

Finding My Voice in the Group Conscience and Carrying Yours

Before I ever thought about service beyond my home group, before I understood the structure of A.A. at all, I had a moment that stayed with me.

The first time I really felt the meaning of an informed group conscience was at my home group.

I remember bringing an idea forward and feeling the nervousness of speaking up. I watched as the group listened, discussed, weighed the idea, and voted. When the vote came down, something shifted in me. I wasn't just attending a meeting anymore. I was a part of something. I had a voice inside it.

That was the first time I truly understood the spirit behind A.A.'s upside-down triangle, where ultimate authority rests not with leaders, but with the groups themselves.

Now, as a Delegate preparing to attend my first General Service Conference, I carry that same

feeling with me. Preparing for the Conference has been a trip. It hasn't just been about reading background or attending meetings. It has been about listening closely, discerning what principles are at stake, and thinking critically about what best serves A.A. as a whole.

Some moments asked me to weigh emotional reactions against A.A.'s long-term needs. At other times, it meant recognizing when a passionate argument might cloud the clarity of a principle. It meant remembering that "right" and "popular" are not always the same and that my job is to serve spiritual principles, not applause.

Reading nearly 300 responses to the Delegate's Questionnaire, I saw clearly that an informed group conscience isn't about getting unanimous answers. It's about creating space for real, sometimes messy, principled participation. Some responses showed strong consensus. Others revealed the deep care and complexity our members bring to questions about A.A.'s future. Every voice added weight and shape to the conscience I now carry forward. I am deeply grateful to all the groups that participated in this process.

As I move toward Conference week, I carry those voices with deep respect. Being an informed

WHAT'S INSIDE

AN INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE—UNITY IN ACTION

—ALL TOGETHER NOW

—A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN MY SOBER SERVICE JOURNEY

SENY ARCHIVES

—FROM THE ARCHIVES: NOTABLE MAY DATES IN A.A. HISTORY

—ARCHIVES TRIVIA!

A.A. SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS

CARTOONS

EVENT FLYERS

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS

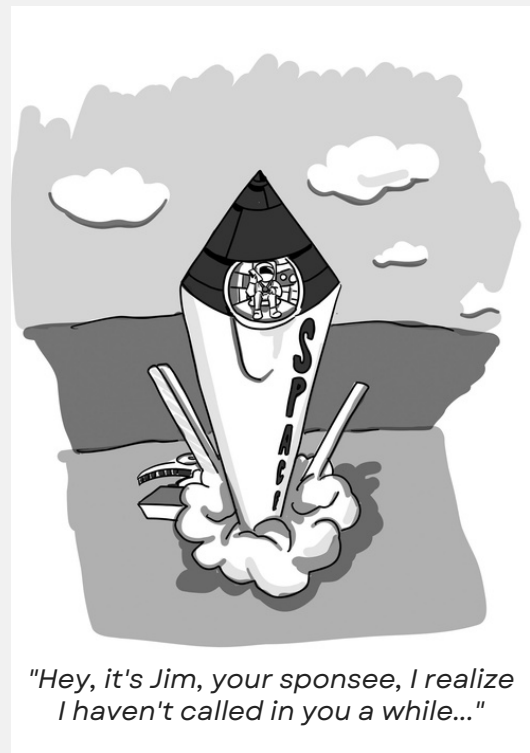
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Delegate doesn't mean arriving with all the answers.

It means arriving ready. Ready to weigh. Ready to reflect. Ready to stand steady and to trust in the collective wisdom of the Fellowship.

I won't be going to Conference alone. The heartfelt well wishes, handwritten in cards signed by Area 49 members, made it clear that I carry all of us with me. I'll go as one part of a much larger conscience, doing our imperfect best to keep this thing of ours strong.

Nisaa A. | SENY Delegate | Panel 75



All Together Now

How many times has a discussion been happening, and some wise insight, thought, or suggestion comes from an unlikely source? Whether it is at a meeting, a business meeting, in fellowship, or at the diner, often an advance in understanding comes about simply by our doing stuff together. This must be the nature of learning, the nature of growing. Somebody's experience and knowledge will relate to the subject at hand. So when a discussion about our purpose and function is taking place, it definitely helps to have all hands on deck.

