



Does Your Group Use the Concepts?

Perhaps the number one thing that appeals to me so much about AA's Twelve Concepts for World Service is their sheer practicality. In none of our literature is there theory or dogma—only firsthand experience. Two good examples of such practicality can be found in Concepts III and IV. They contain two of the principles that Bill felt ought to be given the widest latitude in practice, the "Right of Decision" and the "Right of Participation."

The short form of Concept III reads: "To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of AA—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional 'Right of Decision.'" The "Right of Decision" has

proved to be a most practical way for groups to empower delegates to the General Service Conference to act in accordance with their conscience.

But the principles stated in the Concepts, like all our AA principles, are just as applicable in my home group. Our secretary, for example, is empowered through Concept III with the "Right of Decision." We trust in his thoughtful preparation to make announcements appropriate to our meetings—that is, announcements that are AA-related. We trust him not to announce, for instance, that Tom H. will be having a garage sale next weekend and hopes to see everyone there for great bargains—come early! We trust our program chair whose principal job is to book meetings. We don't tell her what groups or individuals to book but trust her to decide, based, for instance, on how recently a group has sent speakers to us and whether the group is within reasonable commute. Our hospitality team makes regular use of the spirit of the "Right of Decision." They determine what kind of refreshments the group will enjoy and do the buying.

I remember an incident some years ago at my then home group where the "Right of Decision" was a bit manhandled. The chair opened the meeting one night by announcing that the scheduled speaker had not shown up and instead of the usual discussion she had decided, on her own, to put together a three-speaker meeting. Afterward, several people let her know that they had been expecting their regular discussion meeting and

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Do the Things That Scare You

Service below the group level—what an interesting concept. What does that even mean? How often are these commitments? I already do commitments at my home group, though.

These were all thoughts I had.

As a graphic designer, I have skills not everyone has, so my sponsor wanted me to put them to use. She'd joined the Suffolk County Unity Breakfast Committee and strongly encouraged me to join her as graphics chair. As I learned what General Service actually did—and what it took to work alongside alcoholics from all over the county I'd never met—I started to truly love service. I was six years sober, and that experience changed the trajectory of my recovery. I served on the Unity Breakfast Committee for two more years.

As my rotation chairing my home group's Thursday night meeting was coming to an end, I found myself craving service below the group level again. My recovery had gone a little stagnant, and I knew what was missing. So I became my group's General Service Representative.

Alcoholics Anonymous is so much greater than me—oh look, a Higher Power!—and if it weren't for those who came before me, it wouldn't be here for me today. As a sober alcoholic active in recovery, I get to carry the responsibility of helping the next sick and suffering person. Diving into General Service as a GSR has been eye-opening. There's so much that goes into keeping AA alive that I never could have imagined. Nerding out with my service sponsor, carpooling to county meetings and assemblies, and building friendships not just across Suffolk but throughout SENY has been incredible.

Our DCMC asked me to be the Suffolk Representative for the 2026 Long Island Spirituality Through Service event.



Me?

You're asking me to take this on?

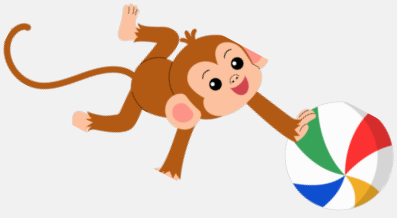
That's not scary or anything.

These were the same kinds of thoughts I had five years ago. What I was taught in Alcoholics Anonymous is to do the things that scare me, because that's how I learn and grow. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little reluctant when I agreed.

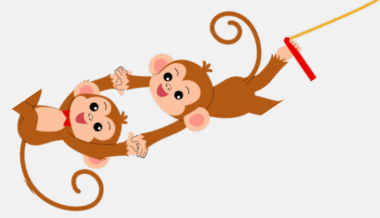
As I'm writing this, L.I.S.T.S. happened yesterday, May 30th. It was truly an unbelievable experience—serving alongside alcoholics not just from Suffolk, but from Queens, Nassau, and Brooklyn. Watching months of planning and organizing come together was almost surreal. I'm honored to have worked alongside these men and women.

