Issue No. 653



SEPTEMBER 2025
REFLECTIONS ON THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
+ CARRYING THE MESSAGE IN
TREATMENT FACILITIES



Van City: Dancing, Fellowship, and Freedom in A.A.

Attending the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada was nothing short of incredible. I had the honor of speaking during the Black in A.A. - Experience, Strength, and Hope panel, where I shared about the two-year journey of revising the Black and African American pamphlet alongside a few of my fellow working group members. Being able to talk about that process, the care we put into it, and the joy of finally bringing it forward, moved me deeply. I felt it in my soul, and in that moment I had a flash of how far I have come in sobriety with the help of **Alcoholics** Anonymous.

The stadium meetings were something to behold. Sitting among tens of thousands of sober alcoholics, listening to voices from all over the world, was both humbling and electrifying. The energy in those spaces

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reminded me that A.A. is so vast. We are a global Fellowship bound together by a common solution and a common love.

Outside of the meetings, there was fellowship everywhere you turned. I will never forget the block party at the pier, dancing with people from every corner of the world and feeling that pure joy of connection. I also ran into friends from back home, and even though I see them in New York, we hugged like we had not seen each other in years. It was the realization of the program on a global scale that made the whole weekend electric.

I was also able to attend a Conference member luncheon and share the SENY Panel 75 pins with a few people from around the world, a small reminder that our service connects us far beyond our local rooms. Vancouver itself was stunning with its mountains, water, and vibrant streets creating the perfect backdrop for such a spiritual gathering.

This convention was not just a milestone in my sobriety, it was a celebration of how far A.A. has come (90 years!!) and how much further we can go when we walk together. To have been part of it, both as an attendee and a panelist, is something I will carry with me always.

Nisaa A. | SENY Delegate | Panel 75

A Sponsor's Power of Example in Vancouver

My sponsor and I traveled together to the 2025 International Convention.

My sponsor is a woman who had what I wanted. When I met her, she was working in the profession I aspired to be in. She traveled all over the world. She had been coming to A.A. long enough, and practicing the program long enough, that I sensed a real humility in her that I also desired to cultivate. She had been through many of the life situations I was facing and had come out the other side. She was nurturing, kind in the face of my obvious defects, and patient while I clumsily pawed at the tools she wielded with expertise. It was a natural fit for me.

Six years later, I have come a long way. I have also done my share of traveling. I have been engaged in that profession I'd aspired to be in for many years. I have come out the other side of many of those life situations. However, as she and I sat on opposite sides of the aisle on a plane to Seattle, casting glances full of happy anticipation at each other, I did not know I'd have a lot more to learn from her.

She taught me to remain in awe of God's majesty as we drove through the hills and then mountains to our first lodging near Mt. Rainier. She showed me the wildflowers and the tip of the mountain just visible through the clouds.

She showed me openness and friendliness as she invited me to meet her cousins in Seattle. She introduced me to Vietnamese food and mangosteens, and I learned how to open them to get the sweet fruit.

She showed me perseverance by hiking Mt. Rainier soon after a hip replacement without a single complaint, commenting that yes, the rocks get slippery but you keep going. Just watch your step.

She showed me restraint of tongue when she let me talk myself out of the ticket I nearly got for speeding through a small town in Washington. We talked our way across the border despite telling the border guards we were alcoholics. (They got real curious...)

She demonstrated support as we showed up to provide a familiar face for many friends who were speaking on panels. She showed me how to be brave when she spoke on her own.

She showed me delight and the joy of living when we played in the snow in July and danced on the pier as it bounced under the weight of 30,000 alcoholics, ice cream, and singing along with Asian Elvis on a scooter and in full regalia.

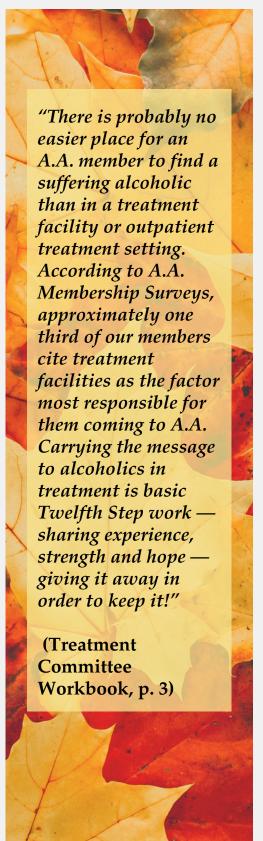
We sat with those 30,0000 alcoholics while Native Americans blessed the BC Center. And we compared and traded pins every night from our travels during the day. She exuded gratitude and love for A.A. the entire time.

