stories saying the same things over again. I’m not trying to make light of this (it’s still the nuts and bolts of the program) but just for this alcoholic, I needed more. I felt myself getting stuck.

Service, service, service. My sponsor always expressed to me doing service was the key. I found that doing service *below the group level* opened another door for me to look through. I got excited again. Now, AA was taking on a new meaning I didn’t even know existed. I started going after different commitments beyond the group. I may not have known everything about the position that I was getting into, but I started doing it anyway. Taking the challenge and trusting myself to do it to the best of my ability.

I started out as the Secretary for my group and then became the alternate GSR and then the GSR. I was responsible for keeping up with what was happening in and around AA and bringing that information back to my group. I started reading what it meant to be a GSR and what my responsibilities were even though I had no idea what I was doing. I used to hear members talk about doing service *below the group level* and how rewarding it could be.

I stepped outside of the box and opened new doors of opportunity for myself. All the while keeping in mind that I’m responsible for my own recovery. Just doing commitments didn’t keep me sober, but being part of something different helped me to stay sober. I wasn’t sure what was on the other side, but I jumped in - always willing to remain teachable. I felt myself growing and expanding which made a difference in my recovery. I no longer feel bored or stuck. I’ve been around AA long enough to learn what works for me. I love A.A. It has allowed me the opportunity to spread my wings and continue to grow.

Viki L. Secretary, Queens Share-A-Day

AA SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS



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

ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE:

- ACCESSIBILITIES CHAIR
 - WEB CHAIR
 - NEWSLETTER CHAIR
- CONTACT DCMC@ORANGE.AASENY.ORG

PUTNAM COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- ARCHIVES CHAIR
- CONTACT DCMC@PUTNAM.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

SUFFOLK COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- HISPANIC LIAISON
- CONTACT DCMC@AASUFFOLKGS-NY.ORG



ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- SECRETARY
 - TREASURER
 - P.I. (PUBLIC INFORMATION)
 - C.P.C. (COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY)
 - CORRECTIONS
 - ACCESSIBILITIES
 - WEB MASTER
- CONTACT DCMC@ORANGE.AASENY.ORG
TEXT ERIC O. (845) 629-7474

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!

The BIG ^{HYBRID} Meeting

Saturday, December 3rd
12 Noon - 4 pm

Service With a Smile

AL-ANON SPEAKERS **AA SPEAKERS**

FREE! **FOOD**

Emanuel Lutheran Church
173 East Main St, Patchogue, NY

Zoom: [CLICK HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 846 0152 7425 & Passcode: 120322
NY Phone: 1-929-205-6099

2022 BROOKLYN COUNTY PRESENTS...

THE 35TH ANNUAL SPIRITUAL BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4
9:30-11:30AM (EST)

ZOOM ID: 828 3147 4891
PASSWORD: 403618
DIAL IN #: 1 929 205 6099
DIAL IN CODE: *403618#

FELLOWSHIP: 9:30-9:45
MEDITATION: 9:45-10
MEETING: 10-11:30

QUESTIONS? WANT TO HELP? EMAIL
SPIRITUALBREAKFAST@BROOKLYNAA.ORG

ALL ARE WELCOME. BRING YOUR OWN BREAKFAST.

Alcoholics Anonymous® | **General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous**
www.aa.org | 475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Please direct all communications to:
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

October 3, 2022

Dear A.A. Friends,

I am so excited to share the news that the General Service Office will begin welcoming visitors again beginning Wednesday, October 5. This also includes reinstating the Friday 11:00 a.m. A.A. meeting. I know this is welcome news, and we are all looking forward to reestablishing this very important spiritual component of the General Service Office.

