

The Link

Issue 611 - May 2021
"...IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS"

From Our SENY Delegate - Panel 71

Good day, AA members and friends! Our 71st (virtual) General Service Conference was adjourned in the wee hours of Sunday morning, 4/25. It was long, arduous, utterly satisfying, and joyful, and I hope that ALL of you will attend our Post-Conference Assembly on Saturday, June 12th, to hear the delegate's report-back! It is now around 36 hours after that adjournment, and I am delighted to be back with all of you.

A few of you may have heard me tell my personal "ten words from three sources" philosophy. Basically, it says this: if my life on any given day has turned to ****, then I am violating one, two, or probably all three of the following: 1) "Let go and let God"; 2) "Acceptance"; 3) "In all our affairs." Those principles hold whether I'm working in the yard, sitting at the Conference, or anything in between. We all have our Tenth Step formulae – that happens to be mine.

All three remain ongoing challenges in behavior and humility for me, most especially as a trusted servant; but "in all our affairs" requires particular vigilance on my part, either when I have to transition from AA meetings and AA business back to the "real" world, or vice versa. And yet that's

precisely what the last four words of Step Twelve tell me I need to do. In my early sobriety, a friend and mentor often said, "I can restart my day any time I want to." Clearly, he didn't understand MY problems! But in reality, he did understand the Twelfth Step.

"Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs"

Going into this year's Conference, we all had a great deal of reading to do, and we had to be intimately acquainted with our Traditions, Concepts, and a host of other material (see 'PERSONAL EXPERIENCE' on page S-52 of your current Service Manual!). Beyond that, all 132 of us had to be fully open to that precious commodity: additional information. We had to carry in the voices of our areas, our own experiences and consciences, the desire to do our best and the willingness to admit our mistakes – always remembering that we serve all of Alcoholics Anonymous. And we needed to do it in respect, and in love.

If I can carry those principles back into my life this week, then maybe I'll learn a little bit more about "in all our affairs". Thank you for letting me serve.

In Love and Service,
Tom B.

WHATS INSIDE

- *Service Outside of AA*
- *Each One Reach One Campaign*
- *A Letter From The Editor*
- *NEW Service Clasfieds!*

Next Month's Theme:

"AA AS A WHOLE "

Deadline For Submissions:

MAY 27TH



SERVICE IN THE STREETS

FROM THE BROOKLYN COUNTY SECRETARY

I was in my first 90 days at the Greenwich Twelve & Twelve. A blue and yellow tapestry of a wheelbarrow hung over the table held down by a stack of Big Books on either side. It symbolized permission to dump your feelings here.

Kit, a woman I never really spoke to talked about the Third Step. I was sitting in the front row, 28 years old, helpless, broken and losing custody of my daughter. It was a miracle I could even listen. She talked about picking up trash on the street. I was confused. What did picking up trash have to do with God? How was somebody else's trash going to keep me sober? She said something like, "I walk outside and when I see garbage I pick it up, flip it over and throw it in the trash. I talk to God while I'm doing it—while I'm turning it over". My mind was blown! I could follow directions at that point and I followed hers. For the past 17 years I have been cleaning the street like it's my job. The C Train platform at Jay street was spotless when I was in my first 10 years; I maintained it well. I would pick up the soda bottles and chip wrappers, the scratch offs and leftover bodega bags, all while talking to God. All while turning over what was keeping me separated from him.

AA suggestions are generations of "this is what I did, now you do it." I once had a sponsee who would go out late at night with an empty hefty bag and fill it. She loved it. It was her time with God. The only time, back then, when she felt close to a Higher Power. I've had years and years worth of sponsees turn trash into God. Kit has no idea how many people have been saved by her share seventeen years ago.

The other day I could not feel God, I couldn't see him and even if I could I wasn't sure that I wanted him around. It's been a crazy year, you know? We have all been pushed to our sober limits. I have a sober reference though. I have Kit's experience that has become mine, that has become Kaylas, that has become Tish's, that has become Kaci's and so on and so on. I grabbed a bag and went outside and got to work, picking up the trash, turning it over and telling God what I was pissed off about. My block was spotless and I no longer felt separated.

