

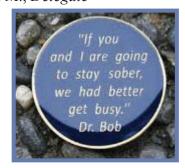
Issue 631 - JUNE 2023 "GSR....YOUR GROUP'S LINK TO A.A."

Connecting Homegroups to Conference Throughout the Year

A theme I was asked to speak on during the Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) is ways of connecting home groups to the General Service Conference throughout the year. NERF is an A.A. General Service event which is hosted by the A.A. General Service Board. They come and discuss what goes on in A.A. in the U.S. and Canada. There are workshops, panels and sharing sessions where any A.A. member can attend and ask all the questions they want. My topic is a wonderful topic to discuss and as your Area Delegate that should be my goal. The General Service Conference is conducted one week out of each year but preparation for it is a year-round task. Each year proposed agenda items are submitted which are suggestions, ideas and requests for new things or changes to things already created. At the conference, items that are selected by our Trustees Conference Committees are discussed by the General Service Conference committee related to the type of item it is. The committee decides if a recommendation should be made to approve it. If recommended, it is voted on by the full conference and must reach a 2/3's majority vote in order to be approved.

After the conference it is my duty to come back and talk about what happened. Is my job done at that point? I don't think so. That is what this topic is about. Delegates are elected for a two-year rotation and are expected to stay connected with their area and continue providing information to the members. Delegates are to share information and encourage participation by every A.A. member. Keeping the lines of communication open is the key to keeping everyone fully informed and to have the highest level of participation. At the conference, one of the events scheduled was "what's on your mind" sessions where we were able to let everyone know what was on our minds. It was an opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback. One of the things I am planning after my report back is to have virtual "what's on your mind" sessions for any A.A. member to be able to ask questions and provide feedback. I was copied on an email which was a reply from our area chair to an A.A. member. They were told they had to talk to the chair before they could talk to me. I found that very disappointing since they were misinformed. I assured the person that I am available to any member as are all our officers. We were elected to serve the members in our area and there is no hierarchy. The A.A. members and groups are at the top of the upside-down triangle which means you are our bosses, and we are here to support you and not the other way around.

Jo Ann M., Delegate



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WHATS INSIDE

- LICYPAA Traditional Tie Die Flyer
- Brooklyn County Share-A-Day Flyer
- Theme Flyer for the September Link



GSR...your Group's link to A.A.

My group elected me as their new "GSR" ...

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

"The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance."

-Bill W.

Soooooo many groups don't have GSRs and soooooo many that do have GSRs that don't show up to area assemblies. I think (my opinion) that it's because most people don't realize the importance of a GSR. It's something that usually gets filled after begging group members to participate because most people have no idea what a GSR does. I think people just think the GSR attends boring meetings and doesn't do anything that gives the reward of helping another alcoholic. Boy, can I tell you those people are wrong (except I'll admitthe meetings can sometimes get long and a bit boring at times). THE GSR IS PROBABLY THE PERSON IN THE GROUP HELPING THE MOST ALCOHOLICS. That's because the GSR is literally the group's link to changes that occur in ALL of AA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

6/2 - 6/4- Northeast Regional Forum (NERF)

6/17 - Hybrid Post-Conference Assembly

6/25 - NASSAU COUNTY UNITY BREAKFAST

For more events ao to AASENY ora

Every assembly that your GSR attends is an opportunity to learn about, discuss, and vote on possible changes to AA as a whole. It is the chance for your group's voice to be heard. Unfortunately, our area assemblies only get about 10% of group GSRs attending. That leaves 90% of groups in Southeast NY voiceless! In bluntest terms, if your group doesn't have a GSR, your opinion doesn't matter because no one is representing it. Think of the hot topic items that people either love or love to complain about like the preamble, the plain language translation of the Big Book, or the changes to the 12&12. I've heard so many people say how they feel they were blindsided by these changes in AA and follow that with expressing a strong opinion and how they think changes in AA are being made by a minority. The reality, however, is that these topics were discussed at length, but only GSRs that showed up to assemblies got to share their groups' views. If changes in AA are being made by a minority and groups are in the dark, it isn't because AA is trying to be secretive — it's because the group is forfeiting their right to participate by not having a representative, a GSR.

