



## A Word From Our SENY Delegate - Panel 71

Greetings, fellow AA members! As we approach our next SENY Assembly I have been reflecting on the last few months since the 71st General Service Conference. I've had a chance to report back, talk with – and listen to – many of you over the summer, and will continue to do so, since my commitment as your Delegate involves serving my area as well as AA as a whole.

Our September 11th Area 49 Assembly is just days away. Voting members will have the right / responsibility to vote as their hearts, and their understanding of our AA Traditions, dictate. There will be Conference agenda item proposals to be considered: look for them on aaseny.org as the assembly nears. You'll also hear spirited discussion around these items, both pro and con. I simply ask that each of you keep your ears – and your minds – open. Ask any past delegate: it is one of our most important duties at the General Service Conference to be open to additional information. It's every AA member's duty, too.

I've also been reflecting on my own journey of recovery. Over the past 14-1/2 years, many things have changed in my life, and perhaps most of all I've had a change in perspective. My first

Conference in April was spiritually mind-blowing; and yet I had dramatic perspective changes in my earlier years of sobriety as well. One of those early changes was especially important, and continues to this day. I like the way *How the Conference Operates* says it: "trust the process."

My first sponsor, who guided (dragged) me through the steps, told me I needed to change everything – and he was right. I had to trust the process of the Twelve Steps. The more ingrained my belief was, even if supported by lifelong experience, the more I had to listen – carefully. Those two words, "additional information", have been critical in my recovery, because being willing to listen in an "honest, open-minded and willing" manner is the only way I can be teachable. And my sponsor was inflexible on teachability.

On September 11, let's all keep our deep love of AA and its principles in front of us. It is the right of the Group's voice to be heard, yet again. And let's keep page 99 of our *Twelve & Twelve* firmly in front of us as well: "...grant that I may seek rather to... understand, than to be understood."

In Love and Service,  
Tom B.

## WHATS INSIDE

- *Bill W Introduces Concepts III, IV, & V*
- *Returning To In-Person Meetings*
- *Service Postions Available Now*
- *Upcoming Events*

## October's Theme:

"GROUP INVENTORY & PRIMARY PURPOSE"

## Deadline For Submissions:

SEPTEMBER 23

## *Petition, Appeal, Participation, and Decision*

### **A Co-Founder Speaks at the 1956 General Service Conference**



This Conference thinks, I am sure, that its main structural concepts are approximately right. Nevertheless we shall remain aware that these structures can be changed if they fail to work. Our Charter can always be amended, but our structure of service is no empty blueprint. It is manned by people who feel and think and act. Therefore any principles or devices that can better relate them to each other in a harmonious and effective whole are worth considering.

So I now offer you four principles that might someday permeate all of AA's services, principles which express tolerance, patience and love of each other; principles which could do much to avert friction, indecision and power-driving... Here are the words for them: petition, appeal, participation and decision. Maybe all this sounds a bit vague and abstract. So let's develop the meaning and application of these four words.

Take petition. Actually this is an ancient device to protect minorities. It is for the redress of grievances. Every AA member, inside or outside our services, should have the right to petition his fellows. Some years ago, for example, a group of my old friends on the outside became violently opposed to the Conference. They feared it would ruin AA. To put it mildly, they thought they had a grievance. So they placed their ideas on paper and petitioned the AA groups to stop the Conference. Lots of our members got sore; they said this group had no right to do this. But they really did have the right, didn't they?

Yet in our services, this right is often forgotten or unused. It is my belief that every person

working in AAs services should feel free to petition for a redress of grievances or an improvement of conditions...

Therefore, I propose that we further insure, in AA service matters, the right to appeal. Under it, the minority of any committee, corporate Board, or a minority of the Board of Trustees, or a minority of this Conference, could continue to appeal, if they wished, all the way forward to the whole AA movement, thus making the minority voice both clear and loud.

As a matter of practice, this right, too, would seldom be carried to extremes. But again, its very existence would make majorities careful of acting in haste or with too much cocksureness. In this connection we should note that our Charter already requires in many cases a two-thirds vote (and in some instances a three-quarter vote) for action. This is to prevent hasty or inconsiderate decisions by a close majority.