Lexie R.

Who Is NOT In The Room?

From From the SENY Accessibilities Chair

In 2008 I underwent foot surgery and for a period of about 8 weeks I lacked easy access to AA meetings. I was unable to get to AA meetings unless someone drove me from my house to the meeting, and then helped me hobble down the steps to the church basement where my home group met. This was before I knew anything about virtual meetings, phone meetings, text-only meetings, or the GSO Loners-Internationalists meeting correspondence service. The only meetings I knew of were held in brick and mortar buildings. And this was years after I got sober, so I already had a nice long list of AA telephone numbers I could call on to ask for help. It wasn't always easy to make the call, to admit I needed help, but it was inevitably worth the effort.



Today, more than a year into the global COVID-19 pandemic, I have become painfully aware of many different challenges people face which interfere with their access to the AA program. For example, the “digital divide” makes it difficult - sometimes impossible - for some of us to attend virtual or phone meetings. Without access to technology, cell phone service, Wi-Fi and privacy, many alcoholics have found themselves unable to attend AA meetings during the pandemic.

Southeastern New York's Accessibility Committee seeks to first explore and acknowledge various barriers to access that present challenges to alcoholics in Southeastern New

York (“SENY”), and then to assist with efforts to minimize or melt such barriers. To this end, we are currently preparing an “Accessibility Survey” which will request feedback from groups within SENY, and then an analysis of such survey results will be made available once compiled.

In addition, a very creative member of SENY's Accessibility Committee, Hutch, prepared a flyer to announce the ‘EACH ONE, REACH ONE’ campaign. Inspired by the spirit of



mutual aid and ideas shared at the 2021 virtual NERAASA, we decided to promote this campaign in order to encourage each other to reach out as often as possible — but especially during the pandemic — to home group members and other alcoholics who might otherwise “fall through the cracks” due to the digital divide.

Finally, during my exploration of barriers to accessibility, I have been reminded that invisible or intangible barriers, such as racism, ageism, gossip, homophobia, and transphobia — to name just a few — can also pose significant challenges. Let's be the “hand of AA” to anyone, anywhere who reaches out for help. Let's be responsible.

Yours in service,
Annabel B.



Service Classifieds

IS THERE AN OPEN SERVICE POSITION AT YOUR DISTRICT, COUNTY, OR AREA COMMITTEE?

OUR NEW SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS CAN HELP!

Send a brief (we mean 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!

GIVE FREELY OF WHAT YOU FIND

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I chose the theme “...In All Our Affairs” for this month’s issue to remind us that the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts are not just theoretical concepts to geek out on, but are spiritual principles we can apply to all areas of our lives. The Concepts especially have a way of slipping into ethereal territory. It’s hard to imagine them in tangible ways so I wanted to give my most recent personal example.

My father passed in April. Our relationship has been a complicated one—when I first got sober we hadn’t even spoken for a few years—but the more work I did in AA, the more I realized that I had a greater purpose in this relationship: simply, to be of service. I was able to come to this realization through Concept I and II which helps the group conscience come through. I trusted my groups and my sponsor, and in that way was trusting my higher power.

As I began creating a new relationship with my father, Concepts III, IV, and V taught me that I have rights! I was responsible for my own participation and decisions, and as long as I was willing to hear or say things that might be unpopular then I could always hang up the phone

and try again later if things got out of hand. Concepts VI, VII, VIII, X and XII taught me there is a delicate balance to being of service. If I co-dependently “save” my father then I risk getting hurt again, but if I ignore and silently scorn him from a distance then I don’t change either. Through working with a sponsor, the groups, other AA’s, my Higher Power and my Higher Self, I have a whole team helping me form a more balanced response.

Concepts IX and XI remind me of the amazing leaders in AA who have come before me and taught me how to be a leader in my own household. I became the closest, most reliable family member to my father and we left off on the absolute best terms—something unimaginable in years past.

A line in the Big Book states “it’s not the matter of giving that is in question, but when and how to give.” The Concepts and working with others—in all my affairs—have shown me how to truly give of myself freely. Thank you for my life.