Mostly she demonstrated a degree of patience and love with me that I hope I can acquire and pass on to others. She was patient when renting a car didn't go as planned and I had to do all the driving. She was patient when I wasn't because the day was too long. Patient when I spun off with other friends to do other things and only ever loving and welcoming when I spun back. Patient when the flight home was delayed, and especially patient when I developed symptoms of Covid the day we got home and while she waited to see if Covid was another gift of our amazing journey.

Perhaps by 2030 when, God willing, we travel to St. Louis for the next International Convention, I will be a little further along through her example.

Heather K. | Suffolk DCMC | Panel 75

CURRENT LITERATURE FOR A.A. WORK IN TREATMENT FACILITIES



As a newly elected delegate, I was assigned to the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. Accessibilities was a favorite A.A. topic for me, but I wondered if I had enough experience to be useful regarding Treatment. I'd forgotten that I'd brought meetings into a treatment center for a year, spoken at others, and that my first meeting was in one. I detoxed in the rooms. I had no insurance when I got sober, and I amused long timers because they rarely had a newcomer still shaking and baking. Now they had "a live one"!

One can find the "Treatment and Accessibility Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations" in the General Service Final Conference Reports through 2024 and on From the Delegate for info on 2025's General Service Conference (GSC). The final report of the 2025 GSC is not available as of this writing, but our Delegate Nisaa makes sure we have the information! Did you know that since 2023, the final GSC report is on aa.org? How cool is that? I read it to stay informed.

In 2019 and 2020, our Committee worked hard to update <u>The Treatment Committee Workbook</u>, <u>The Treatment Committee Kit</u>, <u>Bridging the Gap Pamphlet</u>, and <u>AA Bridging the Gap Request</u>. The committee's work continued, and in 2024 after approval at the 74th GSC, all were updated and published. Many resources are used to update our literature, but pamphlets on racks are often outdated. I've learned <u>aa.org</u> has the latest edition, so that's where I look. At my home group, when pamphlets are revised, we purchase the latest editions and recycle the outdated ones. Recycle as in paper recycling. We don't pass them on or "use them until they're gone." The pamphlets are inexpensive; our informed conscience is to provide current literature.

I'm grateful for literature revisions!

Jane E. | SENY Past Delegate, Area 49 | Panel 69 (2019-2020)



SENY's Search for Missing Issues of The Link

Dear SENY Area 49 members:

We are doing our best to preserve *The Link*. I recently reached out to the General Service Office Archives to inquire about any issues of *The Link* that we're missing. GSO emailed me digital copies of our first five issues. We now know that June 1961 was our first printing. In June, *The Link* celebrated 64 years!

As the Area Archivist who cares for our archival collection, I'm grateful to our archive predecessors for their self-sacrifice and dedication to collecting and preserving Area documents. As we know, our Area members often collect many of these documents. I need your help locating these issues of *The Link*. Do you have copies of any of the issues I've listed? Please print out and circulate this list at meetings. It's possible there are members in possession of the "missing" issues.

1982

Issue # 235, 1982 November

1983

Issue # 242, 1983 June-July

2003

Issue # 439, 2003 January Issue # 440, 2003 February Issue # 441, 2003 March Issue # 447, 2003 November Issue # 448, 2003 December

2004

Issue # 449, 2004 January Issue # 452, 2004 March Issue # 453, 2004 June Issue # 455, 2004 October

2005

Issue # 467, 2005 December

2006

Issue # 468, 2006 January Issue # 469, 2006 February

2007

Issue # 484, 2007 September Issue # 485, 2007 October Issue # 486, 2007 November Issue # 487, 2007 December

2008

Issue # 488, 2008 January Issue # 489, 2008 February Issue # 490, 2008 March

2012

Issue # 527, 2012 March Issue # 531, 2012 Aug-Sept Issue # 533, 2012 November

2016

Issue # 570, 2016 January

Marty K. | SENY Archivist | Panel 75 | archivist@aaseny.org

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

September 13, 1937

Florence R. was the first woman to achieve sobriety in A.A. in New York, doing so on September 13, 1937. Her story "A Feminine Victory" was the first by a woman to be included in the first edition of the Big Book. Florence eventually started drinking again and died by suicide. Despite her tragic end, she helped pave the way for all women in A.A. The book *Alcoholics Anonymous* was initially going to be called "One Hundred Men," but due to Florence's membership, the name was rejected.

September 30, 1939

Charles Towns, owner of Towns Hospital where Bill Wilson had sobered up, tried to get publicity for A.A. and finally succeeded. He had known Morris Markey, a well-known feature writer, for years. Markey was intrigued by what Towns told him of A.A., and approached Fulton Oursler, then editor of *Liberty*, a popular magazine. In September 1939, *Liberty* published the article "Alcoholics and God." It was A.A.'s first successful piece of national publicity. *Liberty* received 800 urgent pleas for help, which were promptly turned over to Bill Wilson who turned them over to Ruth Hock for a response. "She wrote fine personal letters to every one of them," wrote Bill.

