

The Link

Issue 623 - October 2022
THE ROLE OF A SERVICE SPONSOR

The Role of a Service Sponsor

Hello, Friends! It took me a while, but late in 2007 I found the sobriety sponsor that would ultimately take me through the Steps, after 9 or 10 months in the rooms doing nothing. In 2008, when I took my first service commitment as a GSR, it was suggested that I might want to find a service sponsor as well.

When I asked what that was, I was told that it would be someone who would keep me from burning out. Since I had no plans to do anything in service after that, I declined (that worked out well). So I kept serving in different groups, in different positions, for the rest of my sober time in CT – without a service sponsor.

Fast forward to late 2015, after I had moved to Long Island, and suddenly had two major service commitments. All of a sudden, in panic, it finally hit me: I AM about to burn out, I have NO idea how I'm going to handle them, and I DO need a service sponsor. I asked, she agreed, and for the last seven years I've had a loving service sponsor who has gotten me through some pretty challenging times.

But until I came out of the hat for Alternate Delegate four years ago, I always thought that a service sponsor was an entirely different animal than a sobriety sponsor. I now know differently: they are functionally almost identical, and (if you like holding on to your sobriety) a critical component of both recovery and growth.

My sponsor, be it sobriety or service: 1) shares their knowledge and experience with me; 2) helps me see the landmines in the road before I step on them; 3) offers me a sounding board, with humor and without judgment; 4) gives a patient ear to my ventings and rantings; 5) shares with me the bigger picture / longer view of my journey; 6) keeps me focused on the Steps (sobriety) and the Traditions / Concepts (service); and 7) is a close and dear friend. And that list just scratches the surface.

It took four years for Bill W. to get the Steps out in our Big Book. It took him another quarter-century to get both the Traditions and our General Service Structure fully in place. I would say that two good sponsors – sobriety and service – are assets of which we should All avail ourselves!

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

WHATS INSIDE

- THE ROLE OF A SERVICE SPONSOR.....
- Available Service Positions
- Theme Flyer for November

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What a Service Sponsor Does

Have you heard the term “Service Sponsor” since you’ve been coming around? I didn’t hear it until I started service down the triangle. Is a service sponsor the same as a recovery sponsor? In some ways yes - but there are differences in some cases. A sponsor guides newcomers through the 12 steps/12 traditions and makes themselves available to the sponsee to help in their recovery process. A service sponsor is similar wherein a newcomer to service may need guidance. I know when I started service below the group level, I really didn’t know much about those levels of service. When we came to the fellowship, we were told to get a sponsor and you shouldn’t be without one. Most people listened and asked someone to sponsor them. In service there is a lot to learn and, as with recovery, we are bound to make mistakes. That’s where a service sponsor comes in handy. You can ask them questions about service positions you may be thinking of covering. You may have questions on how to plan a workshop or on a concept. You may wonder if you should take on a second commitment. There are loads of situations where a service sponsor can offer suggestions to help you in your service journey. A service sponsor should be someone who has a working knowledge not only of the 12 steps/12 traditions, but they should also be familiar with the twelve concepts for world service. Years ago, someone asked me to be their service sponsor and I didn’t think I was qualified so I recommended someone else. Now that I look back, I realize I could have done it. After someone goes through the steps and traditions with a sponsor, our twelfth step tells us we are ready to carry this message. The same with a service sponsor. After doing some service you most likely know some of how things work. Also, one thing I have found is, if you don’t know you can always find the answer by asking others who might. That is the beauty of our program. We help each other and never have to go through anything (not even service) alone.

Jo Ann M. A49P71 Alternate De legate

SERVICE SPONSORSHIP

We are all sponsors, both spiritually and in service. Actually, it is difficult to untangle these two roles.