Mary H.



EACH ONE REACH ONE



AN AA CALL FOR ACTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically impacted the rooms of AA. While many people have found ways to connect with other alcoholics, via video call and other forms of communication, there are still members of the Fellowship who have remained isolated from their community during this time. **EACH ONE, REACH ONE** is an idea that encourages each and every member of AA to reach out to someone in the Fellowship who you haven't seen or heard from in a while, practicing the AA legacy of service, unity and recovery.

Pick up the phone and make a call.

Go for a socially distanced walk.

Invite someone to a virtual meeting.

Attend an outdoor meeting.

Teach someone to connect via technology.

Meet up somewhere outside, like a park!

Deliver a copy of The Grapevine or La Niña.


Write a letter.

Offer to deliver groceries to a fellow in your neighborhood.


AA's Responsibility Statement

I am responsible... When anyone,
anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA always to be there.

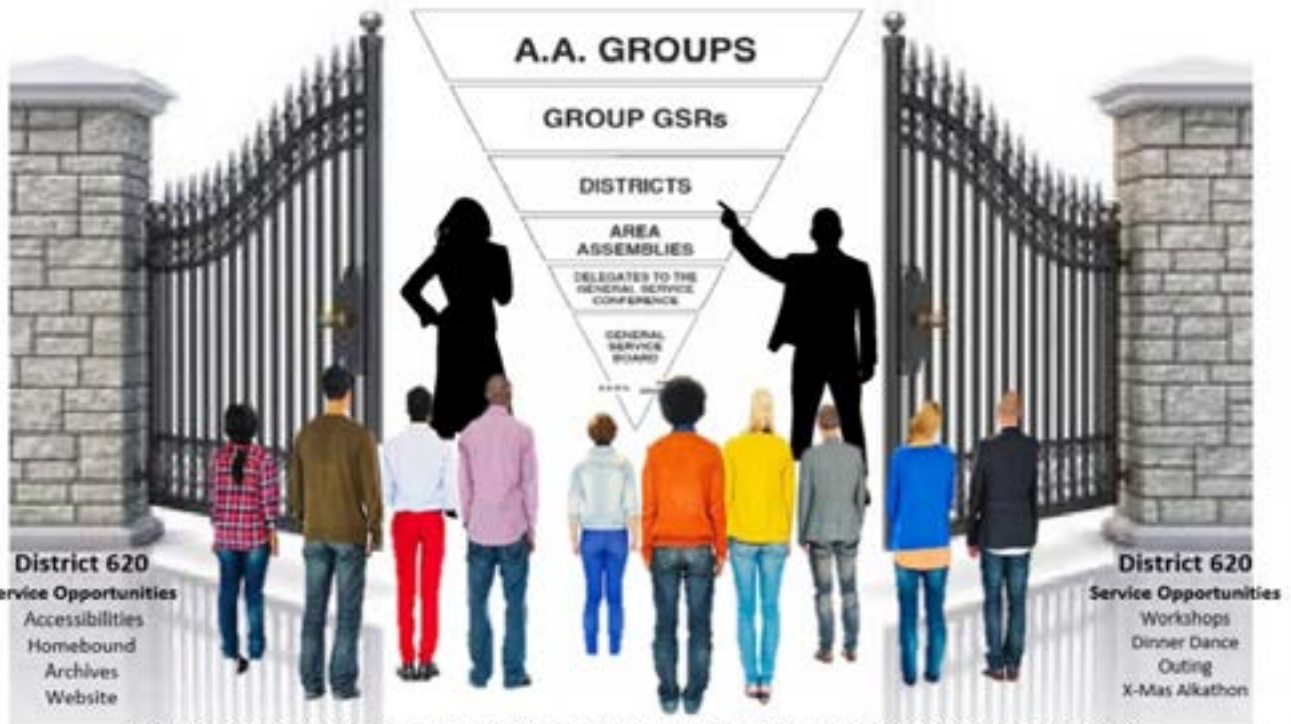
And for that, I am responsible.