Here are the answers to the trivia question that appeared in the June issue of The Link:

During World War I, the men in Bill W.'s battery gave him a "token of appreciation." What was it? Where is it now?

Bill W. was given two tokens of appreciation: a watch that is now on display in the "spook room" at Stepping Stones, and a ring that is now at the Wilson House in East Dorset, Vermont.



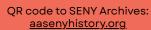
If you have updates from your county for the SENY Archives Committee, you can email: archives@aaseny.org. Our SENY Archivist, Marty, through some excellent detective work, now has copies of our first issues of *The Link!* We continue to collect, preserve, scan, and post on aasenyhistory.org, where you can view these wonderful pieces of our history!

Here's a trivia question from the Archives Committee that will be answered in the next issue of *The Link*. Can you guess the correct answers before then?

What is the significance of 61 Gramercy Park in New York City?

Email your answers to: <u>archives2aaseny.org</u>. Jerry R. from Staten Island was the first person to answer our previous issue's trivia correctly!







QR code to our newly updated 2025 SENY History Book

Treatment Service is Sweet



I wasn't looking for anything when I accepted my friend's invitation to share my experience, strength, and hope at a psychiatric treatment facility, but I struck gold. I left that A.A. meeting with a payload of gratitude for the sober life I am blessed to enjoy and the miracles of change which have transformed me from a psychiatric patient who was unable to sit still or hold a conversation into a mature and sober woman who is able to meet responsibilities at home, in the office, and on the playground of life.

Upon our arrival at the hospital, I presented my driver's license to a guard who eventually unlocked a series of doors to permit us entry. I was then led by my A.A. service nerd friend, Heather, down a hallway plastered with mental health awareness posters and public health notices, into and out of a small elevator, around a bend and into an empty and enthusiastically air-conditioned room, which felt as cold as the refrigerated area of a beverage distributor. As soon as the door to the meeting room clicked shut, Heather reached into her grocery bag and pulled out box after box of individually packaged sugar cakes and buns, and placed them on the table alongside a neat stack of halved paper towels.

As the residents filed in, they greeted Heather warmly and thanked her for once again bringing them snacks. Apparently, even though it's not all about the snacks, it is about the snacks. Folks

sitting around the meeting table passed snacks and towels to each other, helped each other out by throwing wrappers into the trash, and for the most part made sure no one was without sugar.

My A.A. story was mere background to all of this wonderful activity. I shared a very abbreviated version of what it was like for me when I was an active alcoholic under residential psychiatric care; what happened to lift me out of alcoholic despair; and what it's like for me now as a person free of the alcohol obsession. The few anecdotes I did share resonated with some of the residents. Mostly I was reminded that we all crave opportunity to give and receive love and kindness. A guy who really wanted to remember my name, but couldn't, asked me at least six times within the hour, "What's your name again?" because he wanted connection, to be able to call me by name. Heather and I got our hands firmly shaken and received generous hugs, both in greeting and at the end of the meeting. Love and connection.

This group of residents, just like members of my home group, are people who would not ordinarily mix. Yet they looked after one another and pushed each other's wheelchairs. They were eager to thank my friend and me for taking the time to stop by with crème-filled treats, chocolate-covered donuts, and a little bit of ESH to shake up their evening schedule a bit. I'll be back.

Annabel B. | SENY CPC Chair | Panel 75







AREA 49 / SENY Joy of Service Workshop. "Humility in Action"

> Saturday, October 18th 11 AM - 3:30 PM

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

True North Church 1101 Lakeland Ave



** Easy access via LIRR @ Ronkonkoma *** huttle service on request—contact host committee

What Is the Joy of Service Workshop?

Started by Area 49, this workshop was created to inspire AA. members to learn about and get involved in our General Service structure.

How It's Grown

Once led solely by the Ar-ea, it's now a collaborative effort hosted by local Coun-

Why It Matters

We aim to spark enthusiasm, encourage new volun-teers, and invite members to grow through service stretching beyond comfort zones into servant leader-

hosted by Suffolk General Service and District 107
*** For information contact: Jim S. Alt-DCMC jim.service2008@gmail.com ***







SHARE-A-DAY

2025

Working Together Increasing Trust

With Al-Anon/Alateen participation

ALL ARE WELCOME! Service positions available!

First Sunday of the Month

GENERAL SERVICE

Planning Meetings

5:00pm - 6:00pm



Meeting ID: 889 1351 2831



Password: MSAD2025 msad@manhattan.aasenv.o



UNITY BREAKFAST

2026 MANY VOICES, ONE PURPOSE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST





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.



UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS Table 1 August 1 Augus						
To add or update an event, please email: agenda@aaseny.org						
SENY CPC Committee Meeting	9/3	5:30pm	Zoom ID: 964 1713 2964, Passcode: 164			
Sharing the Message – A Comprehensive Discussion	9/7	4:00pm	First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone, 15-43 149th Street, Queens, NY 11357			
Staten Island General Service Meeting and New GSR Orientation	9/7	6:30pm	Immanuel Lutheran, 2018 Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314			
SENY COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER MEETING	9/8	7:30pm	Zoom ID: 812 8054 6471, Passcode: 937269 Dial-in #: (646) 931-3860			
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting	9/8	8:00pm	Meeting ID: 856 7793 0152 Passcode: Service			
Putnam County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	9/9	7:00pm	Zoom ID: 641 949 4122, No Passcode 2nd Tuesday of every at Mt Carmel Baptist Church			
Archives Committee Meeting	9/11	7:30pm	Zoom ID: 369 996 8135, Passcode: 3QHPbv			
SENY & SIA Joint Bridging the Gap Meeting (HYBRID)	9/12	6:00pm	Zoom ID: 941 2170 5886, Passcode: service NEW SIA Offfice, 33 Comac Loop, Suite 1A-1, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779			
Bronx Upper Manhattan (BxUM) General Service Committee's Share-A-Day	9/13	10:00am	Preston High School 2780 Schurz Ave, Bronx, NY 10465			
Reunión de MCD y comités hispanos (Hispanic DCM and committees meeting)	9/13	8:00pm	Sótano (Basement), 145 Mount Vernon Ave. (Se entra por el estacionamiento en S West St por la última puerta. / The entrance is through the parking lot on S West St through the last door). Mount Vernon, NY 10550			
Rockland County Share-A-Day	9/14	9:00am	Marydell Faith and Life Center, Nyack, NY			
Sullivan County General Service Meeting	9/14	3:15pm	St. John's Church, 15 St John Street Monticello, NY 12701			
Nassau General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	9/15	7:30pm	Zoom ID: 922 8787 8377, Passcode 12345 Nassau Intergroup of AA, 361 Hempstead Turnpike, West Hempstead, NY 11552			
Manhattan General Service Meeting	9/16	6:30pm	Zoom ID: 815 4964 5983, Passcode: BillandBob			
Orange County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	9/16	7:00pm	Zoom ID: 999 6809 5777 Passcode: Acceptance			
Westchester GSA Meeting	9/17	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	9/17	7:30pm	Clarkstown Reformed Church, 107 Strawtown Road West Nyack, NY 10994			
PI Committee Meeting	9/18	7:30pm	Zoom ID: 830 6480 3071, Passcode: 386471			
Suffolk General Service Meeting and New GSR Orientation (HYBRID)	9/19	7:00pm	Zoom ID: 932 6450 5176, Passcode: 713704			
SENY Assembly (HYBRID)	9/21	9:00am	Meeting ID: 873 6681 5219, Passcode: 713104 Dial-in #: (646) 931-3860 Westchester Community College, 75 Grasslands Road Valhalla, New York 10595			
Asamblea de Distritos Hispanos (Hispanic Districts Assembly)	9/21	9:30am	Venue TBA			
Intergroup Liaison Committee Meeting	9/21	2:00pm	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: A49P75			
SENY Registration Officer Open Hours	9/21	8:00pm	Zoom Meeting ID: 869 7034 8733, Passcode: 052117			
SENY Technology Committee Meeting	9/23	7:30pm	Meeting ID: 894 0024 2856, Passcode: 033597 / Dial In #: (646) 558- 8656			
Technology and Communications Office Hour	9/25	7:00pm	Google Meet with Ray our TCO: <u>meet.google.com/ouq-pfqn-kuq</u>			
Queens County General Service Presents 9th Annual Spiritual Breakfast	9/28	9:00 am	Russo's on the Bay, 162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard Howard Beach, NY 11414			

9/28

5:00 pm

Zoom ID: 654 025 3497, Passcode: 10591

Breakfast **SENY Convention Planning Meeting**







Let's LINK Up!

We are actively looking for more people to contribute to SENY's newsletter, which has been in print since 1961! Please email <code>link@aaseny.org</code> if you're interested in writing an article about your experience, strength, and hope in A.A. service., and we'll let you know the due dates and themes for upcoming issues. Article can run between 275 and 350 words. We welcome your articles and creativity, and professional writing experience is NOT necessary at all.

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^{*}Special committees (neither standing nor ad hoc committees)