Aren’t we all sponsors of every hopeless lost case walking through our doors? Our shared role to impress upon them the spirituality of service. I find it impossible to be a service sponsor without discussing spiritual principles. Isn’t a GSR an informal service sponsor to the group they serve - to encourage and inform their members? Isn’t a DCM an informal service sponsor to the GSR’s of a district? It was a joy and privilege to chair an Area 49 committee and encourage and support committee members - a front row seat to the best show in town. And how many times have I heard a present or past delegate address a topic to the “attention of the future delegates in the room. We can work all three sides of our illustrious triangle from day one of our journey. And, as we go forward on our service journey, more information is needed at different levels. Group conscience, voting procedures, and this guy Robert with the rules already! So much to learn! A sponsor’s primary role is to answer questions.

I find something is missing in many AA meetings I attend. There are typically only two shades displayed. Are we a two-legacy fellowship? The concepts, some more than others, are principles for all levels of AA, and might spur the magic moment when someone asks a question.

Excelsior! Ed M., District 312

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/8 - Queens County Spiritual Breakfast

10/22 - Bronx-Upper Manhattan Share-A-Day

10/23 - Putnam County Unity Breakfast (HYBRID)

10/29 - Westchester County General Service Share-A-Day

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

The Role of a Service Sponsor

The pamphlet “Q&A on Sponsorship” defines “service” as anything that helps us reach another fellow sufferer. “Sponsorship” is an alcoholic who has made some progress in recovery and/or performed service sharing their experience with another alcoholic who is just starting the journey. But aside from that, this is really my opinion about my role as a service sponsor.

As a service sponsor I have a different role than your sobriety sponsor. I defer to your sobriety sponsor on the Steps and personal recovery. Instead, as an AA with experience in service, I am a resource. I answer questions and provide my perspective. If I don't have a ready answer, I say so and find out before answering. I distinguish between answers found in Conference-approved literature and my opinion of how the literature applies.

I ask that you try to respect our process and accept the outcome. When not part of the majority, to set aside that defect of character that is the actor complaining that the other players have not played their parts to our self-centered expectations. A flaw I am as guilty of as any, especially early in service. To take a Tenth Step after an Assembly and recognize that participation was, and acceptance is, the best course of action. Or, as my first sobriety sponsor was so fond of saying, to let go and let God.

It's an AA axiom that “I came for my drinking and stayed for my thinking.” As Bill discusses in the pamphlet, “AA's Legacy of Service”, the necessity of service to the whole of AA came about early. Out of this came the Traditions, created from our early experiences with the Steps; and the General Service structure and Concepts were founded on both. So I try to show how the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts relate and apply. As you gain experience, I hope that you will begin the process of drawing your own conclusions, because often there are no “right” answers, only differences of opinion grounded in AA literature and prior consciences.

Lastly, our Fellowship is strengthened when we follow AA principles. So I hope that you will share your service with others, so that they gain the benefit of your experience.

Michael O.

Technology and Communications Officer, Area 49, Panel 71

WHY IT IS SUGGESTED YOU HAVE A SERVICE SPONSOR

A service sponsor is a person who takes on the role of guide to the person new to service, sharing experience, strength and hope in service. It is a long-term relationship, usually initiated at the request of the member to be so sponsored. The relationship is one which can provide the experience of a shared journey in carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

A good overview on service sponsorship may be found in the pamphlet, “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”, pages 25- 27. There it is suggested that: “A service sponsor is usually someone who is knowledgeable in AA history and has a strong background in the service structure.”

In selecting a service sponsor . . . try to find someone whose service attitudes, experience and style you admire. It is always helpful to remember that we have three legacies, and that recovery through the Twelve Steps and unity through the Twelve Traditions are equal sides to the AA triangle.

Service in conformity with the Twelve Concepts should always be seen as closely related to recovery and unity. So, one question to ask in selecting a service sponsor is whether you admire the recovery and adherence to the Traditions shown by the prospective sponsor.

The same attitudes necessary for a GSR should be present in a prospective service sponsor: courage, self-humor, and emotional maturity. A service sponsor should be as kind, non-judgmental and willing to share as a recovery sponsor would be with a newcomer.”

Service Handbook and Articles of Association and By-Laws South Eastern New York (SENY) Area Committee and Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous (Area 49) Eleventh Revision, January 2013, Updated to 2019



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

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



Why Service?