My GSR rotation isn't over for another year and a half, but I'm already excited to see what comes next. In the meantime, I'll keep learning—and keep doing the things that scare me, because that's when my recovery gets rocketed further into the Fourth Dimension.

Jenna W. | GSR for Basic Sobriety | Sullivan County



Running The Circus



Let me be perfectly honest. For the first several years of my sobriety, anytime someone brought up the Traditions or Concepts my eyes glazed over like a donut in a church basement. You'd see the smile on my face, but inside I was internally muttering, *Here comes the dictatorship nonsense.*

I'm someone who gets itchy when I hear things like authority, bylaws, or—God help me—legal instruments. You say, "Empowered to manage," and I say, "Thanks, but no thanks, I've seen how that movie ends." I didn't get sober to be ruled over by a group of tie-wearing service tyrants and spreadsheet enthusiasts.

You have to understand, I came into AA with a serious aversion to anything that smelled like hierarchy. I'd spent enough time around broken institutions and warped workplaces to know that when someone says, "I've been entrusted with authority," it's usually followed by a power trip, a pyramid scheme, or someone trying to sell me snake oil.

So when I first read Concept Seven—which, if you haven't read it, includes juicy little phrases like "charter," "bylaws," "empower the trustees" and "legal instruments"—I nearly passed out from secondhand boardroom trauma.

But in a surprising twist, I kept coming back. Somewhere between "more donuts, please," and "sure, I'll help fold chairs," I started to notice something important: AA wasn't some faceless institution drunk on power (pun intended). It was a living, breathing Fellowship kept alive by us—the people who once couldn't keep a cactus alive, let alone a spiritual structure.

Over time, I began to see that the Concepts, especially this sneaky little Concept Seven, aren't about control at all. They're about protection.

Without Concept Seven, AA would be a circus without a ringmaster. The monkeys (Hi, that's me—I'm the monkey) would be flinging stuff at each other, chasing glitter and forgetting to put out the newcomer packets. It would be spiritual chaos in folding chairs.

Concept Seven draws the line between legal responsibility and spiritual authority. The trustees have the legal power to manage world service affairs (thank God someone does), but the Fellowship—you, me, and the guy who always brings half-stale cookies to meetings—has the moral authority. And we hold the purse strings.

And look—I get it. Power gets abused. Egos flare. I've seen people lose their minds over coffee filters. I've been one of those people. But what makes AA different from the outside world is that we have built-in mechanisms for humility. When someone gets too big for their britches, there's usually an oldtimer around to lovingly tap them on the shoulder and say, "Sweetheart, this isn't Congress."

Learning Concept Seven helped me understand that we have a structure that exists not to control but to serve. It's the spiritual scaffolding that allows someone like me—the same woman who used to dodge responsibility like a game of emotional dodgeball—to safely create a newsletter for my fellow alcoholics. I now know that I have both the right and responsibility to carry out my service, while also trusting the trustees and elected servants to keep the larger ship from capsizing.

So now when I read Concept Seven, I no longer feel like I'm being dragged into a court deposition. Instead, I feel oddly proud, like I'm part of something grown-up, spiritual and weirdly functional. It reminds me that even untamed monkeys like me can contribute meaningfully, as long as we do it with love, principle and maybe a little less screaming.

Because let's be honest: if you've ever been to a business meeting with seven alcoholics and one leftover cookie, you know that organized chaos is a spiritual experience all its own.

**Briana O. | Indianapolis, Indiana | Excerpted from
The Grapevine, April 2026 issue**



"I finally figured it out...the ship isn't rocking—I used to be!"

The Much-Anticipated Fifth Edition of the Big Book

At the July 30 meeting of the A.A. World Services Board, the Publishing Committee recommended, and the full board approved, that the fifth edition hardcover be produced with a removable dust jacket and that a list price of \$20 be adopted. They are on track with the production process to publish the hardcover of the fifth edition, updated with 26 new stories of recovery, in February 2027.