Much has changed in the two and a half years since we last received visitors, making it necessary for us to make some adjustments. Some key highlights to help make your visit as smooth and special as possible are as follows:

- We will welcome visitors on Wednesday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- The Interchurch Center (our landlord) has instituted new security protocols that have changed the logistics of how visitors can enter the office. These protocols require that all visitors be registered into the building system in advance of their visit. We can do this when you arrive; however, contacting us prior to your visit will allow for a quicker and easier entry.
- For groups of 10 or more, please contact us in advance so we can best prepare for your time at the General Service Office.
- To schedule your visit, please contact us at gsotours@aa.org or (212) 870-3430.

For additional details and guidance, please click [here](#).

Also of note, remote work for all employees is now limited to two days per week, with many working in the office four or five days per week.

Thank you all again for your patience as we have worked through the many challenges of the pandemic over the last several years. Your genuine support for all employees at the General Service Office is appreciated and needed now more than ever.

With gratitude,

Bob W.

Bob W.
General Manager, GSO

American Sign Language at the Area Level of Alcoholics Anonymous



Virtual Open Workshop
December 8, 2022 @ 7:30 PM – 9 PM
ASL Interpretation will be provided!
All are welcome!

Zoom ID: 9989387641 Passcode: 714921

Workshop Topics

- Outreach
- How to welcome Deaf / hard of hearing members to your group
- ASL Logistics - costs and availability
- Virtual vs. in-person meetings

Your suggestions for additional topics are welcome!

Sponsored by SENY/Area 49 Accessibility Committee
For more information contact: access@aaseny.org



2022

NEW YEAR'S EVE

PUTNAM COUNTY ALCATHON

Join your fellow AAs in bringing in 2023 with Food, Fellowship, and Fellowship!

MASKS OPTIONAL HYBRID MEETING BRING FOOD TO SHARE!

Mount Carmel Baptist Church
76 Gleneida Ave, Carmel, NY 10512

Here if you need us
December 31st, 2022 7pm - January 1st, 2023 9am

Any Lengths	7:00pm-8:00pm
By The Book	8:15pm-9:00pm
Old Timers Share(25 years+)	9:15pm-10:30pm
Patterson	10:45pm-11:45pm
BRING IN THE NEW YEAR!	11:45pm-12:15am
Mahopac Men's	12:15am-1:00am
Putnam Lake	1:15am-2:00am
Brewster Earlier Birds	2:15am-3:00am
Kent New Beginnings	3:15am-4:00am
Sisters In Sobriety	4:15am-5:00am
BYOBB+C	5:15am-6:00am
Strictly Alcohol	6:15am-7:00am
Garrison Group	7:15am-8:00am
Brewster Recovery	8:15am-9:00am

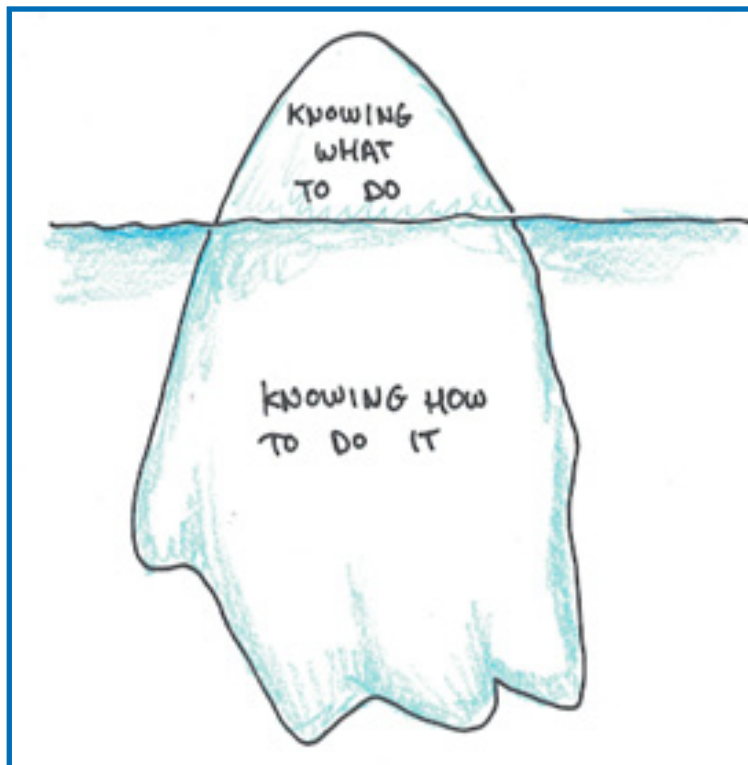



Can you facilitate a Group Inventory??