Now we come to participation. The central concept here is that all Conference members are on our service team. Basically we are all partners in a common enterprise of World Service. We have to have our respective authorities, duties and responsibilities to serve; otherwise we couldn't function, but in this quite necessary division, there is a danger -- a very great danger -- something that will always need watching. The danger is that... the Delegates will want to rule the Trustees, the Trustees will want to rule the corporations and the corporate directors will want to rule the hired Staff members... Participation means, at the Conference level, that

we are all voting equals, a Staff member's vote is guaranteed as good as anyone's.

Now, what about decision? Our Conference and our Headquarters have to have leadership. Without it, we get nowhere. And the business of leadership is to lead. The three principles just described -- petition, appeal and participation -- are obviously checks upon our leadership, checks to prevent our leadership running away with us. Clearly this is of immense importance, but of equal importance is the principle that leaders must still lead. If we don't trust them enough, if we hamstringing them too much, they simply can't function. They become demoralized and either quit or get nothing done...

We shall have to trust our executives to decide when they shall act on their own, and when they should consult their respective committees or boards... The Trustees, in their turn, must

*"I now offer you four principles that might someday permeate all of AA's services, principles which express tolerance, patience and love of each other..."*

positively be trusted to decide which matters they shall act upon, and which they shall refer to the Conference as a whole. But where, of course, any independent action of importance is taken, a full report should afterward be made to the Conference.

And last, but not at all least, the Conference itself must have a defined power of decision. It cannot rush back to the grassroots with all its problems or even many of them. In my belief the Conference should never take a serious problem to the grassroots until it knows what their own opinion is, and what the "pros" and "cons" of such a problem really are. It is the

function of Conference leadership to instruct the Group Conscience on the issues concerned. Otherwise, an instruction from the grassroots which doesn't really know the score can be very confusing and quite wrong.

Conference Delegates must have liberty to decide what questions shall be referred to the AA group and just how and when this is to be done. The conscience of AA is certainly the ultimate authority, but the grassroots will have to trust the Conference to act in many matters and only the Conference can decide which they are. The Conference, however, must at all times stand ready to have their opinions reversed by its constituent groups but only after these groups have been thoroughly informed of the issues involved...

Therefore, we want leadership that can lead, yet one which can be changed and restrained. Servants of our fellowship, however, our leaders must always remain trusted. We surely want leaders who are enabled to act in small matters without constant interference. We want a Conference that will remain extremely responsible to AA opinion, yet a body completely able to act alone for us when necessary -- even in some great and sudden crisis...

If we now begin to incorporate the words petition, appeal, participation and decision into our service thinking and action, I believe that many of our confusions about AA's service functions will begin to disappear. More harmony and effectiveness will gradually replace the service gears that still grind and stick among us...

Please believe that I shall not be at all affected if you happen to disagree. Above all, you must act on experience and on the facts, and never because you think I want a change. Since St. Louis, the future of AA belongs to you!

-Bill W., 1956

## BRICK & MORTAR, VIRTUAL, OR BOTH?

### From our SENY Alternate Delegate

Now that the General Service Conference is behind us and our delegate has reported back; what's next on our agendas? Many groups are considering going back to in-person meetings and some have either gone back or have become hybrid meetings where they meet in person and virtually at the same time. This is an important decision for every group to make. Each group being autonomous, as it states in Tradition Four, gives them the right to decide what is best for their group as long as it doesn't affect AA as a whole. My group started discussing this at our July business meeting and we ran out of time. We have planned a special business meeting to continue the conversation.

When I got sober many years ago there were a bunch of suggestions I heard, which really helped me to get connected and stay sober. I heard suggestions like "you should get a homegroup close to home so you don't have an excuse not to make a meeting". On these virtual platforms, close to home can be in your bedroom, living room, kitchen or even your backyard. Virtual meetings were an alternative we were grateful to have during the devastating months of the pandemic. But what about now that many are vaccinated, and our area is starting to open back? Should we continue to meet virtually?

Personally, when I got sober, I looked forward to going out, which had become something I only did to get the next one. I sunk so deep into isolation,

loneliness and depression that I felt doomed. Going out to meetings helped me to learn how to socialize again. It helped me to learn to get along with other people. It helped me to start living among the living instead of just existing. It pulled me out of isolation and took away my fear of people. It helped me to practice patience and tolerance of others. My disease is insidious and wants me to stay away from people. It wants me back where I was over 32 years ago feeling like there was no hope for me.

What about the newcomer? Should we deny them the tremendous experience of in-person meetings? The energy and spirituality we felt walking into a meeting? The sincere hugs we gave and received during those crucial first few months of our recovery. Am I willing to go to any lengths to stay sober? I know I was willing to go to almost any lengths to get my drink. Going to an in-person meeting should not be considered an inconvenience now.

