

The Link

Issue 630 - MAY 2023
WHAT'S AN AGENDA ITEM???

What is a General Service Conference Agenda Item?

By the time you read this, I will have attended the weeklong 73rd General Service Conference and started working on my report back that I will give to the Area at the Post-Conference Assembly on June 17th. I will discuss what decisions were made on agenda items at the conference. I will let you know what agenda items became advisory actions, what items became committee considerations, and items where we took no action. I may even talk about floor actions that happened (if they happened). Floor actions are items discussed that may or may not have been on the original agenda.

Some of you may not know what an agenda item is. That's okay! When I started doing service at this level, I did not know either. We learn as we go, and the good thing is we are always willing to share with each other. That is the beauty and uniqueness of A.A.; we are a helpful bunch of people who share experience, strength, and hope with each other to help carry our message of recovery.

We all have agendas even though they may not be written down. You can call it a "to do" list. Let's look at an example. You want to go on a vacation. You plan the trip, buy the

plane tickets, reserve a hotel room and maybe a rental car. You pick what you are going to wear and pack your bag. You checked off everything you needed to do for your vacation. That's a "to do" list.

The final list of agenda items is a list of items taken from the proposed agenda items sent in to GSO by A.A. members, Groups, Districts, Counties, Committees or Areas. The proposed agenda items are suggestions or requests for new things such as pamphlets or books. There can even be requests to revise literature or translate into another language. The requests are reviewed by the trustee's committee connected to the item topic. The trustee's committee decides if there may be a real need and if so, they approve the item for discussion at the General Service Conference.

Some of the items on the final list are items that were discussed at previous conferences and approved but are still in the process of being done. Those agenda items are also added to the list and discussed until they are completed. Please remember that any new agenda item cannot become an advisory action unless approved by receiving 2/3's of the vote for substantial unanimity. It is important to have structure. Making a list and sticking to it helps the conference to stay focused. I will let you know in June how that turned out!

Jo Ann M., *Delegate*

WHATS INSIDE

- *Nassau General Service Virtual Workshop*
- *Manhattan Share-A-Day Flyer*
- *LISTS Flyer (English) and (Spanish)*

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What is an Agenda Item?

I know we use a lot of jargon in SENY (which, by the way, means Area 49—South-eastern NY). You may be wondering what we mean when we say “agenda item.” I know it may seem like a simple answer—isn’t that just any item on the agenda? Well, at SENY, we use it in one way: to talk about items on the General Service Conference (GSC) agenda, not the SENY agenda itself. This is because we don’t want to confuse people about what are things being discussed in AA as a whole versus things being discussed in SENY. Jo Ann will explain about a GSC agenda item in her article (I hope—I’m not in charge of what people write).

Let’s talk about SENY old and new business (aka items on the SENY agenda). What is the mystery behind how they appear on the treasured agenda? Does a General Service Representative (GSR) have to submit it to their District Committee Member (DCM) to submit to someone else to get it on the agenda? Does it need to get voted on in the district before it can be discussed at an assembly?? Is there some kind of ritualistic sacrifice that needs to happen to have an item be heard??? The answer to all of those questions (even the silly one) is nope.

If you want something discussed at a SENY assembly, have your GSR just email me, Paola, the SENY chair, at least 2 weeks before the assembly. That’s it. Only a little bit of bureaucracy (impossible to not have a little bit!).

In fact, I especially encourage GSRs to approach me with things they want to discuss, after all, GSRs are the ones that know what the groups want! (Though anyone can bring up something for the agenda, they do not need to be a GSR.) So, bring up your group’s voice! Let’s have it be heard. Tell me your ideas. What does your group think should change in AA? What does your group think should change in SENY? We want to know!

Paola A., *Area 49 Chair*



UPCOMING EVENTS

5/13 - 2023 LISTS - ARCHBISHOP MALLOY HS

5/21 - ORANGE COUNTY SPIRITUAL BREAKFAST

6/25 - NASSAU COUNTY UNITY BREAKFAST

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 Diary of an Agenda Item

I was surprised to hear some folks at the SENY convention express concern that the Plain Language Big Book project was being ‘rushed through’. So I thought it might be helpful to look at what “rushed” in AA means.

Back in 2016, discussion at the 66th General Service Conference led to an additional committee consideration that “the need for ‘plain-language’ recovery literature be explored by the trustees’ Literature Committee.” as a way to make the life-saving message of Alcoholics Anonymous more accessible.

That committee consideration led to three years of research culminating in a video presentation to 70th General Service Conference 2020 and a progress report that focused on accessibility and relatability of Alcoholics Anonymous in terms of reaching a wider demographic of alcoholics. The idea of a new book was to overcome barriers so the A.A. message might reach more suffering alcoholics and not meant to replace the Big Book.