We share the Fellowship's excitement about the fifth edition of our beloved Big Book—coming more than 25 years after the publication of the fourth edition. More information about the publication of the fifth edition will follow this fall.

An Update on the Everything AA App Acquired by AAWS

- The first release of the Everything AA app under the ownership of A.A. World Services is now available. You can update your app to Version 5.0 to access the latest features.
- It remains available for download without cost; however, there is an option to subscribe at \$1.99 a month or \$19.99 a year to support the app's continued development and maintenance. This optional subscription model follows a similar practice to the A.A. Grapevine's subscription model for its app. The AAWS board has engaged in thoughtful discussion and deliberation to ensure that this aligns with our Traditions. Subscribers will receive content and are not contributing to the Seventh Tradition with their subscriptions.
- In the next year, as the app team continues to review and develop this important platform, you will notice phased changes to content and features along with the addition of new resources for all app users.
- This first release includes a new feature: Bonus content for subscribers only. Subscribers will have access to "Voices of A.A. Today," which is excerpted from the 2025 International Convention commemorative book, *A Book of Fellowship – 90 Years of Sharing Love and Service*, now available for purchase only in print at the online bookstore.
- In the coming months, other treasures from our publications and archives, including audio and video recordings, will be made available to subscribers.

7:00 PM (Zoom)

Zoom Details
Meeting ID: 814 5937 6216
Passcode: 3231935

Monthly Meetings
(3rd Thursday of each month)

May 21
June 18
July 16
August 20
September 17
October 15
November 19
December 17
January 21
February 18

Get Involved!
Help plan and shape NERAASA 2027

Contact:
Charlene B.
Chbrooklyn@gmail.com

Brx Upper Manhattan General Service
Hosting
BRONX UPPER MANHATTAN SHARE A DAY:
"HUMILITY IN ACTION"

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2026
10:00am-3:00pm
Doors open 9:15am

Holy Family Church Cafeteria
2158 Watson Ave
Bronx, NY 10472
Near Castle Hill Ave

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
DESSERT DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED.

ALONG WITH INFORMATIVE PANELS:
COFFEE, SNACKS. LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.

INCLUDING
FELLOWSHIP SOBRIETY OLDTIMERS

On keeping with our 7th tradition we are self supporting. We ask that groups consider contributing to this free event.

TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION,
Send a check or money order to:
Brx Upper Manhattan General Service
P.O. Box 1357
Bronx, New York 10451

★ Include The Group Name & For Share A Day in the memo line.

EMAIL
Maria B - Chair
brum-sad@brum.aaseny.org

★ **SUFFOLK COUNTY BIG MEETING** ★
PRESENTED BY SUFFOLK INTERGROUP AND SUFFOLK GENERAL SERVICE

Join Us for a Special Event!

DATE: October 3, 2026, Saturday
TIME: 9a.m. - 2p.m.
Refreshments will be served.
LOCATION: Defense Hill, Shoreham NY - Robert Reid Recreation Center

SERVICE TABLES **2 SPEAKERS** **JUMP INTO SERVICE!**

All are welcome!
Don't miss this chance to connect, reflect, communicate and "JUMP" into service!

For more information, contact
DCM111 at DCM111@suffolkgs-ny.org

Queens County General Service Assembly's 10th Annual
Spiritual Breakfast
RUSSO'S ON THE BAY
162-45 Cross Bay Blvd
Howard Beach NY 11414
Free Valet Parking

**The Homegroup:
The Heartbeat of AA**

3 Saturday
OCTOBER 9:00 am-12:00 pm
2026 Tickets \$48.00

No ticket sales at the door
Zelle: 917-753-8936
Venmo: ladyvssta

More info
sb@queens.aaseny.org
Vivian Hill, Chair

Asamblea de Servicio General del Condado de Queens
10.^o Desayuno Espiritual Anual

Desayuno Espiritual
RUSSO'S ON THE BAY
162-45 Cross Bay Blvd
Howard Beach NY 11414
Estacionamiento con Valet Gratuito

El Grupo Base:
El Latido del Corazon de AA

3 Sabado
OCTUBRE 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
2026 Boletoes \$48.00

No se venden boletoes en la puerta
Zelle: 917-753-8936
Venmo: ladyvssta

Mas informacion
sb@queens.aaseny.org
Vivian Hill, Presidenta

Staten Island General Services
Serving the Staten Island Districts of SENY, Area 49

Share-a-Day
Humility In Action

AA Share A Day is open to the public and designed for AA's, families, friends, anyone who would like to learn more how the message of AA has helped many people for over 90 years.

