



2025, The Launch of My Delegate Era

My first year as Delegate has been one of the most energizing seasons of service I've ever had. Stepping into this role opened doors I didn't even know were waiting. I tried new approaches, experimented with communication tools, built out resources for SENY, and watched our area come together with a unity and curiosity that made the work feel alive.

Sharing information became one of my biggest joys. From updating the delegate page to simplifying Conference background to creating easier ways for GSRs and DCMCs to stay connected, I loved finding practical ways to make service accessible. And across SENY, our counties and districts kept inspiring me. The workshops, share a days, unity and spiritual

breakfasts, creative ideas, and the way people shared information so naturally showed how vibrant our service structure really is.

Walking the Road to Conference together for the first time in this panel cycle was a true highlight. Seeing groups and districts engage, ask thoughtful questions, and show up for the work reminded me how capable we are as an area.

Looking ahead, I feel nothing but excitement. We get to take everything we learned in 2025 and bring it into another Road to Conference with more clarity, connection, and confidence. I'm also ready to support our incoming Panel 76 trusted servants, passing on what was shared with me and helping them settle into their roles with strength and ease.

This year showed me that service is growth in motion. And we're just getting started.

Nisaa A. | SENY Delegate | Panel 75

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Let's LINK Up!

We are looking for more people to contribute to SENY's newsletter, which has been in print since 1961! Please email link@aaseny.org 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.

Let's Talk About Transparency

“In almost all cases in Alcoholics Anonymous, monetary and otherwise, the mechanisms for transparency are already in place. But there is one missing piece that only the A.A. members and groups can provide.”

On New Year's Day, 2011, I encountered my first service “crisis.” I had been elected as a District Treasurer (in another area) several months prior. As I studied the books and records, I realized that there was a great deal of money missing versus what had been reported to the district over the past two years. If you want the whole story, including the wonderful spiritual ending, you'll have to invite me to speak on the Seventh Tradition!

However, for the purposes of this topic, let's just say that there was a lot of trust in that district, but zero oversight. I came to understand over the next several months how and why the money disappeared, but as the new Treasurer I needed to reaffirm a financial principle—that of transparency. I've been an accountant all of my adult life, so it was a straightforward process to set up the checks and balances. But it's the spiritual side of transparency in A.A. that sometimes needs to be reaffirmed.

Transparency is the responsibility of all of us who act as trusted servants, certainly when we are tasked with being stewards of the groups' basket dollars. The money belongs to the groups, and we do our best to carry out the wishes of those groups, and to be open. The same is true with the way in which we exercise our other responsibilities: we are here to answer your questions and provide information.

But is transparency just a one-sided responsibility?

In almost all cases in Alcoholics Anonymous, monetary and otherwise, the mechanisms for transparency are already in place. But there is one missing piece that only the A.A. members and groups can provide. That missing piece is... the A.A. members and groups. It is ultimately the responsibility of every A.A. member to:

- 1) Look at the financial reports passed out at service meetings, and if you have questions, ASK.
- 2) If you see, for example, a committee doing things that are unaligned with what you think their mission is, QUESTION it.
- 3) And, perhaps most importantly, PARTICIPATE by making sure your group has an active General Service Rep who attends Area Assemblies, reads the reports, hears what's going on in A.A., and is the voice of their group.

Always remember: “I am responsible” does not end with the Twelfth Step. It begins there.

In Grateful Service,

**Tom B. | Former SENY Interim Treasurer |
Panel 75**

Slow Down and Look Around!

Four lessons I have learned this year, each one building on the previous, can be summed up by the suggestion, "Slow down and look around."

Be informed, both individually and as a body.