It would be great to have an unlimited point of view. That's not realistic. However, if we stick together, each individual who brings their personal perspective will be adding to a total that works towards the common good. The idea, it seems, is to do our best to include everyone who's eligible, as well as to do our best to be regular with our attendance

and attention. It works if we work it.

Life is dynamic. Life in recovery shares this dynamism in the field of ideas, needs, and experiences. When a group is together, in unity, all involved benefit from the shared experience. Sharing information about life and recovery is neat; it's both giving and receiving. When every member communicates what they have been given and feel like they need, their feedback allows people to feel included, grateful, and sober.

John L. | Sullivan County DCMC

A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN MY SOBER SERVICE JOURNEY



“When our voice and vote are acknowledged in our group, district, county, and area, it makes it easier to accept the group’s decision, guided by a higher power, as the best course of action for Alcoholics Anonymous.”



How blessed we are to be members of a community that truly values our voice, seeks our participation, and emphasizes collective action as a key factor in our fellowship’s success! Our group conscience is guided by spiritual principles before our personalities. I am not in charge, you are not in charge: what a relief. We can get into the business of making informed decisions by listening to all members and taking our time to reach the best possible solution. This process of listening to all, not just succumbing to the majority voice, promotes our unity.

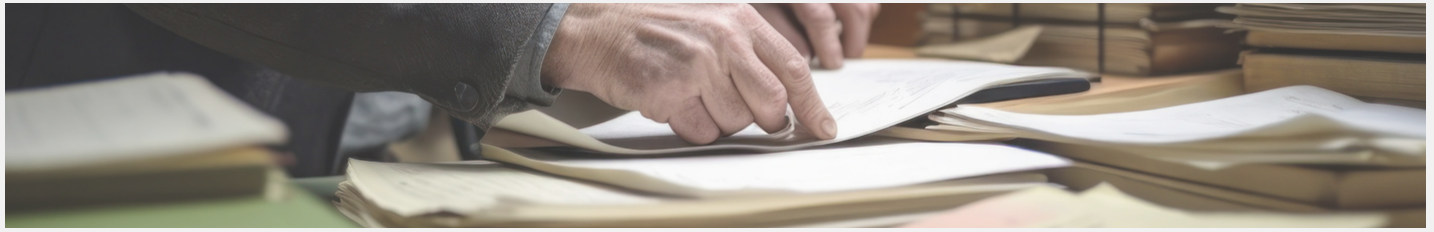
As we know, all A.A. groups are autonomous, and business and group conscience meetings vary. And yet our common goals of unity and adhering to an ultimate authority guide our membership to strive to find the best solutions for Alcoholics Anonymous, not for personal desires.

When I was DCM for District 301, a GSR from one of our district’s groups joined the meeting. When we announced the 7th Tradition, he inquired where the money went. Well, I answered his question and said that it goes towards rent, and hopefully towards workshops, too. But inwardly, I was thinking, who is this guy (and a little more than that). As my ego calmed down and several district members spoke about this question, “Where does the 7th Tradition go?” we knew we had to develop written district conscience guidelines. This moment was a spiritual awakening in my sober service journey. Our newly active district needed many voices to grow and unify. And we, as trusted servants, needed to listen. What a gift!

Thank God for Alcoholics Anonymous and our guiding principles.

Grateful to Serve,
Maura Z. | Queens County DCMC

From the Archives: Notable May Dates in A.A. History



May 11, 1935

Bill was at the Mayflower Hotel, near relapse, and through a series of phone calls and referrals was connected with Dr. Bob.

May 12, 1935

Dr. Bob and Bill met in Akron for the first time.

May 1938

Beginning of writing of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*

May 6, 1939

Clarence S. of Cleveland tells Dr. Bob, his sponsor, he would not be back to Oxford Group meetings in Akron and would start an A.A. meeting in Cleveland.

