



THE BROOKLYN JUNCTION

January / February 2011

Good communication is of vital importance. In personal Twelfth Step work, there is no end to communication. The sponsor talks with the drunk; speakers share their experience; we share with each other. But when it comes to general service work, communication has a general tendency to break down. It can take hard work to get the attention of alcoholics, but with a creative approach, they can be encouraged to take time out from the nuts and bolts of recovery to think about another phase of their new lives. Once A.A. members are well informed about service, they often want to become involved and to take on their own service responsibilities.

— The A.A. Service Manual, p. S23

A Special Time in AA History (from your DCMC)

Besides being a month of holiday seasons December marked a special time in our AA history. Consider this from our AA World Services website (www.aa.org) AA Timeline:

“Bill was, at first, unconvinced by Ebby's story of transformation and the claims of the Oxford Group. But in December 1934, after again landing in Towns hospital for treatment, Bill underwent a powerful spiritual experience unlike any he had ever known. His depression and despair were lifted, and he felt free and at peace. Bill stopped drinking, and worked the rest of his life to bring that freedom and peace to other alcoholics. The roots of Alcoholics Anonymous were planted.”

If you would like to see more please take the time to visit our AA World Service Office at

A.A. World Services, Inc.,
475 Riverside Drive at West 120th St. 11th Floor
New York, NY 10115
(212) 870-3400

You get a wonderful tour of our general service offices as well as a look at our archives. It is an amazing experience. Also every Friday at noon there is an AA meeting – sometimes attended by members from lands far and wide.

Also note that we are now able to make contributions to our AA General Service online: <http://www.aa.org>. Click on "CONTACT US" and then click on "GSO FINANCIAL INFORMATION" and select "AA MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE".

In future holiday seasons—and any other season as well—consider giving a gift of a subscription to our AA Grapevine. Other great gift ideas from the Grapevine include books, CDs, tapes, etc. Visit <http://www.aagrapevine.org>

As you are aware our AA Grapevine does not take contributions and relies solely on subscriptions for support. The Grapevine also has a Digital Archive subscription (\$4 month / \$26.97 year), inside of which one can read articles as far back as our earliest beginnings. It is a treasure trove of information and insights!

Also available from our AA Grapevine is an AudioGrapevine subscription (\$4 month / \$19.97 year). These members can download Grapevine articles to their ipods, mp3 players, or computers and listen to articles while on the go!

Planning a visit to our AA World Service office? Right after that tour you can go downstairs to the 10th floor and visit the AA Grapevine office (475 Riverside Drive, Ste 1040, NY 10115 / 212 870-3018 / M-F 9AM-5PM EST)!

Yours in Service,

Michael S., Brooklyn DCMC
dcmc@brooklynaa.org

23rd Spiritual Breakfast–A Rousing Success

On December 5, 2010 Brooklyn General Services had its 23rd Annual Spiritual Breakfast at the Bay Ridge Manor. Doors opened at 8:30 AM but excited people were already waiting for a half hour to attend the event and listen to two awesome speakers share their experience strength and hope on the Breakfast's theme of 'Practicing AA's Spiritual Principles: The Pathway to Unity.' The two speakers—Phil P. of the Manhattan Group and Mary S. of Old Park Slope Caton—spoke together for over an hour. The message of spirituality, hope and unity filled the room to capacity. The 219 people who were present barely moved about the room as the speakers spoke.

The theme image was the original hand written short version of the 6 steps written by Bill W. The program included an incomplete history of the Spiritual Breakfast taken from archived information. 'How It Works' was read in Polish, the 'Twelve Traditions' was read in Russian, and the 'Twelve Concepts' were read in Spanish. English versions were available in the program so participants could follow in English. Finally after the Speakers there was a Count Down and the newest member present was presented by the longest member present with a Big Book signed by all members with over 20 years of sobriety.

For me the personal experience was one of profound joy to have been a part of the event. The DCMs GSRs and Breakfast Committee members made it a near effortless commitment. DCM's from districts, especially districts 405 and 410, helped both in the committee meetings and ticket sales. People stepped up to do service for the breakfast were being an example of AA's Spiritual Unity. There were moments I felt an overwhelming sense of love, joy and hope in the room. I hope I speak for all committee members and volunteers when I say these are the moments of joy and happiness in doing service and we thank you all for the opportunity.