In my humble opinion, nothing can really replace an in-person meeting. There is the AA meeting and then there is our Fellowship. After a virtual meeting everyone tries to fellowship but at times it becomes a shouting match. Not much spirituality in that! Please don't misunderstand. I am grateful for virtual meetings and may continue to attend from time to time since some groups don't plan on going back to brick and mortar or were always virtual. I miss in-person meetings and I don't feel a virtual meeting can ever really replace what I felt and received attending a brick and mortar AA meeting.

Jo Ann M.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

9/9 - SENY Accessibilities Committee Workshop

9/11 - SENY Area Assembly

9/18 - BxUM Share-A-Day

For more events go to [AASENY.org](http://AASENY.org)

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# AA Service Classifieds



IS THERE AN 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:  
- CONFERENCE APPROVED LIT. CHAIR  
- NEWSLETTER CHAIR  
CONTACT DCMC@ORANGE.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

BROOKLYN COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE:  
- TREASURER  
NO SOBRIETY TIME REQUIREMENT.  
CONTACT DCMC@BROOKLYNAA.ORG

## SAVE THE DATE

BxUM SHARE A DAY  
AA in a Changing World

Sat, Sept 18th 9-4 PM

Holy Family Church  
2158 Watson Ave  
Bronx, NY 10472

\*This is a live event\*



## SENY ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE WORKSHOP VIRTUAL

September 9, 2021 @ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Hybrid Considerations  
12th Step Technology  
Personal Stories of AAs

Zoom ID: 998 938 7641  
Passcode: 714921

More information to follow

Contact: [access@aaseny.org](mailto:access@aaseny.org)

# District 412 Picnic

Sunday September 19  
from 12-5pm  
Prospect Park Picnic House  
North Lawn

Look for the yellow balloons!  
Meeting at 12pm and Food at 1pm

Food, Fellowship,  
Music and Games  
Bring a chair or  
blanket if you  
want to sit and an  
instrument if you  
want to play!

(Rain Date September 26)

Please bring a  
fruit or dessert!

Please bring a  
mask for the food  
line and wear a  
mask if  
unvaccinated

Donations can be made to:  
Venmo: @District412  
PayPal: @Kelson412  
Zelle: KAyers61@gmail.com



For more information contact Debra, KC or Kim S:  
district412picnic@gmail.com

**FAMILIES ARE WELCOME!**

Staten Island  
General Services  
Serving the South Shore, District of P.S., Area 19

## FELLOWSHIP BLOCK PARTY BBQ

SEPTEMBER 18TH 2021  
@12PM-5PM  
Wolfe's Pond Park  
420 Cornelia Ave, Staten Island, NY 10312

FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN GAMES, COOLERS AND LAWN CHAIRS



GROUPS: BRING FOOD DONATIONS TO THE HOSPITALITY TABLE



SIGS will provide BBQ hot dogs, hamburgers and of course coffee!

GROUPS THAT WISH TO DONATE PLEASE MAKE DONATION TO SIGS BBQ

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Chair: Steven F (917)297-3007

Co-Chair: Jason C (718)415-4879

Group Liaisons: Matt F (347)500-0033  
Ronnie B (917)644-8919

Hospitality: Kevin C (718)644-8919  
June (917)607-6986



September 26th, 9-11 AM

ZOOM: 937 8893 6868  
PSWD: Spirit

Hosted by GSO of  
Orange County, NY



VIRTUAL  
SPIRITUAL  
BREAKFAST

It's Back!!

# GSR BOOT CAMP

A FEW GSR'S HAVE ASKED...

I AM THE NEW GSR...WHAT DO I  
DO NOW?

HOW MANY ADDITIONAL MTGS  
DO I HAVE TO MAKE DURING MY  
ROTATION???

MY GROUP DOESN'T LISTEN TO MY  
GSR REPORT...WHAT SHOULD I  
DO?

SO MANY QUESTIONS...SO  
MANY ANSWERS WILL BE  
RECEIVED!!

ON  
ZOOM

MONDAY  
SEPT 20, 2021  
@ 7:30-9PM

PLEASE JOIN US!

MEETING ID: RSVP REQUIRED  
PASSCODE: RSVP REQUIRED

HOSTED BY THE  
QUEENS COUNTY  
SPONSORSHIP  
CHAIR:  
JOHN (FRANCIS) B.

