



# THE BROOKLYN JUNCTION

May / June 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

## From Your DCMC

Brooklyn County Share A Day is upon us once again. It will be held at Bishop Kearney High School on Saturday, June 18th - just a little over a month away. Preparations are underway and your help is needed. Getting the word out is essential - so you can start making announcements.

Volunteers are needed in the planning process so you can come to a planning meeting and volunteer. People will be needed the day of to set up, get the coffee going, make and hang signs, greet people, prep and serve our AA breakfast and lunch, chair meetings, attend meetings, workshops, and help with clean up.

It is our day to open our doors to the community and for our members throughout Brooklyn to come together. Our theme this year: We Are Responsible For AA's Future - Let It Begin With Us.

By the time you read this our 61st General Service Conference will have come to a close. Many of you took the time to answer the delegate's questionnaire put forth by our delegate, Susan F. I want to take this time to say thank you all for the efforts you put in to get your groups' voice heard. If you are a DCM, please remember to thank your GSRs and if you are a GSR please remember to thank your groups. Good service leadership is not just being able to tell people what to do but being able to help others feel appreciated for what they do.

We Are Responsible For AA's Future - Let It Begin With Us. Just what does that mean? Well, for me, they are big words that inspire a big idea. Sometimes it can seem to be an overwhelming idea: AA's future depends on me? On us? Eek! Like it or not, while I do not represent AA wherever I go, wherever I go I am an example of the program of AA in action.

True, for those who endured the pain of my using, in whatever capacity it befell them, there is a joy at just seeing me finally sober. But now that I am sober what's different about me? What kind of friend am I? What kind of family member am I? What kind of worker am I? Fellow AA member? Human being? Have I changed /am I changing, or am I who I was, only not drunk?

"Attraction, not promotion" means not merely that we don't promote, but also that there is something that attracts our interest, which for most of us is something about what we are that others find attractive and want to emulate or find out about. In this small personal way I can make a contribution to AA's future in each area of my life that I walk through by being in some way a better person today than yesterday because of the program and fellowship of AA.

To survive, the program must be practised; otherwise it will wither and disappear. How many home group business meetings have you been to and when it was time to fill service positions the same 2 or 3 people, or no one at all, raised their hands? How many times has someone brought up the idea of a workshop or other such group-sponsored event, everyone seems excited about it, but come time to plan and get it going only a handful of people show up? How many meetings have you been to and seen literature racks empty or sparsely filled with crumpled pamphlets? Literature tables thrown together in a sloppy rushed manner with no one by it to answer questions? How many members of your home group have you actually spent time getting to know outside of the shares you hear at meetings?

The AA group is the heartbeat of AA. Home groups are essential components of our fellowship. Making sure our group is not just strong and active and stays connected to AA as a whole but making sure it remains a place where people, both new and seasoned, WANT to come to will ensure the future of AA.

Our declaration of responsibility—"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help I want the hand of AA to always be there and for that I am responsible"—is more than just a bunch of high sounding words we say at the end of some of our activities. They are words that reflect our commitment to our primary purpose: to stay sober and help others to achieve sobriety. They are words of action and for that we are responsible.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Brooklyn County Share A Day.

In Service,

Michael S., DCMC

**32nd Annual**  
**Brooklyn County Share A Day**  
**Saturday, June 18 8AM-5PM**  
**Bishop Kearney High School**  
**Bay Parkway & 60th Street**  
**Spread The Word!**  
**We are responsible for AA's future. Let it begin with us!**

Remaining planning meetings:

Sunday, May 22 T.B.A.

Sunday, June 5 3:00 PM at New Young Generation

Sunday, June 12 3:30 PM at Old Park Slope Caton

## SENY Pre-Conference Assembly

Hosted by Nassau County, the April 9 Pre-Conference Assembly was held in Glen Head, NY. This Assembly conducted a lot of business, and, in addition to hearing Group Service Representatives (GSRs) deliver their groups' opinions on the Delegate's Questionnaire (see below), brought to our attention a number of issues that we may want to devote some time to discussing.

As is typically the case, the first part of the morning was given over to GSR (Group Service Representative) and DCM (District Committee Member) orientations, a CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community)/PI (Public Information) workshop, a workshop on Concepts III, IV and V, and a workshop titled, "Leadership: Where Does It Begin?"

The Leadership workshop was moderated by our Area Chairperson, Jim W., and speakers included our own Michael S., Brooklyn DCMC. Also presenting were Kathy B. a DCM from Suffolk County, and Darren F., past Manhattan DCMC. This workshop was extremely well attended and was entertaining as well as informative.