Love and Service,

Bill F., Spiritual Breakfast Chair

South Eastern New York (SENY) Area 49 is hosting the North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) February 25, 26, and 27 at the Westchester Marriott Hotel 670 White Plains Rd Tarrytown, NY 10591

Hotel Registration
and Event Pre-Registration
Deadlines: February 2:
On Site Registration
begins at 1PM Friday,
February 25, 2011.
NERAASA Registration \$20

a totally cool day trip to make Feb 26.
if you can't do the whole weekend!

Polish Language Groups Make Brooklyn-Hosted SENY Assembly Memorable

On November 28, 2010, Brooklyn County hosted the Southeast New York (SENY) Assembly at St. Francis College on Remsen Street in the downtown part of Brooklyn Heights. It was the last SENY Assembly of 2010, and the last Assembly in the rotation of the SENY officers for 2009-2010.

The Assembly was originally scheduled for Sunday, November 7, but a conflict with the Hispanic Convention in Queens scheduled for the same day, and the driving inconveniences posed by the New York Marathon—also occurring on the same day—put the kibosh on using that date for the Assembly.

About 130 AAs from the SENY counties of New York City's five boroughs, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan Counties participated in the event—a turnout that was deemed pretty good for a Sunday. For a comparison, the September 25 SENY assembly—the election assembly—held in Westchester County on a Saturday had well over 200 AAs in attendance.

What made the Brooklyn SENY assembly special, however, was the contribution made by the Polish language district in providing lunch at the event. We were treated to Polish cuisine: cabbage- and potato pirogies, stuffed cabbage, chicken, pork ribs, cooked cabbage and sausage. And brownies for dessert. Thank you Polish language groups!

Business consisted of hearing reports from the Delegate, SENY officers and standing committee chairpeople. Among these was a distress signal from the Grapevine, Inc. Subscription rates for the Grapevine (GV) are declining in the face of access to online methods of carrying and receiving AA's message. This issue may prompt a review of GV's function by the General Service Conference.

A call was put out to the Assembly to solicit stories from AA members who fall into two categories: (a) current members of the armed services: stories of active servicepeople are requested to update the pamphlet, "AA and the Armed Services;" and (b) AA members, whether believers or non-believers, who have found a solution to the concept of spirituality and sobriety.

If you remember last spring's questionnaire concerning the production of a pamphlet or book that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous, this is an initial foray intended to help future General Service Conferences decide whether to go ahead with the production of such a book.

If you are interested in submitting a story, please send it by February 15, 2011, to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 or via email to literature@aa.org.

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words and double spaced. You should include your name and address on a separate piece of paper. Your anonymity will be strictly observed, whether your piece is published or not.

Speaking of books, the SENY archives committee came out with a nifty 2010 revision of the *SENY History Book*, a compendium of SENY history county by county. Many of your GSRs may have brought a copy of it to their home groups; otherwise, you can view it on the SENY website, in the Archives Committee page.

The Assembly also voted to nominate John W. of Putnam County to be SENY's candidate for the next Northeast Regional Trustee. In addition, the Assembly authorized that SENY should invite Ward Ewing, one of the Fellowship's Class A Trustees, and Chairperson of the General Service Board to attend the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA), which is being hosted this year by SENY, scheduled for February 25, 26, and 27 in Tarrytown, New York. Check out the November and December *Links*, or neraasa.org for details on this convention.

That's it for the last SENY Assembly; the next Assembly, sponsored by the Hispanic districts, will be held on February 5, 2011 in Queens. ■

Advances in Technology Bring Us Closer Together

Hi everyone!

I am an alcoholic from Brooklyn NY and through the use and abuse of alcohol broke a bone in my back. Now the doctors promised that in a few years it was going to be very very painful. After 17 yrs it became true and I was housebound until I got my scooter a few years later.

But until I got my scooter I had no way to get to meetings. I live in a very inaccessible area. But I got a computer to keep me busy and discovered online AA. And I was blessed to find AA was the same on the computer except of course it was typed. We had step meetings, open meetings, beginners meetings AND business meetings. We have service commitments like OIAA (online intergroup)...PI...CPC...12 step calls.... The only thing we do differently is we type instead of talk but that is changing too now with audio built into computers. Bottom line, the only thing you cannot do is shake hands or give someone a hug.

So it was with great surprise that when I was able to get to the assembly (Brooklyn Co. General Service Meeting) and get some Junctions I see emphasized in a box in the front page article written by the DCMC that "advances in technology... [gave alcoholics] an even greater ability to isolate."