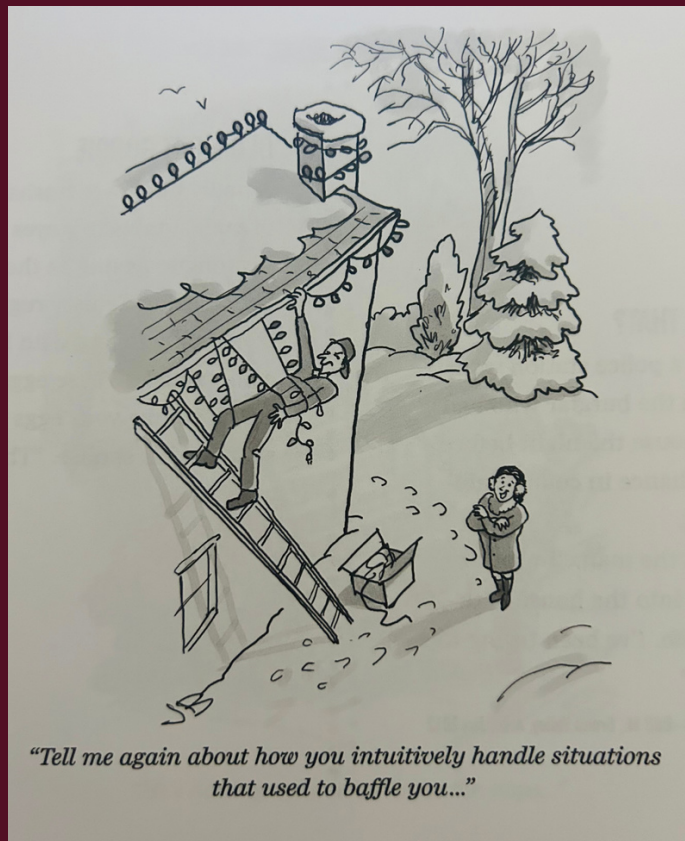
We make our best decisions when we are the most informed. Obviously, we cannot know everything, but we can take steps to learn as much as we can before moving forward. It may slow things down, but the investment in information gathering yields a better result. To draw a parallel principle, the more thorough the Fourth Step, the less pain we will ultimately be in.

Try new things. Bill cautioned against resting on our laurels. For me, the service equivalent is doing something "because we've always done it this way" or avoiding change because "that's not how we used to do it." Trying new things does not mean what we've done before is bad or that we have to destroy what exists. It is a question: how can we do this better? At each Assembly, we attempted new things. Did everything go perfectly? No. However, we learned how we can innovate and improve. No change is permanent, and we can always go back, but I strive to go forward to leave SENY better than I found it.

The "we" of service. It can be a challenge to do this level of service and not get know-it-all-ism. Even when I think I have found the solution, it is best to run it past others with an array of experience (and inexperience). Inevitably, ideas are born that I alone would have never considered, and in that regard, service is very much a "we" thing.

Faith over fear in the future. Especially with niche services like registration or technology, I become fearful that I will be connected to it like the proverbial ball and chain. When I look around, I see the future. Like the newly sober person emerging from mocus, watching fellows' eyes light up in excitement—whether it's someone who's overwhelmed but trying service below the group level, or meeting a couple new A.A.'s learning about service and life beyond the group—not only inspires me but gives me faith in the future.

**Justin K. | SENY Registration Officer |
Panel 75**



"Tell me again about how you intuitively handle situations that used to baffle you..."

Take Me to Your Sponsor by AA Grapevine, Inc., p. 65

FROM RELUCTANCE TO RENEWAL: MY JOURNEY AS A GSR

“SENY is a fantastic training ground for me to be a better friend, a better partner, and a better servant to others.”

When I was two years sober, the position of GSR opened up at a meeting I went to frequently. I ended up doing the position for two years and then serving as a DCM for two years. It was not the best time. I felt burned out and frustrated. I dropped out of group-level service for about four years until the Alternate GSR position at my home group opened up. I stood for this position with some reluctance. After being elected for the position, my primary GSR wanted me to go to Area Assemblies in person. I was not excited.

Skip forward to this year. I am now the GSR. Not only am I excited to go to Assemblies in person, I even get excited for the bus rides to Westchester from Manhattan. I have met so many wonderful trusted servants. They care deeply about A.A. and SENY, and it is infectious. In this group, I include my team of two Alternate GSRs who inspire me every week.