RSVP REQUIRED!  
CONTACT ALT-DCMC@QUEENSAASENY.ORG

WCSA PRESENTS

# Share a Day

OCTOBER 16, 2021  
10 AM TO 3 PM

MEMORIAL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
250 BRYANT AVE  
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605

AA COMES OF AGE 2.0  
REGISTRATION IS FREE!

MEETINGS  
EXHIBITS | FOOD  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**38° ANUAL**  
**Bronx Alto Manhattan**  
**Desayuno Espiritual**  
**A.A. EN UN MUNDO CAMBIANTE**  
**DOMINGO, 24 DE OCTUBRE DE 2021**  
**UN EVENTO VIRTUAL**

de 10:00am  
a 12:00pm

**Únete a Nosotros**  
para un  
**Buffet completo de compañerismo**  
**Oradores de servicio y recuperación**

ID DE ZOOM # 429-704-8123 --- Clave: Serenity  
Llame al número 1-(929) 205-6999 Código de acceso 41473914

PARA MAS INFORMACIÓN CONTACTE:  
WWW.AASENYBXUM.ORG DCMC@BXUM.AASENY.ORG  
COORD. DE EVENTOS: JANE G. 917-574-6711  
BxUM CMCD: LAURA G. 347-387-7302



**38th ANNUAL**  
**Bronx Upper Manhattan**  
**Spiritual Breakfast**  
**AA IN A CHANGING WORLD**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021**  
**A VIRTUAL EVENT**

From 10:00am  
to 12:00pm

**Join Us**  
for a  
**Full Buffet of fellowship**  
**Service & Recovery Speakers**

ZOOM ID# 429-704-8123 --- PSW: Serenity  
Call in Number 1-(929) 205- 6999 Passcode 41473914

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
WWW.AASENYBXUM.ORG , DCMC@BXUM.AASENY.ORG  
EVENT CHAIR: JANE G. 917-574-6711  
BxUM DCMC: LAURA G. 347-387-7302



~ SAVE THE DATE ~

40th Annual  
**Manhattan Share-A-Day**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**"Growing Through Change"**

Saturday, October 9, 2021  
9am - 6pm  
Zoom ID TBA

~ Tech Service Volunteers Needed ~  
Email: [SAD@manhattan.aaseny.org](mailto:SAD@manhattan.aaseny.org)

Hosted By  
Manhattan County  
Share-A-Day ~ Chair Jeffrey P.

ALL ARE WELCOME !

The Archives Committee Presents:

**The Link Between Disasters**

A ZOOM workshop commemorating  
The Link's 60th anniversary

October 23 - 11am - 2 pm  
Meeting ID: 998 938 7641  
Passcode: 714921



UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS			To add or update email <a href="mailto:agenda@aaseny.org">agenda@aaseny.org</a>
SENY Archives Committee Meeting	9/10	6:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
SENY Area 49 Asembly	9/11	9:00a	Zoom ID: 819 3846 5547, Passcode: 581661
Staten Island General Services Meeting	9/12	7:00p	Zoom ID: 847 1858 9467 Passcode: 2021
Putnam County General Service Meeting	9/14	7:00p	Zoom ID: 822 9275 1708
Brooklyn County General Service Meeting	9/15	6:30p	Zoom ID: 828 3147 4891, Passcode: 403618
Rockland County General Service Meeting	9/15	7:30p	Zoom ID: 996 6281 8407 Password: 280593
Westchester County General Service Meeting	9.15	7:30p	Zoom ID: 868 370 8260 Password: WGSA
Suffolk County General Service Meeting	9/17	8:00p	Zoom ID: 932 6450 5176 Passcode: 713704
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting	9/18	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Hispanic District Asamblea	9/19	9:30a	Zoom ID: 917 4008 4301 Passcode: 162278
SENY Literature Committee Meeting	9/19	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Sullivan County General Service Meeting	9/19	3:00p	Zoom ID: 843 888 5291
Nassau County General Service Meeting	9/20	7:30p	Zoom ID: 922 8787 8377 Passcode: 12345
Orange County General Service Meeting	9/21	7:00p	Zoom ID: 999 6809 5777, Passcode: Acceptance
Manhattan General Service Meeting	9/21	6:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
2022 SENY Convention Kick-Off Planning Meeting	9/26	3:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: 714921
SENY Service Sponsor Committee Meeting	9/26	5:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: 714921

