



The Link

Issue 634 - NOVEMBER 2023
THE WISDOM OF "RULE 62"

Seriously?

Many people who don't know me well think I am always about the business of A.A. As your delegate, I am serious and focused since I must know what is going on and keep my Area informed. I must keep myself available when any of our members have questions, need guidance or suggestions. Having a service commitment is very rewarding and helps keep me sober. Have you ever heard the saying "all work and no play blah blah blah"? I am a true believer that in A.A. we are not a glum lot and there are so many ways to not only be useful but have a bunch of fun in the process.

I look forward to planning meetings for upcoming events. Part of the planning may be to scout out a location to have the event. This means breaking my anonymity in order to secure a space. Is that okay to do? You better believe it! We live in a world where we can't always go by our first name only. Taking care of the business of A.A. requires us to live among "normal people" and follow the rules they follow.

Now, once that part is done, we come to the fun part. Planning and having the event. There is

usually a committee that gets together regularly to set up a program, find speakers, possibly order refreshments or at least have coffee and cookies and prepare all the necessary details to have a well-run, entertaining and informative event.

In case you didn't know, I love comical A.A. skits. At some of our events a skit is planned. The

people in the skit rehearse the lines and put together costumes. I have participated in many skits over the years, and I have loved laughing at myself. I try hard not to take myself too seriously. I try to keep it light and not allow other people's opinion of me to affect me. I learned that everyone is not going to like me, and I am not going to like everyone I meet. It's okay for us to disagree on different topics. What is not okay is for us to insist others agree with us or treat them badly



if they don't. Our group conscience is the most important tool we have when deciding on matters that affect the individual, group, district, county, or area. If you consider Rule 62 when you are not on the prevailing side of a vote, it may help with any resentments you have about people not taking your side. The wonderful thing about our fellowship is we have a primary purpose to carry the message. How we do it is up to us.

Jo Ann M. Delegate, Area 49

WHATS INSIDE

- *FALL 2023 CONTRA STUDY Flyer*
- *Staten Island Spiritual Breakfast Flyer*
- *A.A. Historical Book Club Flyer*

"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."



“Who me? I am calm.”

My length of sobriety doesn't equate to constant love, tolerance, or serenity. I am not infallible, and my ideas or actions are not always correct! I found that simple things will cause me to embark on a “sober rant” filled with spiritual aspirations, and directions to others. I chastised people for not following the group norms or practices (rules). I used phrases like “This is how it was always done” or “You are doing your own thing.” What I really meant is that they are not doing it MY way or the way I expected it to be done. My Group, My Rules.

Over time, I learned to step down from my figurative soapbox and assess whether the situation genuinely warranted my intense reaction. The key was applying “Rule 62” in all my affairs. My actions were scaring people away, worst they may not have wanted to approach me if they did have a question or concern. I had to apply love, tolerance, and empathy. Would I want to be spoken to or treated the same way?

“Rule 62” didn't mean I should not address the same issues. It simply means I do it differently. It allowed me to slowly navigate the challenges of my impulsive reactions that once defined my behaviors. It helped me realize that the simple mistakes that I was exploding about would not break AA, but my exaggerated responses could shatter my peace.

In conclusion, embracing the principles of “Rule 62” has been wholly transformative. It's a reminder to maintain humility, be empathic, and most importantly restraint of tongue. I pray that all of us are blessed with “Rule 62”.

Saadi H., 2024 SENY Convention Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/11 - SENY Area Assembly (HYBRID)

11/12 - SENY Convention Planning Mtg (VIRTUAL)

11/26 - Staten Island Spiritual 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

My Visit to the General Service Office

I had the wonderful opportunity to visit the General Service Offices in NYC. There was a meeting before the tour started. They asked if there was anyone visiting the office for the first time, would they like to share their names and homegroups. The speaker at the meeting had just celebrated 20 years the day before. It was a great meeting, and I was extremely happy to be a part of it. After the meeting, we proceeded to take a tour of the office. We started by speaking with the person who works in the printing area. He was expressing his excitement over the new pamphlets and books that GSO had recently produced. That's what it's all about for me.

