

# The Link

Issue 619 - June 2022  
"ATTRACTING DIVERSITY IN AA"



## A Word From Our SENY Delegate - Panel 71

Greetings, fellow A.A. Members! It's hard to believe we're almost three quarters through our Panel 71 rotation. The 72nd General Service Conference is done; we'll be discussing Proposed Agenda Items from our Area at a special Mini-Assembly in August; and our SENY elections for Panel 73 are almost at hand (Saturday, September 10th.) Regarding that last point, it's a perfect time for this month's theme of "Attracting Diversity in Service".

I believe the principle of "attraction rather than promotion" applies just as much to General Service as it does to Recovery. I also believe that our position of "trusted servants" calls on us not only to encourage people to join us in that service, but to make sure we include alcoholics from across every conceivable spectrum to participate. In my opinion, the best way to keep Alcoholics Anonymous inviting, current and relevant is to make sure those who serve the Fellowship are the Fellowship.

One of the very special takeaways of attending the Conference is the diverse geographic nature of the Area Delegates. Listening to the perspectives from the various Areas of the U.S.

and Canada is invaluable; one of the great joys this year was being with many different people – in Committee, in session, at mealtime, in the corridors. Each Area elected the person they believed would serve A.A. best, and, like last year, it was a wonderful, caring, loving body. And yet, for the most part, I didn't feel an overwhelming sense of "diversity".

As I do my report-backs this summer and fall, I will visit as many Counties, Districts and Groups as possible, live or virtual. The more service I've done, the more I realize that being a trusted servant is a deep honor and a deeper responsibility – not only in the doing, but in the living. In my first months of sobriety, what gave me hope was the way so many of you carried yourselves – with grace, steadiness, and dignity. I hope that, as we all move forward together in service, we can carry ourselves in that same way, making sure that no one misses this opportunity to be of service.

*Please, encourage all A.A. Members to be open to the gift of being a trusted servant.*

Thank you for the privilege of serving all of you, and all of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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

## WHATS INSIDE

- *Attracting Diversity in AA...*
- *Available Service Positions*
- *Theme Flyer for July*

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## A Motley Crew of Service Warriors

I needed help and they answered the door. The next day they took me to a meeting. The last meeting of the 2009 Thanksgiving Share-A-Thon in Queens. I had no idea that my life was going to change. To be honest, the aha moment did not present itself at that meeting. It was a month later during the Holiday Share-A-Thon when I saw the enormity of Alcoholics Anonymous. I observed people laughing over coffee. Trusted servants welcomed each person walking through the doors while answering phones which I now know was the Queens Intergroup hotline. I spent a lot of time there. I needed it. I was counting days through the hurricane season, and it was rough. Plus, my home group had a commitment. Having a commitment at the Share-A-Thon is an opportunity to meet alcoholics from near and far; those counting days like me; and the newcomer needing help at 2:00am. They represented a vast array of demographics.

There's a great line in the literature: "So beggars, tramps, asylum inmates, prisoners, queers, plain crackpots, and fallen women were definitely out." [1] These are my people. If the founders had followed through with an eligibility requirement for membership, then the cast of characters we meet at each meeting would be a glum lot. Those descriptors represent the score of us who once lived a different lifestyle. They are the ones making coffee; managing

*"These are my people. If the founders had followed through with an eligibility requirement for membership, then the cast of characters we meet at each meeting would be a glum lot."*

the group's money; promoting the Grapevine; representing us at the General Service Conference and more.

I am in perpetual gratitude to the motley crew of characters in Queens that taught me how to stay sober by delving deeper into service. I am also indebted to the much larger motley crew of SENY/Area 49 with whom I began doing service. When I began doing service for SENY/Area 49 (you know who you are!). Every one of my service commitments – all very diverse – have applied to my life beyond the rooms of AA. Remember our commonality: to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Malini S., Past Agenda Chair, SENY/Area 49

### UPCOMING EVENTS

6/4 - SENY Area 49 Post-Conference Assembly (Hybrid)

6/12 - Nassau County General Service 37th Unity Breakfast

8/14 - The Joy of Service Workshop - Hosted by Rockland County

For more events go to [AASENY.org](http://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](mailto:link@aaseny.org)

# 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](mailto:DCMC@ORANGE.AASENY.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](mailto:DCMC@BROOKLYNAA.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](mailto:TCO@AASENY.ORG)