At the 71st General Service Conference in April 2021, there was a Conference Advisory Action which read: It was recommended that a draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible.

In July 2021 at the meeting of the Trustees Literature Committee, a subcommittee was created to track the development of the Plain Language Big Book. Noting request that the book be “developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible”.

The subcommittee adopted the name “TABB” (Tools to Access the Big Book) and worked with the Publishing Department to review potential writers for the project. In February 2022, a finalist was unanimously selected.

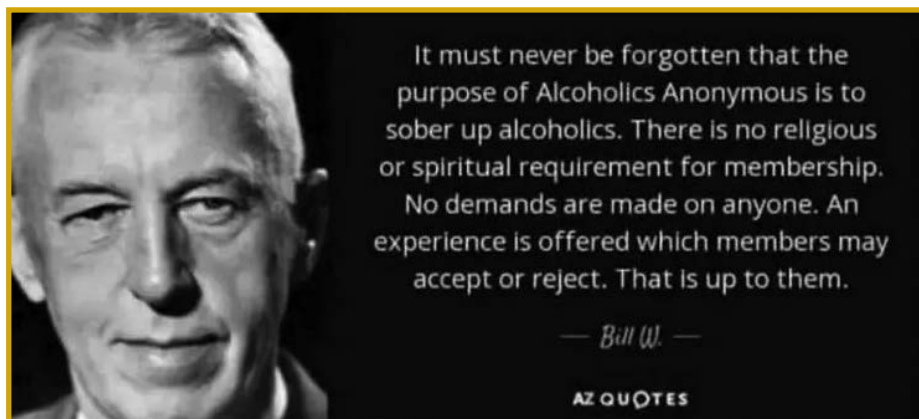
The writer hired for the project has been busy over the last twelve months writing and rewriting chapters based on feedback from the TABB subcommittee and GSO’s publishing department.

Delegates to the 73rd General Service Conference in April 2023 will get to review six chapters that have been completed. The balance of the chapters are still being worked on. The expectation is that the completed project will be reviewed by the 74th General Service Conference in April 2024.

People joke that it takes five years to have a knee-jerk reaction in the general service structure. In that spirit, maybe 8 years feels rushed. But for those we still hope to reach, I’d say it’s not a minute too soon.

John W.

SENY’s Panel 67 Delegate and TABB member



Step Five and Tradition Five are integral parts of the program that contribute to an individual's personal spiritual growth and sobriety. Step Five is essential to the individual because it enables the alcoholic to clear away the wreckage of their past and move forward with a clean slate. The admission of our wrongs requires humility and honesty, both of which are essential to the individual's success. By acknowledging their own faults and shortcomings, the alcoholic can begin to address them and make amends to those they have harmed.

Tradition Five states that each group has but one primary Purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This tradition emphasizes the importance of the group and its members of recovery to others. The fellowship is based on the principle of service, and members are encouraged to help others recover from alcoholism. The tradition also stresses the importance of unity, reminding members that the group's primary purpose is to help others, not to engage in profit motives or personal gains and agenda. Step Five and Tradition Five reinforce the importance of self- reflection, humility, honesty, and service to others. These principles are critical. By carrying the message of recovery to others, members can help others find sobriety and fulfillment.



Morgue 5th Step

Concept V is, in many ways, a follow up to Concept III (the right of decision), and Concept IV (the right of participation). Concept V teaches us that not only can members of groups participate in major decisions, but that those with minority opinions have the right to be heard just as loudly as the masses. In other words, Concept V exists so that everyone's voice is heard, even if they do not always get their way.

Bill Wilson's belief was that everyone has the right to speak up. Just because two opinions are different does not make them less equal. To quote the Twelve Concepts pamphlet: "The well-heard minority is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority".

RAJ B., DCMC-Queens County\

You may not be aware that any AA member or AA group can submit a proposed agenda item to the Conference Coordinator at the General Service Office for consideration. This could be a change in our literature, or any of our other materials, or policy. Our experience has shown that it is suggested to run it by the home group, district and area; however, it can be submitted directly to GSO as well. The proposed agenda item will get the same consideration in any case.

The proposed agenda item will be reviewed by the appropriate Committee, discussed and a determination will be made on what to do with the item. It can be sent to the Conference floor, referred to the General Service Board for consideration and possible action or to take no action.

Some shared experience from SENY: In 2000/2001 the Spanish Committee felt they would like the Spanish language Big Book to be updated to reflect the 4th Edition English language Big Book. Our delegate at the time, Allan W. (Panel 51), did a wonderful job of researching the history of our Spanish Big Book. It seemed that there were only 2 translations of the Spanish Big Book. Allan, with the assistance of the Spanish Committee, put together a proposed agenda item to update the Spanish Big Book to reflect the 4th Edition text of the English Big Book; however, rather than translating the stories from English to Spanish, we asked that the GSO solicit stories from Spanish-speaking members and that the number of stories be equal to the English version.