Brought to you
by Area 49 SENY's
Accessibility Committee
access@aaseny.org



DISTRICT 620 WORKSHOP PRESENTS
THEME
AA SERVICE; A GATEWAY TO GROWTH



GET CONNECTED WITH THE WAYS THAT YOU CAN USE AA SERVICE TO TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE AND OTHERS
JOIN US, DISTRICT 620, ON SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021 FROM 9AM-1PM TO FIND OUT HOW AA SERVICE CAN ENHANCE YOUR LIFE
ZOOM ID 110 067 203, PASSCODE 117488 www.aadistrict620.org

TRIVIA & GIVEAWAYS

UPCOMING EVENTS

"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."

5/29 - District 620 "A Gateway to Growth" Workshop

6/4- NERF: Northeast Regional Forum

6/12- SENY Post-Conference Assembly Virtual

6/12- Putnam County Founders Day @ 7:00pm Zoom ID: 822 9275 1708

 **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 or mail it: The Link Editor, P.O. Box 571, NY, NY 10116

Northeast Virtual Regional Forum

As with usual Regional Forums, the weekend will include workshops, presentations, Q&As, and much, much more!

All members are invited, so get on the virtual bus! Bring a newcomer!

Dates: June 4, 2021 – June 6, 2021

Advance registration is strongly encouraged. Click below to register at:

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/regional-and-local-forums

**Please Register Early -- Same-day registration will be limited.*

Program with login information will be emailed to registrants one day prior to the event. If you have any questions regarding registration, please email ForumSupport@aa.org.

Foro Regional del Nordeste Virtual está abierta

Al igual que en los Foros presenciales tradicionales se realizarán talleres, presentaciones, sesiones de preguntas y respuestas y mucho más.

Todos los miembros están invitados. ¡Súbanse al autobús virtual! ¡Vengan acompañados por un principiante!

Fecha: 4 de junio al 6 de junio de 2021

Se recomienda inscribirse con antelación. Hagan clic abajo para inscribirse:

https://www.aa.org/pages/es_ES/regional-and-local-forums

**Inscríbanse lo antes posible – Habrá inscripción de forma limitada el día del evento.*

El programa del evento con la información de acceso se enviará por correo electrónico a los inscritos un día antes del evento.

Si tienen alguna pregunta relacionada con la inscripción, pónganse en contacto por email con ForumSupport@aa.org.

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS

To add or update email agenda@aaseny.org

SENY Public Information (PI) Committee Meeting	5/20	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Suffolk County General Service Meeting	5/21	8:00p	Zoom ID: 932 6450 5176 Passcode: 713704
SENY Service Sponsorship Committee Meeting	5/23	4:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
SENY Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting	5/23	6:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
District 312 Virtual Meeting	6/2	6:30p	Zoom ID: 815 7427 2176 Password: 2580
SENY Grapevine/La Vina Committee Meeting	6/2	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Manhattan County (MGSM) Concepts Meeting	6/2	8:00p	Zoom ID: 839 2303 1919 Passcode: 149068
SENY Technology Committee Meeting	6/3	7:30p	Zoom ID: 910 4836 6955 Passcode: 476258
SENY Archives Committee Meeting	6/4	6:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
SENY Committee Meeting	6/7	7:30p	7:00p Orientation, Virtual Information to follow
Putnam County General Service Meeting	6/8	7:00p	Zoom ID: 822 9275 1708
District 620 General Service Meeting	6/9	5:30p	Zoom ID: 110 067 203 Passcode: 117488
Bronx-Upper Manhattan (BxUM) County Meeting	6/9	7:00p	Zoom ID: 429 704 8123 Passcode: Serenity
District 602 Meeting	6/9	7:00p	Zoom ID: 405 456 6960 Passcode: DIST602
SENY Accessibilities Committee Meeting Virtual	6/10	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Brooklyn District 405 Meeting	6/12	3:15p	Zoom ID: 536 413 6776 Passcode: 120712
Staten Island General Service Meeting	6/13	7:30p	Zoom ID: 847 1858 9467 Passcode: 2021

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*Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)