May 1939

First group to officially call itself Alcoholics Anonymous met at Abby G.'s house in Cleveland.

May 1939

Lois's Home Replacement Fund started at Alcoholic Foundation.

May 1, 1940

Rollie H., a popular baseball player and catcher for the Cleveland Indians, gave a press conference and announced his association with A.A. He's the first A.A. member to break his anonymity on the national level.

May 6, 1946

The long form of the Twelve Traditions was published in *The Grapevine*.

May 1950

Nell Wing became Bill W.'s secretary. She was also A.A.'s first archivist.

May 1951

Al-Anon was founded by Lois W. and Anne B.

May 29, 1980

Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers was published.

May 19, 2000

Dr. Paul O., author of the Big Book story "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict" (renamed "Acceptance Was the Answer" in the 4th edition), died at the age of 83.

Here are the answers to the two trivia questions that appeared in the April issue of *The Link*:

What is Swedenborgianism?

Swedenborgianism is the system of philosophical and religious doctrines of Emanuel Swedenborg, an 18th-century Swedish theologian and scientist. (Perhaps the most famous adherent of Swedenborgianism in America was Helen Keller.) Lois's family belonged to the Swedenborgian Church. Bill and Lois were married in a Swedenborgian ceremony in Brooklyn Heights in 1918.

In what New York City Cathedral was Bill W.'s funeral Mass held on February 14, 1971?

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine (located in the Morningside Heights neighborhood of Manhattan at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue)

Archives Trivia!

Your SENY Archives Committee is working hard to sort through mountains of documents and to preserve, scan, and display them physically and digitally. If you have updates for your county, you can email: archives@aaseny.org.

HERE ARE TWO TRIVIA QUESTIONS FROM THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE THAT WILL BE ANSWERED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *THE LINK*. CAN YOU GUESS THE CORRECT ANSWERS BEFORE THEN?

WHERE ON THE SENY WEBSITE ARE THE ASSEMBLY MINUTES FROM 1952, 1953, AND 1954?

WHO IS LEONARD STRONG? WHERE IS HE BURIED?



A.A. Service Classifieds

Send a brief description to link@aaseny.org of the available service position, minimum sober time or other requirements, and a contact email, and we'll post your "ad" here where other A.A.'s eager to do service can find it!

Open Service Position in Your District, County, or Area?
Our Service Classifieds Can Help!

Suffolk County General Service

- Treatment Facilities Chair
- Hispanic Liaison

Contact:
DCMC@aasuffolkgs-ny.org



"Welcome back, dear! So tell us: How WAS it out there?"



"Remember - when you make your amends, try not to be so defensive."

Nassau General Service Group Hosts:
Long Island Spirituality Through Service
L.I.S.T.S.
Learning, Loving and Living
Recovery through Service

Please join us on
Saturday May 17, 2025

11A-4p

AT

474 Wantagh Ave Levittown

Presbyterian Church

Brunch served

*A Day of Workshops to help us all become the
 best trusted servants we can at our
 homegroups and below...*

Orange County
 General Services
 Presents

**Spiritual
 BREAKFAST**

90 YEARS LANGUAGE OF THE HEART

Sunday May 18th, 2025
 9am-Noon

Palacio Catering and Conference
 Center
 1700 NY-17M
 Goshen NY 10924

Speakers
 Sobriety countdown
 Grapevine &
 Literature

Tickets
\$35



Servicios Generales
 del Condado de
 Orange Presenta

**Espiritual
 Desayuno**

90 Años Lenguaje del corazón

18 de mayo de 2025
 9 am-mediodía

Palacio Catering and Conference Center
 1700 NY-17M
 Goshen NY 10924

Oradores
 Cuenta regresiva de
 sobriedad
 Grapevine y
 literatura

Entradas
\$35



Putnam County General Services presents:
FOUNDERS DAY
 Unity - Service - Recovery



AA's 90th Anniversary

Saturday, June 7th | Fellowship, Sharing,
 4PM-8PM | & Potluck Dinner!