In this last year, I have learned about forgiveness. I have missed a lot of important meetings and therefore have needed a lot of forgiveness. I get it in spades, and it teaches me about forgiving others. I have learned I can relax and take it easy while still being active and productive. I am becoming more organized. I used to be plagued by guilt as I would often forget scheduled events. I let friends and employers down many times. Serving as GSR is helping me be where I say I am going to be. SENY is a fantastic training ground for me to be a better friend, a better partner, and a better servant to others.

To me, Alcoholics Anonymous is a precious gem. It is a miracle that it has developed the way it has. My grandmother got sober in A.A., then my uncle, and now me. I want to make sure that in two more generations, A.A. is still healthy and available. For that reason, I will continue to serve below the group level, and I know that service will continue to change me.

Rob H. | GSR for The Atlantic Group (Manhattan County)

BETWEEN THE LINES

The "We" in Service

As we come to the close of our first year of Panel 75, the *Link* editor has asked me to reflect on how I've grown in service this year, and so I say, "Thank you for the question."

I am a three-legacy alcoholic, and service is a vital part of my program and how I stay sober. As the PI Chair, I've had new duties in need of my attention. Some are familiar, such as monthly reports for the Area Committees and Assemblies, which I've done before as the former DCMC for Rockland County. Serving as a standing chair for the Area has given me new responsibilities as well. I've attended various workshops and conferences (i.e. NERAASA, NYSIW, etc.) in a different capacity.

I've defined the goals and tasks for my service position on this panel according to the Concepts of World Service.

I've gathered a list of people who'd be interested in helping in some way or another. I've worked on sharing ideas and setting up workshops. I've sorted through the literature I inherited from the previous chair; I've discarded the old and brought in the new by ordering the most up-to-date literature for Public Information. I've created a

usable QR code list for accessing literature, and I've learned how to do this through the shared experience of a NERAASA PI Roundtable. That roundtable gave me the chance to share and hear new ideas, and it planted the seed for how to plan our own area's PI work.

Doesn't all that sound great? That's how it would have gone in a perfect world. What was missing happened between the lines. I was like a scared kid at a new school who didn't know anyone or anything. I was like a newborn calf trying to stand on wobbly legs. These feelings of inadequacy filled my mind, but thanks to a good service sponsor, I've started to see the forest for the trees. In so doing, I've been able to accomplish the tasks as stated above. I've learned in the truest sense that A.A. is a "we" program. Those who've gone before me have been there to help me stand, and many did when I really needed help. I look forward to going into my final rotational year with a little more confidence and self-assurance that perhaps I won't break A.A. after all.

Thank you for your question and for letting me serve!

Kevin F. | SENY PI Chair | Panel 75

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



December 11, 1934

Bill Wilson takes his last drink and enters Towns Hospital for treatment for the last time.

December 14, 1934

Bill's friend Ebby Thatcher visits him in Towns Hospital and brings him William James's book, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. This visit, and reading the book in the hospital, is a crucial step in Bill's spiritual experience that formed the foundation of Alcoholics Anonymous.

December 1938

Bill Wilson writes the Twelve Steps. He drafts them in a single evening at his home at 182 Clinton Street in Brooklyn, New York. Before this, the early members had been using a six-point, word-of-mouth program based on Oxford Group principles.

December 1939

The first A.A. meeting in a mental institution is started at Rockland State Hospital in New York, with the cooperation of Dr. Russell Blaisdell (nonalcoholic).

December 1950

Bill and Bob write a *Grapevine* article that recommends establishing an A.A. General Service Conference.

December 1955

"The Man on the Bed," the iconic painting by Robert M., first appears in *The Grapevine*. It depicts the moment Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob carried the message of recovery to "A.A. Number Three," Bill D., at an Akron hospital. The painting was originally dubbed "Came to Believe." It's now on permanent display at Stepping Stones.

December 1975

Birds of a Feather (BOAF) is started in Seattle, Washington. The group is created to help airmen achieve sobriety and save both lives and careers, as a diagnosis of alcoholism could immediately disqualify an aviator from holding the necessary medical certificate to work. It's now become a worldwide support group for pilots and cockpit crewmembers in recovery. Meetings are based on A.A.'s 12-step program, and local chapters are called "nests."