So, I ask you, reader, to bring this up next time there is a long silence when the time comes to elect a GSR. The future of AA as a whole is in the hands of the Group Service Representatives (that's what GSR means, by the way).

Paola A., Area 49 Chair



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



Is your Group Linked?



Think about it.... does your group have a GSR? I sure hope so because your group needs to have a voice!

It's so important to be informed and kept in the know. Being a GSR for my group was so rewarding. Just to have the experience of going to the general service assemblies and gathering information was amazing and fun. Funny story how I became the GSR for my home group - the intergroup rep and myself were discussing how much we

never make the same mistake twice. I make it like five or six times, you know, just to be sure.

both can do and how often. I really wanted to get my feet wet. I wanted to see what a lot of other people saw. I wanted to be near the action (but that's the story of my life). I may have been a little tricky about it, but I and another group member switched roles and I soon became the GSR for my home group. So, if you're feeling like you need more or feel like you have nothing to do, come join us – be that GSR for your group and make a difference!

Gina Maria D., Link Editor

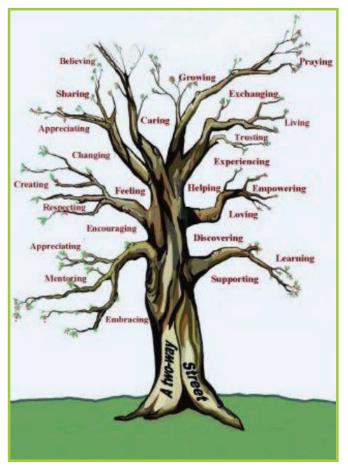
GSR, DCM, DCMC, SENY... all of these acronyms I did not know. Which meetings do I have to attend? What information do I take back to the home group? All these questions I had and no answers to. I remember the fears kicking in, fear of failure and fear of embarrassment. It was in early sobriety that I was placed in a carpool and driven to my first SENY Assembly where I sat in the GSR orientation and, as I like to say, my "service angel" (Past Del. Denise B. may she RIP) delivered a powerful message with the most calming demeanor and biggest smile on her face. For that moment she calmed the noise in my head and relieved my fears. She had sold me on the "Joy of Service". I wanted what she had. I wanted joy and happiness in helping others. From that day forward I knew I had to do what she and countless others were doing - and I have been doing service ever since.

Chair of Queens County. I chair an orientation for all new GSR's that come to the County Assembly. I try very hard to emulate the message that was so freely given to me in the beginning and try to help guide and support the new GSRs. I share a little of my experience at these meetings so that they do not feel overwhelmed or confused. "The Conference and the whole General service system have the responsibility to keep A.A. alive and well for those yet to come". There is no better way I can contribute but by giving what was so freely given to me "the Joy of Service".

Sean R., Queens County Service Sponsorship Chair

In Loving Service

Today I am blessed to be the Service Sponsorship





Unity through Diversity



At a fellowship breakfast I attended recently a new friend explained to me that they were a member of a "Third Legacy Group". They explained that everyone in their group does service. What a powerful idea, I thought. As I looked at the triangular logo inscribed on my anniversary coin, which I keep in my wallet, I contemplated the 3 legacies in a new light. Recovery and Service seem fairly measurable to me, almost tangible. But what is Unity? How do I see it? How do I evaluate it? Is it a thing that exists in degrees, or is it a binary term? That is to say, does it simply exist or not? We have unity or we don't. Certainly, Service and Recovery exist in a value system. In my sobriety I have been presented over and over

with the notion that everything exists on a spectrum. Judgment and discernment are the hallmarks of my sober value system. Is unity simply a measure of my comfort? I have learned in my recovery that resting in comfort is not the best path forward for me. Many things I chose based on comfort were unhealthy if not legitimately damaging to my spirit. Resentments, amends, honesty all are defined only in the context of my intentions. In that sense I cannot consider the concept of unity as a simple checkbox issue. There is unity, and there is UNITY. The question that then follows is what are the attributes and principles that define a robust unity in our fellowship? How do I measure my sense of unity? How do I move myself forward through discomfort to a new and better place of spiritual serenity?