MOORE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Saturday October 10, 2026 9:00am-4:00pm
Breakfast, Lunch & Refreshments Will Be Served

Chair: AJ 917-754-0830 | Co-Chair: Jimmy 917-831-0379 | Hospitality: Richie 646-825-1036

43RD ANNUAL SPIRITUAL BREAKFAST

BRONX UPPER MANHATTAN
GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

MARINA DEL REY
1 MARINA DRIVE, BRONX, NY 10465
BELLAGIO WATERFRONT BANQUET HALL
ON-SITE PARKING

\$48 Per TICKET

TABLES OF 10 & INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
RESERVED UPON PAYMENT
NO TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR

ZELLE:

SPIRITUALBREAKFAST@BXUM.AASENY.ORG

CONTACTS:
CASSIE A. 917-383-5302 • SHARRON S. (917) 620-5993

District 618 & SENY Accessibilities
Proudly Present:

THE BROAD HIGHWAY

An Accessibilities Workshop
by A.A. Members, for all A.A. Members

Food | Fellowship | Speakers | Q&A
ASL + Spanish Language Interpreters

Oct 17, 2026 Advent Lutheran
4pm-6pm 2504 Broadway. NYC

district618.org

JOIN US FOR THE 2026
PUTNAM COUNTY AA GENERAL SERVICE UNITY BREAKFAST

Tickets \$30

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18TH 9 AM - 12 PM

CENTENNIAL GOLF CLUB
185 John Simpson Rd, Carmel Hamlet, NY

For more info, email aaputnamcounty@gmail.com

XLIV
CONVENTION OF
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
CDH AREA 49

HOST DISTRICT 114 COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
OCTOBER 31st & NOVEMBER 1st, 2026
Saturday from 2:00pm to 12:00am / Sunday 8:00am to 12:00am

MARRIOTT HOTEL
1350 Walt Whitman Rd., Melville, NY 11747
Penn Station to Ronkonkoma
Stop: Farmingdale

CONTACTS:
Coordinator: 631-935-4921
Programming & Syllabus: 631-220-9384
Transport: 631-512-6513

Staten Island General Services
Proudly presents
25th Annual
Spiritual Breakfast
UNITY SERVICE
AA RECOVERY
Humility in Action

Sunday November 29th 2026
(ADULT ONLY EVENT)
11:00am - 2:00pm
Hilton Garden Inn
1100 South Avenue, Staten Island 10314

TICKET \$5
ADULT ONLY EVENT

Information & Service Opportunities
Event Chair: Connie D 917-584-8569
Co-Chair: Matt G 347-216-2217

Ticket Sales
Matt MC 917-589-8528



were upset. She defended her decision by reminding them that, as chair, it was up to her to make decisions for the good of the group. She felt that the group needed "perking up." So she changed the meeting format.

Concept III states that "we ought to trust our responsible leaders *to decide*, within the understood framework of their duties, *how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.*" True enough, our chair had the final authority within the framework of her duties but by changing the meeting format she had overstepped her authority. Since a group, in its autonomy, decides on the format of its meetings through a legitimate voting process, she had unwittingly challenged the group's autonomy. I am happy to say that this trusted servant rethought the incident and became a wiser and consequently more valued member of the group.

As for Concept IV, the short form reads: "At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional 'Right of Participation,' allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge."