I am very involved with the young people, so hearing about the new pamphlets was awesome. I came across the pamphlet: "*being an older newcomer*". How interesting!! I'm so grateful A.A. is inclusive. As the tour continued, we passed by the Grapevine/La Vina area, and we stopped by the legal department. I belong to other 12 step programs so I can see how the legal department would be helpful. There are other 12 step programs that need to reprint and adopt A.A. material for use in those particular fellowships.

I even got to sit on Bill Wilson's couch when in the archives area. How amazing was that!!!

Take the time to go to the General Service Office, you will not be disappointed. It was such a sight to see everyone working together to help those who still suffer.

Jon J., GSR for Daytime Love and Service in Bayshore

The Wisdom of Rule 62

In case you don't know it, Rule 62 is "Don't take yourself too damn seriously." It comes from the 4th tradition reading in the 12&12. A little context is that there is an AA group in the reading that has a lot of ideas on how to improve AA. They then realize that they actually were making big mistakes, and the group learns from them. Hence, the rule. Every group has the right to be wrong—it's ok to make a mistake.

I'll admit that I do not want to write about this topic. I take myself way too seriously. I am, however, slowly learning through my experience in AA that it's ok to make mistakes. If you also struggle with this, service in AA is a particularly good way to learn.

What happens when I mess up in AA? Nothing. People are understanding. I get to fix it or ask for help fixing it. Nobody rubs my face in it. I don't get "fired" from my service position for making a mistake. Nothing is life or death in AA (except drinking, of course). I will make mistakes because I am human. Groups/committees/areas make mistakes because they are made up of humans.

Have you noticed all the mistakes I've made as Area Chair? (Please say no and that you think I'm absolutely amazing.) Whenever I make one, part of me wants to crawl into a little ball. Imagine if I did that. We would never get through an assembly! Instead, HP reminds me to pray and take it with stride. Thus, I am slowly learning the wisdom of Rule 62.

Paola A., Area 49 Chair
she/her



Hello, Friends in Sobriety! It's hard to believe that our next SENY Convention is less than six months away – the dates for our 56th SENY Convention will be March 15-17, 2024, and it will once again be held at the Westchester Marriott. The theme is “Connecting with Love, Unity and Service”. The Marriott has been undergoing extensive renovations, and we are looking forward to another wonderful Convention in this new yet familiar setting.

Our Delegate Jo Ann M., with extraordinary assistance from several of our rotated-on SENY Delegates, has worked tirelessly on the contract negotiations, and this will be the first of 3 new contracts covering the Conventions in 2024, 2025 and 2026. The contracts are signed, yet there are still several points on which we need clarification. Nonetheless, we have a preliminary budget in place (subject to the clarifications just mentioned), and I feel confident in giving you the following numbers for your planning.

** Please keep in mind: costs for the hotel have gone up. Jo Ann, Jane, and John W. negotiated valiantly on our behalf, and considering where the process started, we got the best rates possible. Thanks to all three of you! **

As it stands now, the registration fee for the weekend will be \$27. The rooms-per-night will be \$159 plus taxes (a \$25 increase from last year, the best we could do). The banquet will cost \$98 per ticket, mainly because, for the first time, we need to pay the hotel a 24% administrative fee on the food. Again, this was unavoidable.

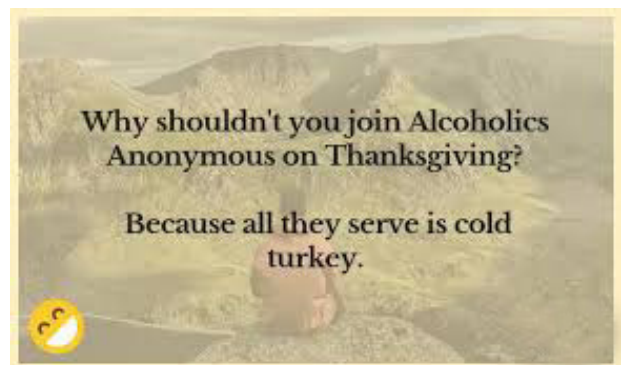
Our Convention Chair Saadi, as well as the whole Committee, is working on the flyer, registration forms, and automating the process as much as possible. We will keep you up to date as these things are finalized. As always, we must remind you: once the process is established for booking your hotel room, IT IS CRITICAL that you do so in the manner to be prescribed on the registration form, NOT through a discount on-line service. Doing the latter will penalize us in meeting the 550 room nights we need per the contract. Please help us honor this commitment.