## Diversity in Action

From our Nassau County DCMC

I am a white Caucasian that sobered in Carnarsie. I joined the Carnarsie Group which met 2 times a week. I was willing to travel by train and bus to visit different groups from a wide range of social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders and sexual orientations. At the time I had my personal self-surrender. The AIDS Epidemic was in full flight. Some of the friends that I grew up with in Carnarsie had been diagnosed with the Virus. I would meet up with them at the Gay Mens' Health Crisis to attend a weekly AA meeting. That meeting was

on St Marks Place. It was said that if you could sober there, you could get sober anywhere. I was able to purchase a New York Intergroup Meeting Directory. I was a meeting maker. I loved listening to the personal surrender and the first step experiences at those meetings. Most importantly, I listened to members who were different from myself. I heard people share about turning their will and life over to God as they understood Him.

I worked for the family business which was located in Manhattan. I was able to make

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meetings there from lower Manhattan to upper Manhattan and in different boroughs. I found a new family, a spiritual family. That family was Alcoholics Anonymous.

I currently live in Nassau County and began doing service at Nassau Intergroup. I also served for Nassau County General Service. I then became the DCMC for Nassau County. I gave reports at LICYPAA,, Distrito 2-14 and Assemblies. Nassau County General Service held a County Inventory in December of 2020. During that inventory, there was a discussion regarding diversity. Since I was already doing service for Nassau County, I asked myself this question: "would I be willing to stand as a Committee Chair? I love alcoholics anonymous and believe the need to have diversity in our AA community. Diversity is an action.

Marty K. DCMC – Nassau County



*"My drinking has me feeling a little alienated."*

## Diversity in AA

Growing up in my home, there were no discussions about color or race. I had ten siblings and we were many different shades of the rainbow. I am a light skinned African American woman and the only mention of race was when I was bullied in school and on my block. I didn't understand why people thought I was different. Is that a reason why I turned to alcohol? Not sure, but it did have an unpleasant effect on me. I still suffer from feelings of insecurity and inferiority. Still not always comfortable in my own skin, and still working with Gods help to overcome the self-doubt and anxiety of being with people. When I stepped into my first A.A. meeting I had such a sense of belonging. After attending for a while, I realized it was because of the common bond we all share. Alcohol, not race or color was the topic of discussion. I blended in and felt comfortable because of our primary purpose.

Moving on to service below the group, I had the same feeling of belonging since the main topic is service, not race, color or anything else.

Keeping that in mind has helped me to not focus on our differences, but to focus on our primary purpose which is to help the alcoholic who still suffers. I have met so many beautiful and sincere people from different races, creeds, colors, and backgrounds. We work together for our common welfare.

Keeping this thing going is my motivation. My disease wants me to cower down in feelings of fear and inferiority. Overcoming my demons has helped me to progress in my sobriety and enhance my spirituality. When I have feelings of being slighted, either fancied or real, I remember our literature and take the suggestion on page 67 of our big book; "We ask God to help us show them the same tolerance, pity and patience we would cheerfully grant a sick friend." The people I have met trudging the road of happy destiny has helped me in immeasurable ways. I am forever grateful!

JoAnn M. A49 P71 Alt Delegate



June 11 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

### FellowSHIP Boat Party – CoHosted by Big Apple Bid for ICYPAA & ESCYPAA VIII

Circle Line Cruise 83 North River Piers West 43rd Street and, 12th Ave, New York, NY

\$30

### Nassau General Service Group Presents 37th Unity Breakfast 2022

Unified in Love & Service

SUNDAY  
JUNE 12, 2022  
9 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
DOORS OPEN  
8 A.M. (SERVICE FAIR)



TICKETS: \$35 P.P.  
FOR TICKET INFO:  
RENEE K.  
(516) 522-1781  
KATIE O.  
(347) 753-2819

Long Island Marriott  
101 James Doolittle Blvd  
Uniondale, New York 11553



“Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety”



ESCYPAA VIII Presents

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION \$10

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022 @ 8AM

**Luan**  
BEACH PARTY

Robert Moses State Park, Field 2  
600 ROBERT MOSES STATE PKWY,  
BABYLON, NY 11702  
(PICNIC AREA ON THE RIGHT SIDE)  
PARKING FEE:\$8  
MEETING STARTS AT:4PM  
FOOD,FUN AND FELLOWSHIP  
www.escypaa8.org