The Delegate's Questionnaire (see below) comprised the main portion of this Assembly. A number of GSRs delivered their groups' responses before the microphone. On the Corrections Agenda Item B and Public Information Agenda Item E (anonymity in the digital age) they were unanimous in their support. Most of the GSRs supported the idea of developing a Finance workbook (Finance Agenda Item C), of allowing the *Grapevine* to accept contributions (Grapevine Agenda Item B), and to consider approval of the General Service Board's policy on actors portraying current and/or potential AA members (Public Information Agenda Item C). Most of the GSRs objected to putting the AA Preamble in the front of the Big Book (Literature Agenda Item H), but were not opposed to placing it in the appendix. And most of the GSRs were against the idea of reconsidering the 2010 Conference decision to develop literature on spirituality that includes stories from atheist and agnostic alcoholics (Literature Agenda Item G).

The Assembly had time to conduct an open forum on whether to rotate the hosting of SENY Assemblies amongst the counties, as is being done now, or to select a single, central location at which to hold the Assemblies. There was a strong preference for the system we have now. Toward the end of the discussion, proposals about amalgamating some of the counties for the purpose of hosting Assemblies surfaced (e.g., Upstate West, Upstate East, the 5 Boroughs, Long Island).

We also learned that because of funding cutbacks at the non-profit organization at which we have our SENY office, the hours at which it can be open have been shortened: weekdays the office must now be closed at 8PM, instead of 10PM. And access to the SENY office on Sunday is eliminated altogether. A committee is forming to look into alternative locations for the SENY office.

### Workshop: Unity • Service • Recovery (Семинар: Единство • Служение • Выздоровление)

Hi Brooklyn County,

Many thanks to Districts 406, 408 and 413, Brooklyn County, SENY and Pedro of the Spanish district for their support in the district cluster bilin-

gual workshop delivered in Russian and English. This took place at the Kingsway Group on March 26. The Russian Group is in district 408. Andrey of the Russian group spoke in his native language on Recovery. Just imagine what it took for this young man to surrender to this powerful disease in a foreign country at such a young age! Linda M. and Isadora who are Brooklyn's own elder states-

men were brilliant in conveying what Unity and Service are. I sat in comfort and listened with ease without realizing I had something in my ear: I was listening to Mike's voice translating as Andrey spoke, and for this I thank the Spanish district, since the practice of providing translation began with them. I pray for many more bilingual workshops, in all our Districts and in all languages.

Your friend,

Karen K.  
DCM, District 408

### Beginners Meetings: A New Beginning

AA Beginners meetings-A New Beginning service workshop was held on April 2nd at Our Lady of Refuge Rectory (Refuge group meeting place). The workshop was hosted by District 405, with active participation from the Flatbush Dorchester, Friday Night Live, Old Park Slope Caton, Once Again, Refuge, Starting Point and We Can groups. There was a good turnout with approximately 40 people attending.

**The Grapevine needs 4500 more subscriptions for its paper version to make ends meet. That's an average of 48 subscriptions per Area. Now that the Grapevine has launched its digital magazine, an average of 65 new online subscriptions (at \$19.97 per year) per Area would also make up the shortfall.**

– Delegate's Report to the SENY  
2011 Pre-Conference Assembly

### The Delegate's Questionnaire

#### Corrections Agenda Item B

"Consider adding references to the Big Book in the pamphlet 'AA in Correctional Facilities,' including a proposed section describing Big Book studies as a possible meeting format.

#### Finance Agenda Item C

"Consider a request 'that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a Finance workbook, a draft of which is to be made available to the 2012 General Service Conference, to assist group, intergroup/central offices, district and area service workers in carrying the message of our shared responsibility for the 7th Tradition."

#### Grapevine Agenda Item B

"Consider permitting AA Grapevine, Inc. to accept contributions limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses with excess funds continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund."

#### Literature Agenda Items G and H

G) "Consider request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that 'the trustees' Literature' Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous."

H) "Consider a request to include the AA Preamble in the front inside pages of the Big Book"

#### Public Information Agenda Items C and E

C) "Consider approval of the General Service Board 'Policy on Actors Portraying AA Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates.'"

E) "Consider revisions to 'Understanding Anonymity' which includes text on the topic of anonymity in the digital age and answers the question 'What do I tell my loved ones about protecting the anonymity of the AA member they may meet?'"

The focus of the workshop was to pass on AA's experience on suggested ways of leading beginners meetings. The workshop opened with reading the AA pamphlet "Suggestions for Leading Beginners Meetings". (You can find this pamphlet for your group online at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) by searching for 'beginners meeting' in the search bar, or go directly to <http://www.aa.org/catalog.cfm?origpage=208&product=96>).