I recently witnessed a splendid example of the "Right

of Participation" in action at a group in my area of which I was not a member. Opening a group inventory meeting, the chair requested that only members of the group participate; nonmembers could identify themselves but ought to refrain from commentary. If the chair had asked nonmembers to leave, I would have taken a grand-daddy of a resentment out into the night air. Instead, he invoked a very important part of the "Right of Participation" by recognizing my need to belong. I have also attended business meetings where the presiding officer announced that nonmembers were welcome to stay but must refrain from voting. Thus, thanks to the "Right of Participation," those of us who were not members were made to feel that we belonged, if not to that group, certainly to AA as a whole.

Participation, like the human body, comes in different shapes and sizes. I once heard a woman share at a meeting that she was having a hard time staying sober and couldn't understand why. She said she had a home group and was "very active." What came to light was that most of her activity consisted of participation in outside endeavors, such as the PTA, Red Cross, a home for the elderly, and her neighborhood hospital. As for her AA membership, she attended meetings but did no more. What she didn't understand or had forgotten is that, while all those community activities

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From the Archives: Notable September Dates in AA History



September 13, 1937

Florence R. became the first female member of AA in New York.

September 21, 1938

Bill W. and Hank P. formed Works Publishing Company to handle the publication of the Big Book.

September 30, 1939

An influential article titled "Alcoholics and God" by Morris Markey was published in *Liberty* magazine.

Markey wrote, in part: "'Alcoholics Anonymous' have consolidated their activities in an organization called the Alcoholic Foundation. It is a nonprofit-making enterprise. Nobody connected with it is paid a penny. It is not a crusading movement. It condemns neither liquor nor the liquor industry. Its whole concern is with the rescue of allergic alcoholics, the small proportion of the population who must be cured or perish. It preaches no particular religion and has no dogma, no rules. Every man conceives God according to his own lights...The Foundation has lately published a book, called *Alcoholics Anonymous*. And if alcoholism is a problem in your family or among your friends, I heartily recommend that you get hold of a copy. It may very well help you to guide a sick man—an allergic alcoholic—on the way to health and contentment."

September 1939

The first AA group in Chicago, IL was founded.

September 12, 1942

U.S. Assistant Surgeon General Dr. Lawrence Kolb spoke at a dinner honoring Bill W. and Dr. Bob in Philadelphia.

September 1944

"The Empty Jug," an early AA newsletter, starts in Chattanooga, TN.

September 1946

The first AA group in Mexico City was formed.

September 1949

First issue of the AA *Grapevine* in pocketbook format is published.

September 22-25, 1971

Over 500 attend the first European Convention of AA in Bristol, England.

September 1973

AA Archives is established at the GSO in NY.

September 1975

Jack Alexander, author of the *Saturday Evening Post* articles on AA, dies.

Archives Trivia!

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

Before settling on "Alcoholics Anonymous," what two working titles did Bill W. and the early members seriously consider for the Big Book?

In what year—and thanks to which warden's invitation—did AA hold its first meeting inside a prison, and which prison was it?

The Great Clean Wind

It was suddenly very hot. Like... Hawaiian hot.

I remembered so clearly a cool breeze just moments before—the shade of the trees, an inexplicable, intermittent mist easing the exertion of the steep trek up a very overgrown path, with plenty of big rocks to muscle over, stunning views, and steep drop-offs to be wary of. But for a long time, it was achievable, even enjoyable, to be hiking up this Waianae mountain with my son and his father.

Then suddenly, it was very hot.

The trees had given way. I could no longer hear the chickens clacking in the valley far below. For several switchbacks, there was only hot sun on my back. I became exhausted quickly.

I found a little indent in the rock wall that offered some small shade and sat. My 19-year-old son, of course, was well beyond us—he'd probably reached the summit ages ago. I pictured him waiting patiently for his doddering parents to get around to joining him. But my ex-husband, just ahead of me, stopped to wait.

He said, "We'll take a little break."

I contemplated a break. But instead I said, "I think I better turn back now."

Who cares to admit defeat to their ex-husband? But I felt woozy, and my muscles threatened to cramp. I'd been sick on the second day of the trip—an adventure into some disreputable poke had left me dehydrated and tired. I started to think maybe I'd made a mistake. I wallowed there, pressed into the rocks away from the drop-off, accepting once again my powerlessness.