Meeting ID: 832 0606 0941
 Passcode: 90YEARS

4:00 to 5:00 : Unity & Service in AA - Danielle, Connor, Kendall
 5:15 to 6:00 : 90 Years Of Unity - Betty, John W., Gregg S.
 6:00 to 7:00 : Potluck Dinner
 7:00 to 8:00 : History Of AA - James

Mount Carmel Baptist Church
 76 Gleneida Ave., Carmel, NY 10512

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER
 PLEASE CONTACT April 845-391-9175
 Or Laura 914-645-7704 OR VISIT putnamcountynyaa.org

Nassau General Service Group
Unity Breakfast
 A Celebration of AA and
 Nassau General Service Group

**Working Together
 Increasing Trust**



Tickets \$44

Sunday June 8, 2025

9am - 1pm

Grand Ballroom Marriott Hotel
 101 James Doolittle Blvd,
 Uniondale, NY

For more information see your GSR, DCM or
dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org

Fran T. 917 538-9532 or Mary R 516 220-1819

Join Us for a Buffett Breakfast, Great Speakers and AA Service Tables

Please Join Us!

SOUTHEAST
 NEW YORK
 AREA 49

ARCHIVES
 COMMITTEE

PRESENTS:

**VARIETIES OF
 SPONSORSHIP
 WORKSHOP**

A Historical Perspective
 On Our
 Primary Purpose

**SATURDAY
 JUNE 21ST
 9AM-2PM**

ST. CAMILLUS CHURCH
 SPRINGMAN HALL
 185 BEACH 99TH ST.
 ROCKAWAY PARK, NY
 11694
 PARKING IN REAR

MORNING & AFTERNOON
 REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Ask Questions &
 Share Your
 Own Experiences!



**MANHATTAN
 SHARE-A-DAY
 2025**

**Working Together
 Increasing Trust**

ALL ARE WELCOME!
 Service positions available!

Presented by
**MANHATTAN COUNTY
 GENERAL SERVICE**

Planning Meetings

5:00pm - 6:00pm

First Sunday of the Month

Meeting ID: 889 1351 2831
 Password: MSAD2025
msad@manhattan.aaseny.org

Archives Committee
 South Eastern New York (SENY)
 Area 49
www.aasenyhistory.org



Meets Virtually 2nd Thursday Monthly
 7:30 PM
 Zoom ID: 369 996 8135
 Passcode: 3QHPbv
 Archives curious welcomed.
 Contact: archives@aaseny.org

Scan the code to visit the collection on the web.



www.aasenyhistory.org

Get prepared for the

Quarterly Grapevine Meeting

Starting on March 13th, 2025

7:00PM

This is a virtual meeting

Zoom Id: 998 938 7641

Password: A49P75

FUTURE DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

June 12 | September 11 | December 11

PLEASE JOIN US!!