We Need You!

Groups are always looking for a facilitator for their Groups Inventory and your Area Officers could use some help. If you are available to assist, please let us know, and we can add you to our list.

Email: officers@aaseny.org





3/24/2023- 3/26/2023

Westchester Marriott
670 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Hotel registration deadline: February 28th, 2023

Convention rate: \$137.00 + tax per night / Hotel reservations via phone: 800-882-1042
To make hotel reservations on-line or to register on-line please visit: aaseny.org/2023-seny-convention
No pets allowed at the Westchester Marriott. The only exceptions are working/on-duty service animals.

Convention Pre-Registration deadline: March 10th, 2023

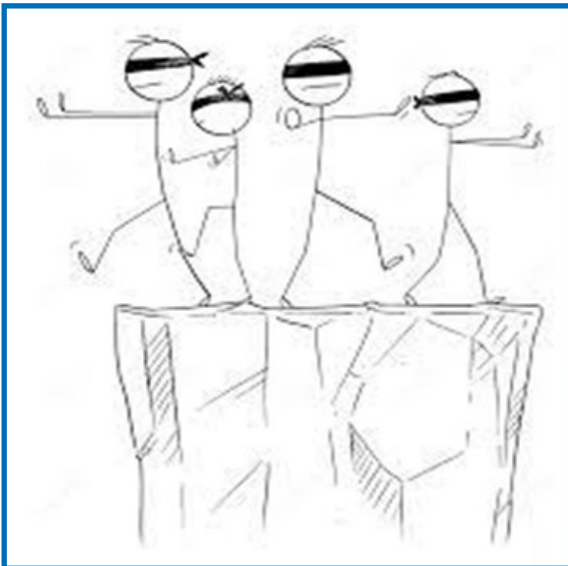
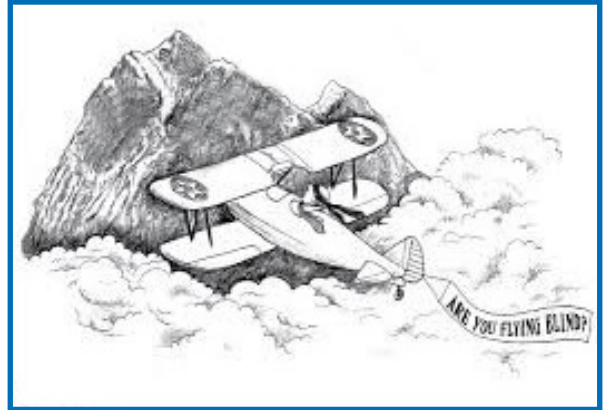
One form per person registering. Checks or money orders payable to: '2023 SENY Convention'
Mail payment and registration forms to: 2023 SENY Convention,
P.O. Box 285, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
Questions? Email: convention@aaseny.org
Full name _____ Name on badge _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Email Address _____
AA ___ Al-Anon ___ Home Group _____ Sober 25+ years? ___/___/___
Translation/ASL/Other Accessibilities Request? (Please specify) _____

Banquet Information

Banquet tables seat 10. To be seated together at the banquet, submit all forms together.
Registration & Saturday Evening Banquet (\$100) ___ Beef ___ Chicken ___ Fish ___ Vegetarian ___
Registration only (\$25) ___