One way might be to start with the assertion that unity is the condition of having been unified. Are the people and situations around me, comfortably creating my life and routines, the subject of unification or are they simply a "given" state (privilege) of my life? The work of UNIFYING, would inherently require engaging divergent elements, and moving through my discomfort to embrace and incorporate them. Cultural, political, racial, religious, sexual and gender-based differences are all areas where I can readily find discomfort. As an alcoholic, I willingly rationalize and justify my chosen separations. That is my natural, untreated, state. The measure of unity in myself, my group, my district and my area is in direct proportion to mywillingness to move through my discomfort to UNIFY. Unity is therefore, in direct proportion to diversity. We cannot have one without embracing the other. Unity through Diversity.

Chamille T., Alt-DCMC, Orange County, Area 49, Panel 73



The value and role of the Treatment Facility

Do	you	ever	get	drun
Yes				
	No		X	

Our Co-founder Bill W. helped maintain his own sobriety by carrying the AA message into hospitals. I have discovered there is a great Facility chair. All over the world, thousands of AA members have been visiting alcoholics in such facilities. No other work has been more rewarding than twelve step work and sponsoring alcoholics. My journey has been rewarding, as I continue

to trudge the road of learning and discovering more about the origin and benefits of treatment facilities. My willingness to help others has skyrocketed.

"Practical Experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail"—*Alcoholic Anonymous pg. 89*.

Working with other sober members of AA in maintaining the current treatment facilities in Queens County has not only kept me sober, but it has also allowed me to get out of my own head. Seeing other alcoholics recover is our main purpose. It is quite an experience to witness the transition of someone being released from treatment after either reviewing the "HOPE" video and/or being directed to contact Bridging the GAP. Bridging the GAP is the link between the treatment facility and AA. It's designed to help the alcoholic transition back into society and re-enforce to them that they are not Alone.

You can easily strengthen your sobriety and find joy in your life by doing service in a hospital or treatment facility. There is no such thing as unsuccessful twelfth step work. If it keeps us sober, it is a success. Now is the time to take a commitment in your homegroup, County or intergroup office. Remember the 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".

The Treatment Kit available from the General Service Office contains a workbook, guidelines, sample letters, suggested presentations to clients and professionals, and other information that may be useful to local treatment facilities committees.

Jodi Mc., Queens County Treatment Facilities Chair





"Participation is the key to harmony" is a bedrock of sobriety. Just as sponsors often remind us that participating in our recovery is the key to staying sober, the group's participation below the group level is the key to a group's growth and to the survival of our Fellowship.

The Group Services Representative (GSR) is essential to maintaining our legacy of unity: they are entrusted to be the voice of the group "down the service triangle" and to be the voice of the larger fellowship "up the triangle" to the group. The GSR is the messenger carrying information to and from your home group: How important is your group?

The voice of the group is heard when their GSR participates in our 5 annual assemblies and Delegate's Day of Sharing.

Experience shows us that when an alcoholic shares their experience and concerns with a group of alcoholics or listens to others, everyonve's sobriety is strengthened. The same is true in service. Sharing and voting at an assembly evolves and informs the conscience of the entire fellowship and the GSR takes valuable experience to share with the group.

In my own recovery, when I am challenged or feeling terminally unique, a single share or speaker causes profound shifts in my thinking and the solution becomes clear.

A similar phenomenon occurs in my service when GSRs share at County and District meetings. Chances are, if something is happening in one group, it is happening elsewhere. Together a solution can be found. Oftentimes, these new ideas enhance the ability of everyone to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

When a GSR is the voice of the Fellowship "up the triangle" they are ensuring the legacy of unity of the group with the larger fellowship. Keeping the group informed about events and developments below the group, serves as a reminder that the group is part of a greater whole, and may pique the interest of others to participate in their recovery and carry the message in new ways.