I beg to differ.

I talk to people all across the world. I talk to people who can't speak English because my computer can translate. When someone calls Brooklyn Intergroup (I do home phone duty) I can find a meeting in 10 seconds by punching in 5 numbers - called a zip code. I have every pamphlet, book and handout at my fingertips.

When someone wakes up at 3AM or cannot go to sleep at all, they can send out an email or IM anyone in their address book and within seconds can be talking to someone. Do that here on the phones and you will get hung up on. Moms who could not get out because they needed to stay with their children can make meetings; deaf people can make meetings; mute people can share; I can make a meeting any day and at any time I wish. Business people do not have to wait until Saturday to make a meeting and students can still study and do a meeting.

Granted, not at the same time.

And online AA is not in competition with f2f (face to face). No one advocates that you do not need f2f; we just state that if you missed your f2f or get home too late you can still make meetings. Or, if you do not want to travel late by yourself you can sign on and still make a meeting. I know of 4 or 5 people that have no access to meetings for hundreds of miles - what about them? Or the three guys I share with in Antarctica? Or the North Pole - shall I tell them to go out in 50° below and make a meeting?

Believe me, you can be in an auditorium with 300 people and still isolate. Isolation is not only a state of being; it is a state of mind.

I came to this assembly because people online wanted to start to bridge the gap between f2f and online. We want to work with f2f just as we ask f2f to work with us. Last time I checked - this was not called isolation.

Bill W. even talked about the new age where we could make meetings without even leaving our homes and - it is here. Please check out www.aa-intergroup.org.

Patcane (7-18-86)



Oops! My Bad.

In the last issue of the Brooklyn Junction I instructed readers to contact me at junction@brooklynaa.org. This is incorrect. Instead, send your articles or questions or comments to brooklynjunction@brooklynaa.org. Please accept my apologies for this error. Thank you.

Cathy M., Brooklyn Junction editor

The Registrar's Contribution to AA Service

The position of Registrar sort of fell into my lap. I had asked for the County Book to assist me when I was working as Share A Day (SAD) chair in 2009. No one had taken the Registrar commitment after the position split off from Secretary, so I was presented with a lot of out-of-date and incomplete info and a pile of loose leaf sign-in sheets. It was serendipitous how things worked out. While I was meeting and contacting people for SAD, I was able to update that info for the County Book. I was then appointed /elected / they *wouldn't take the book back* for the following 2-year commitment cycle. My term ends at the end of this year, 2011.

At the SENY level, there were always two secretarial positions: Secretary and Recording Secretary. As of January 14, 2008 in the SENY handbook, the position of Secretary was changed to Registrar simply because the tasks described are tasks a Registrar would perform. In Brooklyn though, the Secretary did both positions. At the January 2008 Brooklyn County meeting, the body split the position and adopted the name change as well.

The Brooklyn County Registrar's job description is taken directly from the SENY service manual. As Registrar, I keep track of current data. Once groups have a GSR, or a District has a DCM, and they come to the Brooklyn County General Service meeting, these representatives are kept in the loop, provided they have submitted their contact information—address, email, etc.

It should be noted that the Registrar tracks *only* the groups that have active GSRs. It is the GSR that gives the home group its voice and vote in AA. Intergroup, on the other hand, keeps track of all the meetings, whether or not they have GSRs.

In addition to keeping the data current, the Registrar coordinates the bi-monthly mailings, which include the Secretary's notes from the prior County meeting, an updated contact sheet for officers, committee chairs, DCMs, and the times and places of District meetings, plus any flyers for AA-related events that members submit, such as workshops, group anniversaries, and the like.

It is also part of the Registrar's job to coordinate sign-in sheets at the County meetings, and to coordinate County business with the other Brooklyn officers. Plus, in this computer age, the Registrar is responsible for distributing AA-related emails to Brooklyn County when members request it.

Since I've taken over the (previously vacant) Registrar's position, info is updated and corrected after every County meeting; as soon as someone new shows up they're in the loop and they start getting info via email and mailings immediately. The County contact sheet is useful as well. It provides all the current numbers and emails for the officers, DCMs and committee chairs as well as the business meetings for all the Districts. That's 5 mailings per year to approximately 100 Brooklyn AA service members.