- I go to meetings...
- I work the steps of AA
- I have a sponsor
- I have a sponsee
- You want me to do more?






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

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

**NOVEMBER’S THEME:
“SERVICE IS FUNdamental”**


(PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES WITH 250-350 WORDS)
SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES ARE DUE BY: OCTOBER 20, 2022

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



SHARE A DAY

A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love & Service



Holy Family School
2158 Watson Ave., Bronx, NY 10472
Saturday October, 22nd
9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Contacts:
Catherine SAD CHAIR 917.204.4626
Laura G. DCMC BXUM 347.387.7302
Chris D. DCMC BXUM CO-CHAIR 347.582.8095

dcmc@bxum.aaseny.org
www.aasenybxum.org



DI DE COMPARTIMIENTO

A.A. Llega a su Mayoría de Edad 2.0 Unidos en Amor y Servicio



Holy Family School
2158 Watson Ave., Bronx, NY 10472
Sábado, 22 de Octubre
9:00 am to 3:30 pm

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dcmc@bxum.aaseny.org
www.aasenybxum.org

QUEENS COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

Sixth Annual Spiritual Breakfast

Saturday October 8th 9:30am to 1pm
Immaculate Conception Center
7200 Douglaston Pkwy, Little Neck
\$40 Per Person

There are Reps throughout Queens selling Tickets
Please ask your group to Purchase or Donate
Ticket scholarships for those in need via lottery
For Tickets and Information contact
SpiritualBreakfast@qcgcsa.org

Joy in Spirituality

AREA 49 SENY
ARCHIVES COMMITTEE PRESENTS



A History of AA's
International Conventions
Workshop

October 22, 2022

3:00pm-6:00pm est.

Meeting ID 998 938 7641

Passcode: 714921

Dial in +19294362866 US (New York)

Email: archives@aaseny.org



Sobriety
is worth
celebrating!

2022 WGSA Westchester Share-A-Day

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Memorial United Methodist Church

250 Bryant Ave., White Plains, NY

HELLO

I'm a friend of
Bill W.

Spirituality,

Sponsorship

& Service

Topic Meetings * Main Speaker Meeting * Free Lunch * Fellowship *
Sobriety Countdown and more.... !!!

SPONSORED BY WESTCHESTER GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

All Meetings are Open Meetings

Questions? jwawestchester@gmail.com

Roots of Recovery

"Celebrating Nassau's Rich AA History"

Sprouting New Leaves

Nassau General Service & Nassau Intergroup present

The BIG Meeting

November 13, 2022 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Sacred Heart Parish Center
301 Long Beach Road, Island Park 

Coffee & light refreshments



Literature
&
Service Tables

Accessible by Nassau Bus N15 or LIRR Island Park Station

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.

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS

To add or update email agenda@aaseny.org

SENY Area 49 Committee Meeting	10/3	7:30p	TBA
SENY Area 49 Tech Committee Meeting	10/6	7:30p	Zoom ID: 894 0024 2856, Passcode: 033597
SENY Archives Committee Meeting	10/7	6:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: 714921
Putnam County General Service Meeting	10/11	7:00p	Zoom ID: 822 9275 1708 Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 76 Gleneida Ave, Carmel, NY
SENY Accessibilities Committee Meeting	10/13	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: 714921
SENY Literature Committee Meeting	10/16	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: 714921
Westchester County General Service Meeting	10/19	7:30p	Zoom ID: 868 370 8260, Passcode: WGSA
SENY Public Information (PI) Committee Meeting	10/20	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: 714921
SENY Cooperation with the Prof. Community	10/24	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: 714921
SENY Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting	10/25	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: 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

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Rockland	Thomas K.	dcmc@aarockland.org
Staten Island	Dan S.	dcmc@stateninsulaa.org
Suffolk	Melissa J.	dcmc@aasuffolkgs-ny.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
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Office Manager	VACANT	office@aaseny.org
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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

*Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)