In the pamphlet there are guidelines for leaders. There is information on the following topics for beginners meetings:

1. How to stay away from one drink one day at a time
2. Alcoholism: the disease
3. How it works: the twelve steps suggested as a program of recovery
4. The twelve traditions: What we learn from our mistakes
5. AA in print- service to others
6. Other factors in AA recovery

There were two speakers, Althea J. from New Young Generation and Tom K. from Bay Ridge. Discussion sessions were held after each segment.

Althea told us about how she got sober, bringing her small children to meetings when necessary. She reminded us that we are here to save our lives. We need to be Honest, Open and Willing. She suggests asking for newcomers and being friendly and welcoming to them. The newcomer is the most important person. Going to a clubhouse for fellowship was an important part of her early recovery. She also reminded us that AA has no opinion on outside issues—for example on medical issues. AA does not address all our problems. We need to know what AA is and what it is not. It is not a cure all; we have a primary purpose. She made reference to Dr. Bob's address at the first AA International Convention in Cleveland, OH in 1950, "Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind but have very little to do with our actual A.A. work. Our Twelve Steps, when immersed down to the last, resolve themselves into the words 'love' and 'service.' We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind".

When the second speaker, Tom K., came in to AA 61 years ago (sober 55 years), there was no such things as Beginners meetings! He started off with many funny jokes to get our attention. One was about how Brooklyn used to be known for breweries, such as the Schaeffer one on Kent ave. There is a story of a man who worked there and fell in one of the huge vats of beer and died. A young fellow was consoling himself after hearing the news, that at least it must have been a quick death. The plant foreman quickly corrected him saying "Not at all, the man who fell in got out three times to go to bathroom"!

He remembers Dr. Bob saying "Trust God, clean house, and help a newcomer." He told us drinking was hard, sobriety is easy. Breaking parents' hearts...drunk on the floor of a train car in New Mexico with people walking over me, waking up in padded cell...drinking was hard, sobriety is easy.

When he joined the fellowship, he met 'sober' people, not 'newcomers slipping all over the place, not people coming back counting days and getting applauded'. He himself slipped after 5 years; he forgot the 24 hour plan. At that time newcomers were told to "sit down and shut up" for the first three months, until they will have something to pass on. The Bay Ridge group had the first beginners meeting in Brooklyn; it was held before the regular 9PM meeting. Coffee was after that. The leader had to have one year. If people were caught just going to the earlier Beginners meetings and not the main meeting after he would say "oh, you just want to go home early!" He recalls most people stopped drinking after their first meeting.

He also talked about being a proud AA member. He told stories of all the great things sober AA people have done in our community over the years.

Like in 1961 there was a terrible plane crash killing many people on 7th and Sterling in Park Slope. What people don't know is that there was an AA clubhouse down block house serving coffee and cake to emergency workers. There was another story of a sober man saving a baby on 9/11. He states, "AA is the real hero." He remembers his friend saying "any day an alcoholic doesn't drink is a good day".

In loving service,

Sylvia B.  
GSR, Starting Point Group

## Spirituality Through Service Across County Lines

From the rocky beaches of Montauk Point to the teeming boardwalks of Coney Island, the four counties of Long Island could be said to make up the southeast part of the Southeast New York Area of AA (or SESENY).

At last January's Brooklyn County General Service Meeting (GSM), Rob M., DCMC of Suffolk County, and Kathy B., a Suffolk County DCM, along with a newcomer, made the trek all the way from Suffolk County in that nasty snowy weather to invite Brooklyn County to participate in an event that had been sponsored last year by three counties (Queens, Nassau and Suffolk).

The theme, "Spirituality Through Service," will be the same for this year's event. At our last planning session, we proposed a name for it: "Long Island Spirituality Through Service Jamboree." You can mark your calendar with LISTS (nice and compact) and we picked "Jamboree" to emphasize that it's a celebration rather than a workshop. The slogan is "Spirituality Across County Lines—from Coney Island to Montauk."

Here are the definite specifics: When: Sunday, September 25, 2011 11AM-6PM. Where: Sweet Hollow Hall, located in West Hills County Park in Melville 11747. This will be familiar to all of you who will have attended the June 12 SENY Post-Conference Assembly; it's the same location.

There will be lunch, and probably refreshments throughout the day. (At our last planning session, we considered fruit and vegetable platters to be made available for grazing.) We discussed having each county perform a skit. We are also hoping to have the four County Intergroups, along with the standing committee chairs of the four counties coordinate with the presentation of exhibits or man tables. We discussed the possibility of having an inter-county competition in getting new subscriptions to *The Grapevine* with a prize to be awarded to the winner.