## **SOUTHEAST NEW YORK AREA 49 AND ROCKLAND COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE PRESENT...**



### **THE JOY OF SERVICE WORKSHOP: “I AM RESPONSIBLE”**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022, 2:00 PM UNTIL 5:00 PM**

**Located at the Clarkstown Reformed Church**

**107 Strawtown Road, West Nyack, NY 10994**

**HYBRID MEETING**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84932602412?pwd=cGNONVBSK2lJYTZiQ2lQdzI0ZGNrQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 849 3260 2412**

**Passcode: ServiceNow**



Service Opportunity



## Cooperation with Professional Communities

SENY & Nassau Service Groups

Invites all members of AA to join us in service to:

- COMMUNICATE What AA is and what AA is not
- Give PRESENTATIONS and QUALIFY at non-AA meeting
- CARRY the MESSAGE with brochures to potential Alcoholics
- SUPPORT the work of PI, Treatment & Facilities, Accessibilities, Corrections and BTG committees

Please email [cpc@aanassaugs-ny.org](mailto:cpc@aanassaugs-ny.org) to volunteer

Join us on the 1st Monday of each month 7pm Zoom 998-938-7641 PW 714921

I am responsible...When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there. And for that I am responsible... To do that, They NEED to KNOW us!



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

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

**JULY’S** THEME:  
**“AA NEEDS YOU”**



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

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

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS			To add or update email agenda@aaeeny.org
SENY Area 49 Tech Committee Meeting	6/2	7:30p	Zoom ID: 894 0024 2856, Password: 033597
SENY Archives Committee Meeting	6/3	6:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Area 49 Post-Conference Assembly HYBRID	6/4	10:00a	SUNY Westchester Community College, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY Zoom ID:
SENY 49 Distrito anfitrión 114	6/5	9:00a	
SENY Accessibilities Committee Meeting	6/9	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
Putnam County General Service Meeting HYBRID	6/14	7:00p	Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 76 Gleneida Ave, Carmel NY Zoom ID: 822 9275 1708
Brooklyn County General Service Meeting	6/15	6:30p	Zoom ID: 828 3147 4891, Password: 403618
SENY Public Information (PI) Committee Meeting	6/16	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
Suffolk County General Service Meeting HYBRID	6/17	8:00p	Emanuel Lutheran Church, 179 E Main St, Patchogue, NY Zoom ID: 932 6450 5176, Password: 713704
SENY Literature Committee Meeting	6/19	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)	6/27	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting	6/28	6:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921

SENY Officers		
Delegate	Tom B.	delegate@aaeeny.org
Alt. Delegate	Jo Ann M.	altdelegate@aaeeny.org
Chair	Nisaa A.	chair@aaeeny.org
Treasurer	Richard S.	treasurer@aaeeny.org
Technology & Communications	Mike O.	tco@aaeeny.org
County DCMCs		
Bronx / UM	Laura G.	dcmc@bxum.aaseny.org
Hispanic	Elio T.	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	Brian C.	dcmc@stateninsulaa.org
Suffolk	Melissa J.	dcmc@asuffolkgs-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@aaeeny.org
Agenda	Vicky B.	agenda@aaeeny.org
Archives	Jeff P.	archives@aaeeny.org
Convention 2021	Kathy W.	convention@aaeeny.org
Corrections	Lucas O.	corrections@aaeeny.org
Email Update Editor*	Mike O.	email-update@aaeeny.org
CPC	Kristen D.	cpc@aaeeny.org
Grapevine / La Vina	Kimbley G.	grapevine@aaeeny.org
Intergroup Liaison	Christine D.	intergroup@aaeeny.org
Link Editor	Gina D.	link@aaeeny.org
Literature	Kingsley T.	literature@aaeeny.org
Office Manager	VACANT	office@aaeeny.org
Public Information	Paola A.	pi@aaeeny.org
Recording Secretary	Jessica V.	secretary@aaeeny.org
Service Participation*	Jo Ann M.	altdelegate@aaeeny.org
Service Sponsorship*	Keith P.	sponsorship@aaeeny.org
Translation	VACANT	translation@aaeeny.org
Treatment Facilities	Hank G.	tf@aaeeny.org
Web Chair	Claire M.	web@aaeeny.org
AIAnon Liaison*	VACANT	alanonliaison@aaeeny.org
Ad Hoc Finance	Larry W.	finance@aaeeny.org
YPAA Liaison*	Jo Ann M.	altdelegate@aaeeny.org

\*Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)