I became Delegate in 2003-2004 (Panel 53) and had the opportunity to watch the 3rd Edition Spanish Big Book be approved and go forward. It was certainly the highlight of my Conference experience.

P.S. 20 years later a 4th Edition Spanish Big Book is going forward!

Terry F., Area 49, Panel 53



AA SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS



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

ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE:

- CORRECTIONS
- PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)
- CPC
- SECRETARY
- WEBMASTER
- CONTACT DCMC@ORANGE.ASENY.ORG

PUTNAM COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- LITERATURE CHAIR
- CONTACT DCMC@PUTNAM.ASENY.ORG



NASSAU COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- ACCESSIBILITY
- ARCHIVES
- CORRECTIONS
- LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VINA
- PI (PUBLIC INFORMATION)
- TREATMENT FACILITIES
- SERVICE SPONSORSHIP

**CONTACT CATHY C. (DCMC) -
NASSAU COUNTY**

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!



Nassau General Service Group Virtual Workshops 2023

Topic: Service Below the Group Level

Zoom:922 8787 8377 Password 12345

Coordinator: Kristen D. Nassau County Alt DCMC

Date: January 1, 2023

Prior to each workshop: 30 minute orientation for AA's to learn about service that supports groups. Virtually @ 7:00-7:30pm

- Topic: Cooperation between GSO and Standing Committees
Presenter: Micheal R CPC Desk of GSO
7:30 pm January 16, 2023
- Topic : Yo, What's the Big Deal with AA's History in New York & Why is it Important?
Presenters: Jim C . NGSG Archivist
March 20, 2023 7:30 pm Virtually
- Topic: What is the difference between NGSG & Intergroup?
Presenters: Jim M Previous Intergroup Chair & Bill C Intergroup Tech Chair
Monday May 15,2023 Virtual 7:30 pm

Please Share and post at home groups!

Love & Service

ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE WELCOMES ALL

SPIRITUAL BREAKFAST

SUNDAY MAY 21 9 AM-NOON

COUNTRY CLUB at OTTERKILL
100 OTTER ROAD
CAMPBELL HALL, NY

TICKETS \$ 20
Contact Sherry 845-544-6141

SPEAKERS SOBRIETY COUNTDOWN GRAPEVINE & LITERATURE

GENERAL SERVICES

PRESENTS

NASSAU COUNTY UNITY BREAKFAST

Join Us

June 25 2023
8:15am Service Tables
9am-1pm Unity Breakfast



“ Taken together, the Steps, Traditions and Concepts embody what are known as the Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous: Recovery, Unity and Service ”

\$40 PER TICKET
TABLES AVAILABLE
Paper Tickets upon request
Email: dcmc@aanassaugs-ny.org



Long Island Marriot
101 James Doolittle Blvd, Uniondale, NY

Manhattan Share - A - Day 2023
This years theme is "A. A' Three Legacies, Our Common Solution"
Date Is August 12th, 2023



Planning meeting times are every other Mondays At 6:30 pm starting April 10th, 2023
Zoom ID# 889 1351 2831
PW. MSAD2023 (case sensitive)



ATTENTION:
ARTICLES NEEDED FOR:
“THE LINK”

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

JUNE’S THEME:
“GSR...YOUR GROUP’S LINK TO A.A.”

(PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES WITH 250-350 WORDS)
SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES ARE DUE BY: MAY 19, 2023

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

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS		To add or update email: agenda@aaseny.org	
SENY Area Committee Meeting	5/1	7:30p	TBA
SENY Tech & Communications Committee Meeting	5/2	7:30p	Zoom ID: 894 0024 2856, Password: 033597
Service Sponsorship Committee Meeting	5/9	8:15p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Archives Committee Meeting	5/11	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
Nassau General Service Group Workshop	5/15	7:30p	Zoom ID: 922 8787 8377, Password: 12345
Brooklyn County General Service Meeting	5/17	6:30p	Zoom ID: 961 9888 5103, Password: 069497
Suffolk County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	5/19	7:00p	For info go to: aasuffolkgs-ny.org
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting	5/20	3:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Intergroup Liaison Meeting	5/21	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Literature Committee Meeting	5/28	4:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921

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

SENY Standing/Ad Hoc Committee Chairs		
Accessibilities	Moses H.	access@aaseny.org
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Service Sponsorship*	Jess V.	sponsorship@aaseny.org
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Rockland	Kevin F.	dcmc@aarockland.org
Staten Island	Dan S.	dcmc@statenilandaa.org
Suffolk	Kimberly L.	dcmc@aasuffolkgs-ny.org
Sullivan	Jeff P.	dcmc@sullivan.aaseny.org
Westchester	Peter C.	dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org

*Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)