Of course, I've had a lot of help. When I was trying to figure out the whole Registrar thing, I reached out to Manhattan Registrars (Laura, Meredith) and the SENY Registrar (Daniel) and to Hugh, the Manhattan DCMC. In August 2010, Andrew G. created a County database for me. Prior to that I was updating info manually all the time. This was painstakingly time-consuming and probably intolerable for Andrew to witness. Now, all info is in an Open Office database, which can pretty much run on any platform. This automation has also been useful for generating labels and sign-in sheets.

So now everything runs pretty smoothly. I guess if I had to request something, it would be that the new GSRs and DCMs write their contact info legibly, especially their email addresses. What I am proud of is the fact that info is updated often. When members request contact info, they're not wasting their time with info that is out of date.

In Service,

Sue B. - registrar@brooklynaa.org

District 412 Carries AA to Community

New Programs for Therapists, Hotels, Libraries

After nearly two decades enduring the trauma of daily drinking, I started to look for relief from the emotional pain. Formerly very successful, I ended up homeless, jobless, and basically unable to function without a drink and pretty hopeless with one. I was camping out with family. My family knew alcoholism, but did not know recovery or AA.

I turned to the professionals: doctors and therapists. They dismissed my drinking as depression or post-traumatic stress and prescribed pills that did not work. Some suggested institutions for the trauma and mental anguish. But I never heard the suggestion "try AA." I got to AA through a rehab that I got to because of the movie "28 Days" and the uninformed but generous support of my family.

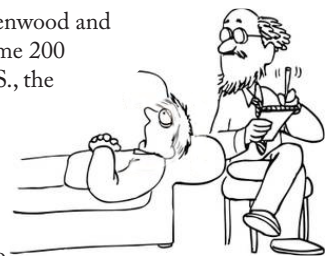
Now that I'm in AA, I am responsible to make sure the hand of AA is there for others who may be reaching out just as I was. To that end, I brought some ideas to my home District 412 of Park Slope, Brooklyn -- an active District of 16 groups. At the time I was the District Committee Member (DCM) and they funded my trip to a big AA service conference, where I learned what other districts in the Northeast were doing. From that point on, I just watched the magic of AA as enthusiastic General Service Representatives (GSRs) turned those ideas into three different outreach projects that allow me and other members to carry the message of AA into our community:

1) **Public Libraries:** Vicki, Slope Open GSR, contacted the library system to find out which of the local ones needed the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. Apparently, people are reluctant to check out Big Books -- perhaps afraid of being labeled "alcoholic" -- and they disappear from the shelves. A half dozen Park Slope groups "adopted" a local library and donated Big Books with a nameplate listing their meeting location and times and the Brooklyn Intergroup telephone number. In the future, perhaps we can add a rack with pamphlets to these libraries and ensure that they remain stocked.



2) **Hotels:** Heidi, then Third Step One Flight Up GSR and alternate DCM, put together a list of hotels and motels with the aim of contacting each concierge and making sure they have current meeting lists available. Adam, the County Public Information (PI) chair attended a District meeting and offered suggestions.

3) **Therapists:** Two GSRs, Susan F. of Greenwood and Laura M. of Midday, compiled a list of the some 200 therapists in Park Slope. Working with Zach S., the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) chair for Brooklyn County, they set up an Outreach Project to Contact and Educate Therapists in the District. Using a CPC workbook, they meet with a small group of people eager to service to train them how to contact the therapists, tell a little of their recovery story, answer questions about AA Steps and Traditions, bring them to an Open Meeting, and provide them with informational pamphlets and meeting lists. The County voted to help fund this CPC project, which involves a substantial amount of literature and meeting lists. Anyone with at least one year of continuous sobriety who would like to be involved can contact Susan (347-423-7991), Laura (646-245-3046), or Zach (718-344-5164).



I heard a new 12-step fellowship got started for spouses of people who go off on tangents. It's called On-and-on-and-on-and-on-anon.

For me, I am grateful to District 412 for experimenting with this method of carrying the message of AA by educating our local professionals. I don't know whether my own journey to recovery would have been shorter had my therapists and doctors been well-versed in AA, but I do know my own journey in recovery can only be helped by sharing my experience, strength, and hope with the professionals now.