"I'm afraid if I push to the top, I'll be too weak to come down safely."

He was silent. He surveyed the scenery and waited. Secretly, I think he was glad for a little break too.

After a while, the sweat on my skin started to feel cool in the shade, and I felt my heart slow.

Eventually, he made a suggestion. "Why don't we just

do one more turn?"

I let that sink in.

Would my muscles carry me around one more switchback? I stood. I didn't fall over. I looked at the trail ahead—a hundred feet of comparably flat, even trail to the next turn. That was all.

"OK."

We must have turned a thousand corners during that hike. But that corner was the last one. The mountain, in all its glory, spread beneath us as we rounded "just one more" bend. The ache in my lungs became awe as I let this vision of God's lay itself at my sneakered feet.

Someone had installed a metal post in the ground to mark the spot. I was filled with emotion as I clung to it. We photographed each other grinning like conquering heroes, capturing our accomplishment. I felt life coursing through me. I felt part of not only the world, but the planet. I felt part of my family, and part of this mountain. I felt part of a plan. Exhilarated. Elated. Exhausted—but effort rightly spent.

I no longer baked in a relentless sun. Rather, I "stood in the sunlight at last."

I was on top of the world.

The voice of God has a way of finding me when I remember my powerlessness. This isn't the first time God has spoken to me through someone unexpected. This time, God told me: *I know you're tired. But just one more turn.*

The impact of listening was profound, and it required only a hundred more feet of dusty Hawaiian trail. I only had to take a hundred more steps to be "lifted up" and feel "the great clean wind of a mountain top [blow] through and through."

One more miracle of God, doing for me what I could not do for myself.

Heather K. | Suffolk County DCMC

The Twelve Concepts of AA: a Beginner's Guide

Understanding AA's Third Legacy

The Twelve Concepts of AA were a mystery to me for a long time in recovery. They were not a very compelling mystery since they were seldom referred to at meetings I attended. An oversimplified notion of service was part of my early training in sobriety; concepts of world service that provide principles like "the right of decision," the importance of hearing minority opinions, and "the right of appeal" were not brought to my attention. Only gradually did I notice how the third side of the triangle of recovery, unity, and service was overlooked.

Not until I was sober for a decade, with considerable experience in AA service, did I become General Service Representative (GSR) for my home group. It was then that I began to notice the Twelve Concepts for World Service. If the Steps and Traditions had been off-putting to me when I was first sober, the Concepts were doubly so now. The spiritual principles that I saw embodied in them were familiar and to some degree already functioning in my sobriety. It was the formal, business-like sound of them that seemed to place them outside of day-to-day sober living. Bill W. wrote them out of his long experience as an analyst of business structures and his nearly twenty-five years of involvement in various capacities with the running of the corporate structure of AA. Then in 1962, the General Service Conference accepted the Concepts as part of the Third Legacy of Service. But AA as a whole has never really gotten that message. While recovery and unity are conscious elements in the process of living sober, the Concepts remain the domain of trusted servants in the general service structure. Many members, however, are curious about this important omission and are ready to add this leg of the triangle to their program. Although Bill entitled his writings Twelve Concepts for World Service, many of us have found the Concepts essential in our service activities whether we think them world in scale or not.

Concept I contains the notion of the collective conscience of our Fellowship to augment our group conscience and our common welfare. These are essential to assuming final responsibility for and ultimate authority in making support available to groups through publishing and other services necessary to passing our

message on.

In Concept II, we AAs entrust the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole society to the General Service Conference through our elected area delegates.

The traditional right of decision is outlined in Concept III as a spiritual principle to assume the means of creating and maintaining a working relationship amongst us members. We cannot force anyone to participate actively in the decision-making process, but the right must be there or we fail to work together. This right of participation assumes that minority opinions are heard and considered, that a majority will not dictate decisions, and that voting blocks will be discouraged. And when all is said and done, the right of appeal, as described in Concept V, ought to prevail with personal grievances carefully considered.