Archives Trivia!

Here's the answer to the trivia question that appeared in the November issue of *The Link*:

WHY DID A.A. CHANGE THE NAME OF OUR MAGAZINE FROM "The Grapevine" TO "The A.A. Grapevine"?

In 1945, *The Grapevine* became the official national journal of A.A. By 1946, A.A. discovered that the FBI also had an internal newsletter called *The Grapevine*. In April of that year, A.A. renamed our magazine *The A.A. Grapevine*—perhaps to avoid any conflict, or perhaps because the "Men in Black Suits" showed up! Remember: never let the facts get in the way of a good story.

Here are two trivia questions from the SENY Archives Committee that will be answered in the next issue of *The Link*. Can you guess the correct answers before then?

WHAT ARE THE A.A. SLOGANS?

WHERE DOES THE "Think Think Think" SIGN COME FROM?

SHAPED BY SERVICE: A YEAR OF GROWTH

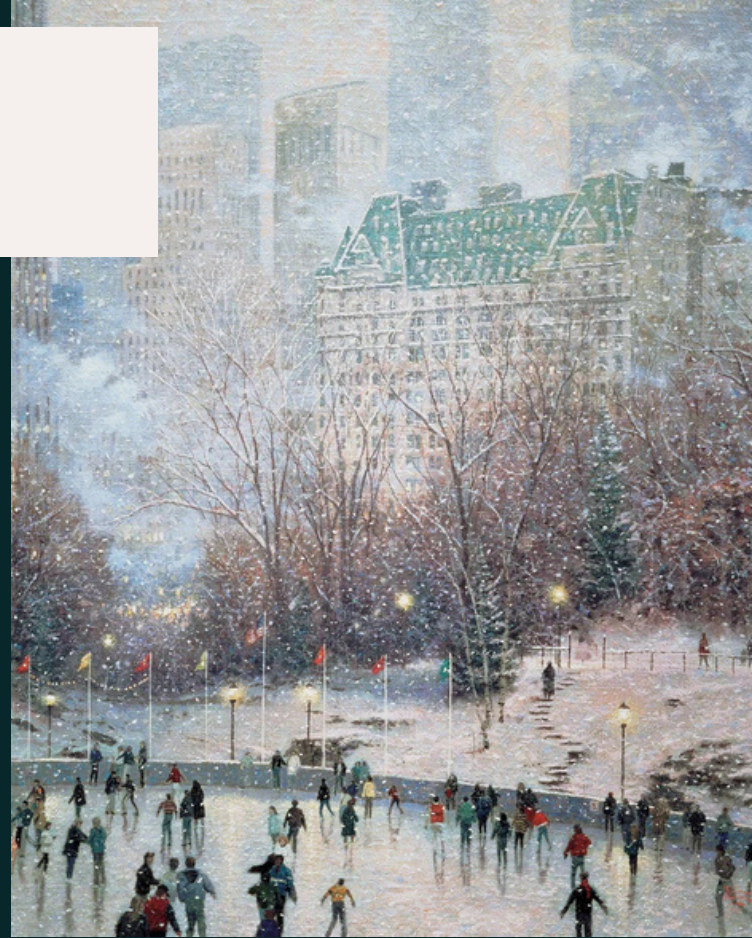
As I reflect on my A.A. service in 2025, I'm reminded of the profound impact it has had on my personal growth. Over the past year, I've had the opportunity to participate in various service activities, from helping those in need to organizing community events. These experiences not only allowed me to give back to my community but also taught me valuable lessons about the importance of service, perseverance, and compassion.

One of the most significant lessons I learned was the value of selflessness. By putting the needs of others before my own, I discovered a sense of purpose and fulfillment I'd never experienced before. Whether volunteering at a local food bank or helping to organize a charity event, the act of giving back to my community brought me joy and satisfaction. I came to understand that true fulfillment comes not from personal achievements or material possessions, but from the positive impact we have on others' lives.