SENY Officers		
Delegate	Tom B.	<a href="mailto:delegate@aaseny.org">delegate@aaseny.org</a>
Alt. Delegate	Jo Ann M.	<a href="mailto:altdelegate@aaseny.org">altdelegate@aaseny.org</a>
Chair	Nisaa A.	<a href="mailto:chair@aaseny.org">chair@aaseny.org</a>
Treasurer	Richard S.	<a href="mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org">treasurer@aaseny.org</a>
Technology & Communications	Mike O.	<a href="mailto:tco@aaseny.org">tco@aaseny.org</a>

County DCMCs		
Bronx / UM	Laura G.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@bxum.aaseny.org">dcmc@bxum.aaseny.org</a>
Hispanic	Elio T.	<a href="mailto:distritoshispanos@aacdhse49.org">distritoshispanos@aacdhse49.org</a>
Brooklyn	Deborah L.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@brooklynaa.org">dcmc@brooklynaa.org</a>
Manhattan	Larry W.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org">dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org</a>
Nassau	Marty K.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org">dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org</a>
Orange	Eric O.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@orange.aaseny.org">dcmc@orange.aaseny.org</a>
Putnam	John L.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@putnam.aaseny.org">dcmc@putnam.aaseny.org</a>
Queens	Bert L.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@qcgsa.org">dcmc@qcgsa.org</a>
Rockland	Thomas K.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@aarockland.org">dcmc@aarockland.org</a>
Staten Island	Brian C.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@statenilandaa.org">dcmc@statenilandaa.org</a>
Suffolk	Melissa J.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@aasuffolkgs-ny.org">dcmc@aasuffolkgs-ny.org</a>
Sullivan	Jeff P.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@sullivan.aaseny.org">dcmc@sullivan.aaseny.org</a>
Westchester	Kevin T.	<a href="mailto:dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org">dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org</a>

SENY Standing / Ad Hoc Committee Chairs		
Accessibilities	Annabel B.	<a href="mailto:access@aaseny.org">access@aaseny.org</a>
Agenda	Vicky B.	<a href="mailto:agenda@aaseny.org">agenda@aaseny.org</a>
Archives	Jeff P.	<a href="mailto:archives@aaseny.org">archives@aaseny.org</a>
Convention 2021	Kathy W.	<a href="mailto:convention@aaseny.org">convention@aaseny.org</a>
Corrections	Lucas O.	<a href="mailto:corrections@aaseny.org">corrections@aaseny.org</a>
Email Update Editor*	Mike O.	<a href="mailto:email-update@aaseny.org">email-update@aaseny.org</a>
CPC	Kristen D.	<a href="mailto:cpc@aaseny.org">cpc@aaseny.org</a>
Grapevine / La Vina	Kimbley G.	<a href="mailto:grapevine@aaseny.org">grapevine@aaseny.org</a>
Intergroup Liaison	Christine D.	<a href="mailto:intergroup@aaseny.org">intergroup@aaseny.org</a>
Link Editor	Mary H.	<a href="mailto:link@aaseny.org">link@aaseny.org</a>
Literature	Kingsley T.	<a href="mailto:literature@aaseny.org">literature@aaseny.org</a>
Office Manager	Liz P.	<a href="mailto:office@aaseny.org">office@aaseny.org</a>
Public Information	Paola A.	<a href="mailto:pi@aaseny.org">pi@aaseny.org</a>
Recording Secretary	Jessica V.	<a href="mailto:secretary@aaseny.org">secretary@aaseny.org</a>
Service Participation*	Jo Ann M.	<a href="mailto:altdelegate@aaseny.org">altdelegate@aaseny.org</a>
Service Sponsorship*	Keith P.	<a href="mailto:sponsorship@aaseny.org">sponsorship@aaseny.org</a>
Translation	VACANT	<a href="mailto:translation@aaseny.org">translation@aaseny.org</a>
Treatment Facilities	Hank G.	<a href="mailto:tf@aaseny.org">tf@aaseny.org</a>
Web Chair	Claire M.	<a href="mailto:web@aaseny.org">web@aaseny.org</a>
AlAnon Liaison*	VACANT	<a href="mailto:alanonliaison@aaseny.org">alanonliaison@aaseny.org</a>
Ad Hoc Finance	Larry W.	<a href="mailto:finance@aaseny.org">finance@aaseny.org</a>
YPAA Liaison*	Jo Ann M.	<a href="mailto:altdelegate@aaseny.org">altdelegate@aaseny.org</a>

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