Purchase a Scholarship Registration for someone less fortunate (\$25) ___
We are requesting that Scholarship recipients contribute 1-2 hours of service during the convention weekend. To request a scholarship, contact convention@aaseny.org. Limited number of scholarships available.
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Checks or money orders payable to: '2023 SENY Convention'
Mail payment and registration forms to: P.O. Box 285, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
Questions? Email: convention@aaseny.org



3/24/2023- 3/26/2023

Westchester Marriott
670 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Fecha límite para el registro del hotel: 28 de febrero de 2023

Tarifa de convención: \$137.00 + impuestos por noche / Reservas de hotel por teléfono: 800-882-1042
Para hacer reservas de hotel en línea o registrarse en línea, visite: aaseny.org/2023-seny-convention
No se permiten mascotas en el Westchester Marriott. Las únicas excepciones son los animales de servicio que trabajan o están de servicio..

Fecha límite de preinscripción a la Convención: 10 de Marzo de 2023

Un formulario por persona que se registra. Cheques o giros postales a nombre de: 'SENY Convention 2023'

Envíe formularios de pago e inscripción a: SENY Convention 2023,
P.O. Box 285, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
Questions? Email: convention@aaseny.org

Nombre completo _____ Nombre en el
gafete _____ Dirección _____
Ciudad/Estado/Código postal _____ Teléfono _____
Dirección de correo electrónico _____ AA ___ Al-Anon ___
Grupo base _____ ¿Más de 25 años de sobriedad? ___/___/___
¿Solicitud de traducción/ASL/accesibilidades? (Por favor especifica) _____

Información del Banquete

Las mesas del banquete tienen capacidad para 10. Para sentarse juntos en el banquete, envíe todos los formularios juntos. Inscripción y banquete del sábado por la noche (\$100) ___ Res ___ Pollo ___
Pescado ___ Vegetariano ___
Registro solamente (\$25) ___

Compre un registro de beca para alguien menos afortunado (\$25) ___
Solicitamos que los beneficiarios de las becas contribuyan con 1 o 2 horas de servicio durante el fin de semana de la convención. Para solicitar una beca, contactar convention@aaseny.org. Número limitado de becas disponibles.
TOTAL ADJUNTO \$ _____

Cheques o giros postales a nombre de: '2023 SENY Convention'
Envíe por correo los formularios de pago y registro a: P.O. Box 285, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
¿Preguntas? Escriba a: convention@aaseny.org

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS		To add or update email: agenda@aaseny.org	
SENY Technology & Committee Meeting	12/1/22	7:30p	Zoom ID: 894 0024 2856, Password: 033597
SENY Area Committee Meeting	12/5/22	7:30p	TBD
SENY Accessibilities Committee Meeting	12/8/22	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 71491
SENY Public Information Committee Meeting	12/15/22	6:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 71491
SENY Intergroup Liaison Committee Meeting	12/18/22	2:00p	Zoom ID: 941 2170 5886, Password: 714921
SENY Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting	12/27/22	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 71491

SENY Officers		
Delegate	Tom B.	delegate@aaseny.org
Alt. Delegate	Jo Ann M.	alt_delegate@aaseny.org
Chair	Nissa A.	chair@aaseny.org
Treasurer	Richard S. .	tvreasurer@aaseny.org
Technology & Communications	Mike O.	tco@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
Grapevine/La Vina	Kimbley G.	grapevine@aaseny.org
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
AlAnon Liaison*	VACANT	alanonliaison@aaseny.org
Ad Hoc Finance	Larry W.	finance@aaseny.org
YPAA Liaison*	Jo Ann M.	altdelegate@aaseny.org

County DCMS		
Bronx / UM	Laura G.	dcmc@bxum.aaseny.org
Hispanic	Jorge L.M.	distritohispanos@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@statenistlandaa.org
Suffolk	Melissa J.	dcmc@aasuffolks-ny.org
Sullivan	Jeff P. .	dcmc@sullivan.aaseny.org
Westchester	Kevin T.	dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org

*Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)