A.A. service also taught me perseverance. Many of the activities I took on required significant time, effort, and dedication. There were times when I felt overwhelmed or discouraged, yet I learned to push through these challenges and remain committed. This experience showed me that persistence and hard work can carry me through even the most daunting obstacles to achieve great things.

Another powerful lesson came from practicing compassion and empathy. Working with people from diverse backgrounds and circumstances gave me a deeper understanding of the struggles that many face. These interactions taught me to be more patient, understanding, and kind. I learned to listen more closely, approach each person with respect, and to recognize the everyone carries their own unique story.

A.A. service also reinforced the importance of teamwork and collaboration for me. Many service activities required working with others towards a



common goal. Through this, I learned how essential communication, cooperation, and mutual respect are to achieving success. By working with others, I learned that we can accomplish far more together than any one of us could alone, and that the collective efforts of a team can lead to truly remarkable outcomes.

Looking back on this year of service, I see how profoundly these lessons have influenced my personal growth. Selflessness, perseverance, compassion, and teamwork have shaped me into a more confident, empathetic, and responsible person. I am grateful for every opportunity I've had to contribute to my community, and I look forward to continuing to serve and make a positive impact in the years to come.

Through it all, I've come to realize that service is not just about giving—it is also about growing and learning. I'm excited to see where this journey of service will lead me next.

JR B. | Nassau County DCMC

50th
Queens County
General Service Assembly
ANNIVERSARY

Please Join Us,
Monday, December 8, 2025
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Speakers and Fellowship

Food, Cake, Coffee & Tea

St. Mary Gate of Heaven
103-12 101st Ave.
South Ozone Park, NY 11416

www.qcgsa.org

SAVE THE DATE

SENY Public Information Committee
In cooperation with SENY CPC Committee
and Putnam County General Service
Present:

Carrying The Message

"A Sharing Session for serving up the message of A.A. to those outside the program."

WHEN: DECEMBER 13TH 2025
At

WHERE: THE MOUNT CARMEL BIBLE CHURCH
76 GLENEIDA AVENUE
CARMEL, NY 10512

TIME: 11am-3pm

Light lunch and refreshments will be served

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 15TH 2026
7pm

THE 76TH CONFERENCE WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT
JOIN THE COMMITTEE TO ENTERTAIN THEIR PLUS ONES
COME TO THE HOSPITALITY KICK OFF MEETING
WHAT WE DO

FOR ONE WEEK EACH YEAR AREA 49 ESCORTS THE GUESTS OF THE CONFERENCE AROUND THE CITY. WE ESCORT THE PLUS ONES SITE SEEING, TO AL-ANON, OR AA MEETINGS. WE SHOW THEM SOME OF NEW YORK'S HIGH LIGHTS AND FUN SPOTS. WE HELP THEM LEARN ABOUT THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS. WHO KNOWS, JOINING THIS COMMITTEE YOU MAY LEARN OR SEE NEW YORK DIFFERENTLY. SERVICE IS MORE THAN SETTING UP CHAIRS, & MAKING COFFEE, COME SEE HOW MUCH MORE.

VIRTUAL INFO TO FOLLOW ON THE SENY CALENDAR
FOR MORE INFO CALL
Brian C. Chair (347)455~2710
Ronnie B. Co-chair (917)952~1191
Please text before calling, or email
gscguests49@aaseny.org

UNITY BREAKFAST

2026
MANY VOICES, ONE PURPOSE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST
9 AM - 1 PM
WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION

Save The Date

MARRIOTT MELVILLE
1350 WALT WHITMAN RD, MELVILLE, NY 11747
2ND FLOOR BALLROOM



UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS

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



SENY Committee Meeting (Virtual)	12/1	7:30pm	Meeting ID: 873 6681 5219, Passcode: 713104 Dial-in #: (646) 931-3860
SENY CPC Committee Meeting	12/3	5:30pm	Email cpc@aaseny.org prior to each meeting for the Zoom information.
2025 Northeast Regional Forum (NERF)	12/5-12/7		Omni Providence Hotel 1 W. Exchange Street Providence, RI 02903
Staten Island General Service Meeting and New GSR Orientation	12/7	6:30pm	Immanuel Lutheran 2018 Richmond Avenue Staten Island, NY 10314
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting	12/8	8:00pm	Meeting ID: 856 7793 0152 Passcode: Service
SENY Accessibilities Committee Meeting	12/9	8:00pm	Meeting ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: A49P75 (case sensitive)
Archives Committee Meeting	12/11	7:30pm	Meeting ID: 369 996 8135 Passcode: 3QHPbv
Carrying The Message Workshop Presented by SENY PI and CPC with Putnam County	12/13	11:00am	Mount Carmel Bible Church 76 Gleneida Avenue Carmel, NY 10512
Reunión de MCD y comités hispanos (Hispanic DCM and committees meeting)	12/13	8:00pm	Sótano (Basement), 145 Mount Vernon Ave, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. 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.)
[Hispanic] Taller de Alegria y Gratitude / Joy of Service & Gratitude	12/14	11:00am	Lugo: Local del Grupo Alfa y Omega 84-07 Broadway Elmhurst New York 11373
Sullivan County General Service Meeting	12/14	3:15pm	St. John's Church, 15 St John Street Monticello, NY 12701
SENY Convention Planning Meeting	12/14	4:00pm	Meeting ID: 654 025 3497 Passcode: 10591
Nassau General Service Meeting and New GSR Orientation (HYBRID)	12/15	7:30pm	Meeting ID: 922 8787 8377, Passcode: 12345 Nassau Intergroup of AA 361 Hempstead Turnpike West Hempstead, NY 11552
Manhattan General Service Meeting	12/16	6:30pm	Meeting ID: 815 4964 5983 Passcode: BillandBob
Orange County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	12/16	7:00pm	Zoom ID: 999 6809 5777, Passcode: Acceptance First Presbyterian Church Sullivan 4907 NY-52 Jeffersonville, NY 12748
Westchester GSA Meeting (HYBRID)	12/17	7:00pm	Meeting ID: 868 370 8260, Passcode: WGSA Memorial United Methodist Church 250 Bryant Avenue Fellowship Room White Plains, NY 10605
Rockland General Service Meeting	12/17	7:30pm	Clarkstown Reformed Church 107 Strawtown Road West Nyack, NY 10994
Suffolk General Service Meeting and New GSR Orientation	12/19	7:00pm	Meeting ID: 932 6450 5176 Passcode: 713704
SENY Registration Officer Open Hour	12/21	8:00pm	Meeting ID: 869 7034 8733 Passcode: 052117
SENY Technology Committee Meeting	12/23	7:30pm	Meeting ID: 894 0024 2856, Passcode: 033597 Dial In #: (646) 558-8656
Technology and Communications Office Hour	12/25	7:00pm	Meeting ID: meet.google.com/ouq-pfqn-kuq
Queens General Service Assembly and New GSR/DCM Orientation	12/29	7:00pm	Mary of Gate Heaven, 103-12 101st Avenue Ozone Park, NY 11416 (The entrance is on 103rd Street and 101st Avenue in the basement.)
[Queens] District 312 New Year's Eve Celebration	12/31	8:00 am – 11:59 pm	St. Camillus Church 185 Beach 99th Street Springman Hall Rockaway Park, NY 11694 (Parking available in back lot.)

SENY Archives

aasenyhistory.org



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!



Take Me to Your Sponsor by AA Grapevine, Inc., p. 75

"And to think of all the holiday fun you missed sitting in the bar!"

AREA 49 PRESENTS THE 58TH SENY CONVENTION HUMILITY IN ACTION

MARCH 20TH- 22ND 2026
WESTCHESTER MARRIOTT
670 WHITE PLAINS RD.
TARRYTOWN, NY 10591

AL-ANON PARTICIPATION

ASL UPON REQUEST

Register at

www.convention.aaseny.org

or use the QR code



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