Concepts VI through VIII describe the corporate structure and relationship amongst the Trustees, the General Service Board, and the General Service Conference, which should operate in such a way that the business of AA and the spirit-led work of our members inform one another at each step of any activity of our Society.

In a fellowship that has an actual spirit of democracy, where all members are peers, and there is no authority, Concept IX reminds us of the necessity of good service leadership at all levels. Our sound and appropriate ways of choosing leaders and adhering to timely rotation have served us well.

Concept X challenges our ability to match service responsibility with equal authority so that a trusted servant can fulfill the well-defined tasks expected of that member. It is always important to carefully select members of committees, elected officers, or any other doing the work of AA so that we have the best qualified.

Our Twelfth Step speaks of practicing these principles in all our affairs while our Twelfth Tradition

reminds us to place principles before personalities. In the one case, the principles referred to are those of recovery as outlined in the Steps; in the other the principles of unity, as presented in the Traditions. Yet, in pondering both practicing the principles and principles before personalities, there emerges a further set that are outlined in Concept XII in the very specific form referred to as warranties. They have proved to be spirit-inspired standards that are evident in most service activities in the Fellowship. We should maintain the spirit of AA tradition: by avoiding the concentration of perilous wealth or power; by maintaining sufficient operating funds and prudent reserves; by declining to create positions of unqualified authority over others; by reaching decisions through discussion, vote, and substantial unanimity; by refusing to engage in personal punishment or incitement to personal controversy; by avoiding acts of government; by always remaining democratic in thought and action.

As symbolized by the triangle in the circle of Fellowship, the gifts bestowed on us recovering alcoholics known as the three Legacies—the Steps of recovery, the Traditions of unity and the Concepts of service—have proved to be invaluable. For these I'm grateful.

**Boyce B. | Brooklyn, New York | Excerpted from
The Grapevine, August 2004 issue**



"I don't think your sponsor said you had to burn and bury your Fourth Step."

From the General Service Board: Centennial Commemoration Ad Hoc Committee

- It is anticipated that there will be worldwide acknowledgement of AA's 100th anniversary in 2035. The committee has met several times and has engaged in a myriad of discussions surrounding potential strategies to commemorate the Centennial.
- An integrated communication plan is being developed which speaks to professionals and to the A.A. Fellowship. The committee has begun designing a presentation developed to help inform potential collaborators about the Fellowship of A.A. and its Centennial Anniversary. It is their hope that the presentation may serve as a request for proposals for ideas on specific projects surrounding A.A.'s Centennial Anniversary such as documentaries regarding the history of A.A.
- In an effort to engage local A.A. entities and committees, work is underway to initiate a Centennial Logo contest for A.A. members in the U.S. and Canada, along with a creation of toolkits to aid local committees in hosting events.
- The committee has also discussed other methods to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary such as establishing a commemorative stamp through the U.S. & Canada Postal Services; registering an A.A. day in the respective states within the U.S. as well as provincial registries in Canada; and the potential for submitting a "Google Doodle"—the interactive image designed to inform visitors to the Google homepage of major events, holidays, and people from around the world.
- The committee is committed to hearing from you, the Fellowship of A.A. They invite you to forward any input or ideas you may have on how the Fellowship might participate in this celebration to **100years@aa.org**. All ideas are welcome as they continue to explore ways to celebrate the 100th year of our lifesaving program of recovery.

 UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS 			
To add or update an event, please email: agenda@aaseny.org			
Staten Island General Service Meeting and New GSR Orientation	9/6	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Immanuel Lutheran, 2018 Richmond Avenue Staten Island, NY 10314
Putnam County General Service Meeting	9/8	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	2nd Tuesday of every month at Mt Carmel Baptist Church, NY For questions, please contact: dcmc@putnam.aaseny.org
SENY Archives Committee Meeting	9/10	7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Meeting ID: 998 838 7641 Passcode: A49P75
Sullivan County General Service Meeting	9/13	3:15 pm – 4:00 pm	St. John's Church, 15 St John Street Monticello, NY 12701
NERAASA 2027 Planning Meeting	9/13	5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Meeting ID: 857 6635 6458, Passcode: 377710
SENY Intergroup Liaison Committee Meeting	9/14	8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Meeting ID: 998 938 7641, Passcode: A49P75
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting	9/14	8:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Meeting ID: 856 7793 0152 Password: Service
Manhattan General Service Meeting	9/15	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Meeting ID: 815 4964 5983 Passcode: BillandBob
Orange County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	9/15	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	First Presbyterian Church Sullivan 4907 NY-52 Jeffersonville, NY 12748 Zoom ID: 999 6809 5777, Password: Acceptance
Brooklyn County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	9/16	6:30 pm – 9:30 pm	1st Unitarian Church (Chapel) 119-121 Pierrepont Street Brooklyn, NY 11201 Zoom ID: 961 9888 5103, Passcode: 069497
Westchester County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	9/16	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue Fellowship Room, White Plains, NY 10605 Meeting ID: 868 370 8260, Password: WGSA
Rockland County General Service Meeting	9/16	7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Clarkstown Reformed Church 107 Strawtown Road, West Nyack, NY 10994
NERAASA 2026 Program Committee	9/17	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Meeting ID: 814 5937 6216, Passcode: 3231935 Call in number: 646 568 7788
PI Committee Meeting	9/17	7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Meeting ID: 830 6480 3071 Passcode: 386471
Suffolk County General Service Meeting and New GSR Orientation	9/18	7:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Meeting ID: 932 6450 5176, Passcode: 713704 New GSR Orientation: 6:30PM
SENY Assembly & Elections (HYBRID)	9/19	9:15 am – 3:00 pm	Westchester Community College 75 Grasslands Road Valhalla, New York 10595 Meeting ID: 885 5108 4566 Passcode: 461319
SENY Registration Officer Open Hour	9/20	8:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Zoom Meeting ID: 869 7034 8733 Passcode: 052117
Nassau General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	9/21	7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Nassau Intergroup of AA 361 Hempstead Turnpike West Hempstead, NY 11552 Meeting ID: 922 8787 8377, Passcode 12345
SENY Technology Committee Meeting	9/22	7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Meeting ID: 894 0024 2856 / Passcode: 033597 Dial In #: (646) 558-8656
SENY Technology and Communications Office Hour	9/24	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Meeting ID: meet.google.com/ouq-pfqh-kuq
Bronx/Upper Manhattan Share-A-Day	9/26	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Holy Family Church Cafeteria 2158 Watson Ave, Bronx, NY 10472
Manhattan Share-A-Day	9/27	TBD	Bayard Rustin Educational Campus 351 W 18th St New York, NY 10011
SENY Service Participation Meeting	9/28	7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Meeting ID: 82190592188 Passcode: 555546

are admirable, what we are talking about is participation in AA activities. Of course, none of us is forced to do anything in AA. As Concept IV says, my participation in AA activities is a *right*. I may participate as a member of my group's steering committee or an ad hoc committee, or as an elected officer, or just as a member of the group. Or I may choose not to actively participate at all. But from the moment I declare myself a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, the right to participate in AA activities



"I'll take Step 1, with a side of Step 3. Let's skip 4 through 9, and I'll take a little Step 11 for dessert. Oh, and a bottle of wine."

becomes and remains inalienably mine until the moment I remove myself from the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Thanks be to Dr. Bob and Bill for their vision.

Are you aware of the Concepts at work in your home group? Why not hold a meeting to talk about them and their value to your group? If you do, it might be a good idea to announce it in advance. You might ask your GSR to lead it, or your area delegate. You might consider making available a supply of the Conference-approved pamphlet *The Twelve Concepts Illustrated*, as I have done for workshops. It is informative and what's more, people get a genuine kick out of the drawings. I love pictures, don't you?

W.H. | New York, NY | Excerpted from *The Grapevine*, January 1993 issue

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@aseny.org if you're interested in writing an article about your experience, strength, and hope in AA General Service, and we'll let you know the due dates and themes for upcoming issues.

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*Special committees (neither standing nor ad hoc committees)