Your committee wants this to be the best Convention you've ever experienced. Let's all make it happen!

In Love, Service and Peace

Tom B., Treasurer for the 56th Area 49-SENY Convention

“We need another table” said Alyssa, moments after I walked into our beginners meeting. She and Dexter were setting up the meeting and I came early to help. We usually get some good laughs while setting up. I love the old timers. They have the joy and laughter that I struggle to find in early sobriety. “We can use this table” I said, as I was walking into the storage room. I picked up a table and carried it to Alyssa. I felt confident in my solution, which was a feeling I remember having during my drinking days when alcohol was my solution for everything. Strangely, the upside-down thinking slogan came to mind simultaneously. “We need that table for the Steps and Traditions,” said Alyssa. I immediately felt deflated. “I've done this before, what am I missing” I thought. Suddenly, a not so serious matter became serious! Alyssa and I started looking around the empty room pointing and brainstorming ideas. Slowly our smiles disappeared, our tone of voice deepened, and our faces began to cringe. Before we could join the debating society, Dexter, a long-time member, cruised by us like a sailboat under way and said, “We can use that table back there”, pointing to the back of the room. Alyssa and I broke out in laughter. “You see how he chimed in like a good elder statesman” Alyssa said in a giggle. “He gave us a chance to figure it out” I said while laughing. The three of us continued setting up with a grin and a glow that only this program can provide. Bernard B. Smith, the chairman of the general service counsel from 1951-1956 quoted Canon C. E. Raven on the three conditions necessary for true fellowship during his speech at the St. Louis convention in 1955. One of them being “The discharge of a common task big enough to capture the imagination and give expression to loyalty.” Sounds serious right? To the contrary, the undertone is love, loyalty and joy. No matter how seriously I take my sobriety, AA won't let me take myself too damn seriously, and for that I am grateful.



Denzel H., Former Secretary for District 618



The PowerPoint Presentation was: "The Miracles of Our Path" AA Footprints: Bill was led to Dr. Silkworth. Dr. Jung - Roland Hazard. Oxford Group - lead to Reverend Sam Shoemaker - Calvary Church. Bill being led to Akron also led to Reverend Tunks and Henrietta Sieberling. Bill was introduced to Dr. Bob and to Sister Ignasis at Akron Hospital. I never get tired or bored of AA Footprints!

The Archives room displays:

The Host Area 84, Area 72 Washington, Area 6 Northern California, Cleveland, Area 45 South Jersey - 3 other Areas in Ontario. Ontario is celebrating 80 years. In 1943, the first 3 alcoholics discussed in a local tavern how to start a meeting. They were helped by 2 Clergies. Within 2 weeks, a church became available for an A.A. meeting. This group is no longer in existence. The Province of Ontario hosted 2 International Conventions. They were both held in the city of Toronto in the year 1965 and again in 2005. There are presently 4 areas in Ontario.

Lastly, GSO Archivist, April Henger, a nonalcoholic, loves us. As part of her presentation on the 1965 International Convention, Bill is at the podium discussing the "Responsibility Statement". This is the first time the members are going to be hearing the Statement. Bill mentions it's in the program. He introduces a local Canadian to be the first to come to the podium and say it in French. Then Bill closed the meeting repeating the Responsibility Statement in English.

April displayed a few facts about Sudbury where the NAAAW was held. It is my hope that this article takes you where I was, what I heard and how I felt. Your contributions allowed me to represent Area 49. Thank you all!

Marty K., SENY Archives Chair Panel 73

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.ASENY.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.ASENY.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!