The opportunity to be a GSR is one not to be missed! Being a GSR opened my eyes to many new and wonderful ways to participate in my own recovery and carry the message.

Justin K., DCMC Manhattan

GSR.....Your Groups Link To A.A.

The SENY Delegate was able to go to the conference armed with feedback from the groups that turned in their questionnaire. How important is this? Extremely important. Let's start with what a is a GSR and what is their role. A GSR is a general service representative who attends their monthly county meetings and SENY assemblies so their group can be informed of what's going on in their County and can also have a voice at the SENY assemblies. A group that does not have a GSR, does not have a link to anything that goes on in AA below the group level.

Here is an example of what a GSR is supposed to do: Rockland County just had their Unity Breakfast. How would a group from any other County know about this event if they didn't have a GSR? The answer is - they wouldn't! The role of a GSR is essential to ensuring that groups can fulfill that responsibility. If you are reading this and your group doesn't have a GSR or your group may think they need one, maybe you should be asking yourself if that is the group you want to call your homegroup - or maybe it's just time to stand up and take the position of GSR so your group will have a link to A.A.

Dan S., DCMC Staten Island



AA SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS

OPEN SERVICE POSITION IN YOUR DISTRICT, COUNTY, OR AREA? OUR NEW SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS CAN HELP!

ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE:

- CORRECTIONS
- Public information (PI)
- CPC
- SECRETARY
- WEBMASTER
- CONTACT DCMC@ORANGE.ASSENY.ORG

PUTNAM COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- LITERATURE CHAIR

CONTACT DCMC@PUTNAM.AASENY.ORG

SUFFOLK COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

- ACCESSIBILITY
- ARCHIVES
- LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VINA
- CPC
- TREATMENT FACILITIES
- HISPANIC LIAISON

CONTACT DCMC@AASUFFOLKGS-NY.ORG

Send a brief descri

Nassau County General Service

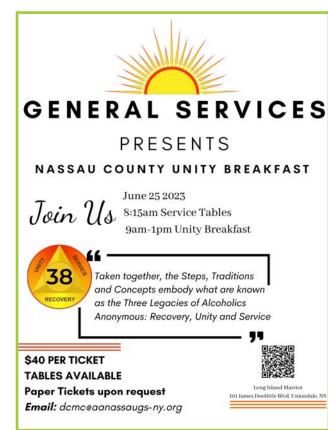
- ACCESSIBILITY
- ARCHIVES
- Corrections
- LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VINA
- PI (PUBLIC INFORMATION)
- TREATMENT FACILITIES
- SERVICE SPONSORSHIP

CONTACT DCMC@NASSAU.AASENY.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!







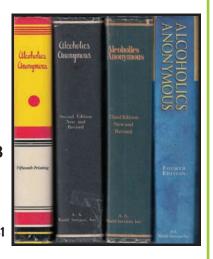


The First Four Editions of the Big Book

with Michelle Mirza, GSO Archivist

Thursday July 13, 2023 7-9pm

On Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 PW: 714921



with Spanish translation

SENY Archives Committee













UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS To add or update email: agenda@aaseny.org				
Staten Island General Service Assembly		7:00p	Zoom ID: 740 881 0586, Password: Freedom22*	
SENY Tech & Communications Committee Meeting	6/7	7:30p	Zoom ID: 894 0024 2856, Password: 033597	
SENY Archives Committee Meeting	6/8	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921	
Service Sponsorship Committee Meeting	6/13	8:15p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921	
BXUM General Service Meeting	6/14	7:00p	Zoom ID: 429 704 813 Password: Serenity	
SENY Public Information Committee Meeting	6/15	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921	
Suffolk County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	6/16	8:00p	For info go to: aasuffolkgs-ny.org	
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting	6/17	3:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921	
SENY Literature Committee Meeting	6/25	4:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921	
Queens County General Service Assembly	6/26	7:30p	In Person: For info go to: QCGSA.org	

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^{*}Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)

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