QUESTIONS? Contact: 347.285.4700 - Gina Maria D., Area 49 Grapevine Chair



UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS

To add or update an event, please email: agenda@aasenyn.org

Staten Island General Service Meeting and New GSR Orientation	5/4	6:30pm	Immanuel Lutheran, 2018 Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314
SENY Committee Meeting Virtual	5/5	7:30pm	Zoom ID: 873 6681 5219, Passcode: 713104
Archives Committee Meeting	5/8	7:30pm	Zoom ID: 369 996 8135, Passcode: 3QHPbv
SENY & SIA Joint Bridging the Gap Meeting (HYBRID)	5/9	6:00pm	Zoom ID: 941 2170 5886, Passcode: service SIA Office, 33 Comac Loop, Suite 1A-1, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
SENY Service Sponsorship Committee Meeting	5/10	10:00am	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode A49P75
Sullivan GSR Workshop	5/10	1:00pm	First Presbyterian Church Sullivan, 4907 NY-52, Jeffersonville, NY 12748
Reunión de MCD y comités hispanos (Hispanic DCM and committees meeting)	5/10	8:00pm	Sótano (Basement), 145 Mount Vernon Ave, Se entra por el estacionamiento en S West St por la última puerta, Mount Vernon, NY 10550
Sullivan County General Service Meeting	5/11	3:15pm	St. John's Church, 15 St John Street, Monticello, NY 12701
Committee Meetings for Long Island Spirituality Through Service (LISTS)	5/11	4:00pm	Zoom ID: 922 8787 8377, Passcode: 12345
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting	5/12	8:00pm	Zoom ID: 856 7793 0152, Passcode: Service
Putnam County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	5/13	7:00pm	Zoom ID: 641 949 4122, No Passcode Mt Carmel Baptist Church
Literature Committee Meeting	5/15	7:00pm	Zoom ID: 360 811 8296, Passcode: 026402
PI Committee Meeting	5/15	7:30pm	Zoom ID: 830 6480 3071, Passcode: 386471
Suffolk General Service Meeting and New GSR Orientation (HYBRID)	5/16	7:00pm	Zoom ID: 932 6450 5176, Passcode: 713704
Long Island Spirituality Through Service	5/17	11:00am	Presbyterian Church, 427 Wantagh Avenue, Levittown, NY 11756
Orange County Spiritual Breakfast	5/18	9:00am	Palacio Catering and Conference Center, 1700 NY-17M, Goshen NY 10924
Asamblea de Distritos Hispanos (Hispanic Districts Assembly)	5/18	9:30am	Venue TBA
Intergroup Liaison Committee Meeting	5/18	2:00pm	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: A49P75
Nassau General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	5/19	7:30pm	Zoom ID 922 8787 8377, Passcode 12345 361 Hempstead Turnpike, West Hempstead, NY 11552
Manhattan General Service Meeting	5/20	6:30pm	Zoom ID: 815 4964 5983, Passcode: BillandBob
Orange County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	5/20	7:00pm	Zoom ID: 999 6809 5777, Passcode: Acceptance First Presbyterian Church Sullivan, 4907 NY-52, Jeffersonville, NY 12748
Westchester GSA Meeting (HYBRID)	5/21	7:00pm	Zoom ID: 868 370 8260, Passcode: WGSA Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, Fellowship Room, White Plains, NY 10605
Rockland General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	5/21	7:30pm	Zoom ID: 859 3872 9240, Passcode: 406571 Clarkstown Reformed Church, 107 Strawtown Road, West Nyack, NY 10994
SENY Technology Committee Meeting	5/27	7:30pm	Zoom ID: 894 0024 2856, Passcode: 033597



SENY Officers

Delegate	Nisaa A.	delegate@aaseny.org
Alt. Delegate	Paola A.	altdelegate@aaseny.org
Chair	Raj B.	chair@aaseny.org
Treasurer (Interim)	Tom B.	treasurer@aaseny.org
Registration	Justin K.	registration@aaseny.org
Technology & Communications	Ray W.	tco@aaseny.org

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Email Administrator	Prem R.	email@aaseny.org
CPC	Annabel B.	cpc@aaseny.org
Grapevine/La Viña	Gina D.	grapevine@aaseny.org
Intergroup Liaison	Charlene B.	intergroup@aaseny.org
Link Editor	Reiko D.	link@aaseny.org
Literature	Brian C.	literature@aaseny.org
Hybrid Committee*	Mike U.	office@aaseny.org
Public Information	Kevin F.	pi@aaseny.org
Recording Secretary	Priya P.	secretary@aaseny.org
Service Participation*	Paola A.	altdelegate@aaseny.org
Service Sponsorship*	Kimbley G.	sponsorship@aaseny.org
Translation	Andrew F.	translation@aaseny.org
Treatment Facilities	Rob M.	tf@aaseny.org
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Ad Hoc Finance*	Heidi C.	finance@aaseny.org
YPAA Liaison	Paola A.	altdelegate@aaseny.org

*Special committees (neither standing nor ad hoc committees)

Let's LINK Up!

Sharing is caring...Contribute to SENY's newsletter which has been running since 1961! Write an article about your experience, strength, and hope in A.A. service. Please limit your article to 350 words and email it to: link@aaseny.org