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

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

Suffolk Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous AREA 49 SOUTHEASTERN 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, IIM-31, 2021-2022 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)

For more information contact:

Jim S., DCM District 120
dc120@aasuffolk-nyc.org

Dawn D., SIA Institutions Chair
institutions@suffolkny-aa.org

Laurie A., SIA Third Legacy Chair
thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org

• 2023 CONTRA Study Service Manual Questions

BILL W. DINNER DANCE 2023
 FUNDRAISER

WE ARE BACK IN PERSON



NEW YORK INTERGROUP
 CELEBRATES THE 89TH SOBRIETY ANNIVERSARY OF A.A. CO-FOUNDER BILL W.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH 2023
 7PM – 12AM, DOORS OPEN AT 6:30
 TERRACE ON THE PARK
 52-11 111TH STREET QUEENS NY 11368
 FLUSHING MEADOWS CROWN PARK

\$225.00 PER TICKET. TABLE SEATS OF 12/14
 INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP TICKETS AVAILABLE:
 AUGUST 1, 2023
 WEBSITE: WWW.INTERGROUP.ORG
 % BY CONTACTING THE N.Y. INTER-GROUP OFFICE
 CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS AND CASH PREFERRED!

CHAIR: MARLENE D. NEW ATTITUDE, BAYNHAM, NY
 PROCEEDS OF THE BILL W. DINNER SUPPORT INTER-GROUP'S TWELFTH-STEP WORK.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
 N.Y. INTER-GROUP OFFICE
 307 SEVENTH AVENUE, ROOM 303
 NEW YORK, N.Y. 10001
 (212) 647-1647
 WEBSITE: WWW.INTERGROUP.ORG

Staten Island General Services *Presently providing*

22nd Annual **Spiritual Breakfast**
A.A.'s Three Legacies



Our Common Solution
 Sunday November 26th 2023
The Vanderbilt at South Beach
 300 Father Capodanno Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10305
 10:00am – 2:00pm (doors open at 9:30am)

For Ticket's, Information, & Service Volunteer Opportunities

VENMO @SIS823-TRUSTees
 Please include the "Who's It For" field
 SIS823: Name, Number, E-mail

For Cash Orders: Dan S. 347-733-3433
 Mike G. 718-954-4204
www.sis823.org

For More Information Or Service Opportunities: Event Chair, Josette
 917-530-7230

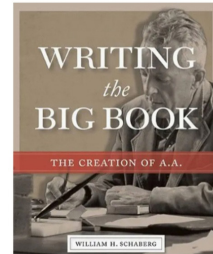
Alcoholics Anonymous Historical Book Club is back--Sunday Nights at 7:00 pm on Zoom!

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 brooklynnaa.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 dc120@brooklynnaa.org or (917) 865-9551

SUFFOLK COUNTY
 AL-ANON IN PARTICIPATION WITH AA
 DISTRICT 120 AREA 49

"A JOURNEY THROUGH THE STEPS"

This is a Quarterly Workshop focusing on 3 steps at a time.

SESSION 4 (STEPS 10-12)

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16TH
 10AM-2PM
 DOORS OPEN @ 9:30AM

TRUE NORTH CHURCH
 1101 LAKELAND AVENUE BOHEMIA, NY 11716

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
AALIAISON@AL-ANON-SUFFOLK-NY.ORG
DCM120@AASUFFOLKGS-NY.ORG

Have a question? Put It In The "Ask It!" Basket.

FREE EVENT
 The basket will be passed honoring our 7th Tradition

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS		To add or update email: agenda@aaseny.org	
Staten Island General Service Assembly (HYBRID)	11/5	7:00p	Zoom ID: 740 881 0586, Password: Freedom22*
SENY Tech & Communications Committee Meeting	11/7	7:30p	Zoom ID: 894 0024 2856, Password: 033597
SENY Archives Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)	11/9	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Area Assembly (HYBRID)	11/11	10:00a	TBD
SENY Convention Planning Meeting (VIRTUAL)	11/12	2:00p	Zoom ID: 8916 576 4327 Password: 549468
Brooklyn County General Service Meeting	11/15	6:30p	Zoom ID: 961 9888 5103, Password: 069497
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting	11/18	3:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY - Intergroup Liaison Meeting	11/19	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Literature Committee Meeting	11/26	4:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
CPC Monthly Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)	11/29	6:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921

SENY Officers		
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*Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)