We are planning to have a variety of panels and roundtables and we've arranged for our alternate delegate bring the SENY projection equipment and DVDs. All in all, it'll be a very nice way to wrap up summer and get ourselves primed for reconvening our County GSMs and SENY assemblies, and maybe even geared up for the group anniversary season that will hit us in October.

In love and service,  
Cathy M., *Brooklyn Junction* editor and LISTS committee member.

## SENY Post-Conference Assembly

9 AM to 4 PM Sunday, June 12, 2011

Sweet Hollow Hall in West Hills County Park

Long Island Expressway East  
Exit 49 Sweet Hollow Road  
Left on Gwynne Road

## May 2011

### Northeast Regional Forum: May 20-22, 2011

The Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) is put on by the AA General Service Board and is "open" to AA members or to anyone interested in AA.

Forums are designed to enhance communication and participation among AA members, the General Service Board (GSB), and staff and directors from the General Service Office (GSO) Staff and the *AA Grapevine*. Forums offer a meeting place to ask questions and spark new ideas to help carry the AA message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic.

This Forum provides unique opportunities for AA members throughout the Northeast Region to share their experience, strength and hope on a variety of topics, including:

- Why should I care about AA beyond my home group?
- AA History - Boring or incredible spiritual journey?
- How does support of GSO help AAs worldwide?
- Does your home group use the *AA Grapevine* or *La Viña* as a Twelfth Step tool?
- The upside down triangle - how are the General Service Board, the AAWS and *Grapevine* Boards accountable to the fellowship?
- How do I have a voice in AA?
- What do the Traditions and Concepts have to do with my home group?

## June 2011

### Saturday, June 4: Evening Workshop-The Spirit of Service

7:00 – 10:30 PM at St Mary's Gate of Heaven  
101-18 104th Street, Ozone Park, NY 11416

SENY Archivist with great display • Two Speakers on AA Service  
Video: Bill & Dr. Bob on the Traditions & Service

Sponsored by Districts 305 & 313

Contacts: Sean 347-724-1491 (DCM) David 646-338-8281 (ALT DCM)

**June 18: 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Brooklyn County Share A Day, 8AM-5PM** at Bishop Kearney High School, Bay Parkway and 60<sup>th</sup> St.

## July 2011

### July 29 - 31: The 42<sup>nd</sup> New York State Convention

Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown NY

## August 2011

### August 19-21: 32<sup>nd</sup> New York State Informational Workshop

Carondelet Hospitality Center, 385 Watervliet Shaker Road,  
Latham NY 12110

## September 2011

### September 25: Long Island Spirituality Through Service

**Jamboree**, 11AM-6PM at Sweet Hollow Hall, located in West Hills County Park in Melville 11747 (same location as SENY Post-Conference Assembly)

### Flatbush-Dorchester Meeting Change

Flatbush-Dorchester is now meeting on Tuesday 7PM and Wednesday 7PM. The Tuesday meeting is an Open Discussion meeting and the Wednesday meeting is a Step meeting.

### FLATBUSH DORCHESTER

Flatbush Tompkins Congregational Church  
424 East 19th Street, Basement (@ Dorchester Road) 11226

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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. Cathy M. (alt)	Polish	Mark
406, 408, 413 cluster	Karen K.	Russian (in 408)	Valentina G., GSR

### Brooklyn County General Service Meeting

St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street

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 every month at 3:30 PM (no meeting in July)

**District 401 403 411 Cluster Meeting** - 2nd Sat. of the month at 7:00 PM

103 Quincey Street basement, between Franklin and Classon, 11238

**District 404 Meeting** - 1st Friday of the month at 7:15 PM

St. Ann's Church / 167 North 6th St, Williamsburg 11222

**District 405 Meeting** - Last Saturday of each month at 4:30 PM

Our Lady of Refuge Church basement

2020 Foster Avenue at East 21st Street, off Farragut Rd, 11210

**District 406 408 413 Cluster Meeting** - 2nd Sat. of the month at 11:30 AM

2240 79th St between Bay Pkwy and 23rd Ave (residence)

**District 407 409 Cluster Meeting** - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM

Church of the Good Shepherd

7420 Fourth Avenue between 74th St. and Bay Ridge Parkway

**District 412 Meeting** - 3rd Sunday of each month at 6:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church (Prospect Group's meeting place)

281 Prospect Ave off 6th Ave., 11215

**District 414 Meeting** - Every Saturday, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

30 Jefferson Street, 11206 (Bed Stuy)