Yours in love & service,

Tracey O., immediate past DCM, District 412

**Reaching Out meets Thursdays at 6PM
at 1011 Quentin Rd off Coney Island Ave.**

**Brownsville Way Group meets Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30PM
at 137 Belmont Ave (betw. Mother Gaston and Sackman Streets)**

**District 412 is sponsoring a 4th Step Workshop
A close look at the 4th Step for newcomers and oldtimers alike!
breakfast & lunch • handouts & worksheets
bring your sponsee(s) & your sponsor
Jan 22 from 10AM to 4PM at
St. John's Lutheran Church (Prospect Group)
281 Prospect Ave (at 6 Ave) 11215
Contact Tracey O. at for more info.**

**Spring Creek is celebrating its 37th Group Anniversary
Friday, January 28 at 9PM at St. Laurence Roman Catholic rectory
1020 Van Siclen Ave 11207 (betw. Cozine and Flatlands Aves)**

**In the Garden is hosting its annual Old Timers Meeting
January 29 from 10 - 11:30 AM at 918 Kent Ave 11205**

**The New Young Generation group is having its
25th group anniversary on Sunday January 30th at 5:30 PM.
Buffet dinner after the meeting**

**The 2nd Annual "Promises" Workshop
hosted by Courage to Change & Women In The Spirit
will be held Feb 12 at 1 - 4 PM at 918 Kent Ave 11205**

**the SENY History Book, 3rd Revision, 2010
The newest update of the SENY History Book is available for
download at the SENY website - aasenry.org**

Brooklyn County General Service Meeting

St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street
Wednesday, Jan 12 • Wednesday, Mar 9 • Wednesday, May 11
Wednesday, June 8 • September - TBD • November - TBD
New GSR orientation at 6:30 PM, General Service Meeting at 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Brooklyn Institutions Committee Meeting

Old Park Slope Caton Group, 74 East 17th Street, 11226
First Saturday of the month at 3:30 PM

District 401 403 411 Cluster Meeting

103 Quincey Street basement, between Franklin and Classon, 11238
2nd Saturday of each month at 7:00 PM

District 404 Meeting

St. Ann's Church
167 North 6th St, Williamsburg 11222
1st Friday of the month at 7:15 PM

District 405 Meeting

Our Lady of Refuge Church basement
2020 Foster Avenue at East 21st Street, off Farragut Rd, 11210
Last Saturday of each month at 4:30 PM

District 406 408 413 Cluster Meeting

2240 79th St between Bay Pkwy and 23rd Ave (residence)
2nd Saturday of each month at 11:30 AM

District 407 409 Cluster Meeting

Church of the Good Shepherd
7420 Fourth Avenue between 74th St. and Bay Ridge Parkway
2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM

District 412 Meeting

St. John's Lutheran Church (Prospect Group's meeting place)
281 Prospect Ave off 6th Ave., 11215
3rd Sunday of each month at 6:00 PM

District 414 Meeting

30 Jefferson Street, 11206 (Bed Stuy)
Every Saturday, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

**NEXT SENY ASSEMBLY HOSTED BY HISPANIC DISTRICTS AND
HELD IN QUEENS SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2011, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

FROM BELT PARKWAY, EAST OR WEST: Exit at Crossbay Blvd North. Stay to right approx 7 blocks. At first elevated train station, Crossbay Blvd becomes Woodhaven Blvd. Continue in the far right lane, service lane (past Mod-ell's), 2 blocks to 101 Ave. Make a right and go 8 blocks.

BY BUS: The Q8 stops in front. If you are traveling on Woodhaven Blvd (Q11 bus) you can transfer to the Q8. Woodhaven Blvd is approx 96th street. Go east to 104 Street.

BY SUBWAY: 104th Street (Oxford Ave) is the stop on the "A" train. Walk north 2 blocks.



Brooklyn County Contacts

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Brooklyn County DCMs

District	Name	District	Name
400	Adam S.	407, 409 cluster	Bill R.
401	Dennis A.	410	Nellie P.
402	Blake B.	411	Russell D. Kevin Y. (alt)
403	Annette C.	412	Holmes R. Lou G. (alt)
404	Vincent M.	Hispanic (414)	Mario
405	Richard S.	Polish	Mark
406, 408, 413 cluster	Karen K., Larry L. (alt)	Russian	Valentina G.

Mark your calendars! District 406 408 413 cluster is sponsoring a workshop-Recovery, Unity and Service: Body, Mind and Spirit-to be held on March 26, 2011 from 1-3 PM. The exact location has not been determined yet, but will be in the district area.

One of the panelists will speak in Russian, with translation into English provided. There will be English-speaking panelists, with translation into Russian.

Один участник выступит на русском языке, будет предоставлен перевод на английский. Другие участники будут говорить по-английски с переводом на русский.