



THE

BROOKLYN JUNCTION

September / October 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

Area 49 Assembly/Committee Inventories

Inventory fever is not confined to Brooklyn these days. At the August 8 SENY Committee meeting we were presented with a number of comments that were collected over the course of previous Assembly/Committee Inventories (held in September 2005, June 2009, and September 2009) and are listed as ‘pending.’ The SENY officers urged that these remarks be gone over by the groups, districts and counties to determine if the issues brought up have been successfully addressed. This is stuff we may wish to take up at our district meetings, with our home groups, or tackle at a County General Service meeting. Our next Assembly is this month, September 17, in Sullivan County. The following Assembly will be held in November.

17. Groups/GSRs/DCMs/DCMCs

- a. How can we get better participation at the district level?
- b. There are not enough DCMs showing up at committee meetings; problem meeting quorum.
- c. Are DCMs fulfilling their service commitments?
- d. Participation is always an issue: some districts are having difficulty with participation at the district level, although county level also has difficulty attracting participation.
- e. It is the responsibility of the DCMCs to make sure their DCMs are attending [county GSMs or Area Committee meetings].
- f. Confusion on how to transition from GSR to other levels of service within SENY.
- g. There is a decline in the number of GSRs who transfer into the DCM level of service.
- h. Encourage GSRs/DCMs to have alternates.
- i. Not enough DCMs stepping up to do service; groups don’t always support the districts in SENY because they don’t know or realize that it’s necessary.
- j. DCMs seem to be overlooked at the Area Committee meeting in favor of the DCMCs.
- k. Not sure if GSRs realize they should actively participate in assembly discussions.
- l. Invite county service committee chairs to Area Committee meetings.
- m. Many things are done well at SENY but look at the districts
- n. Some members come to one or two meetings; then we don’t see them again.
- o. Not all groups throughout SENY are represented by a GSR; we need to increase participation and communication with the groups throughout the district structure.
- p. Participation over the years seems to have decreased, especially with the Spanish speaking groups and we need to find out why.
- q. Districts and counties also need to inform groups about what is happening in SENY and AA as a whole.
- r. SENY is connected to many groups but not to all in the area. Stronger effort needs to be done to reach out to groups.

- s. What about monthly or bi-monthly service workshops throughout SENY?
- t. Not always easy giving a GSR report to the group. Some don’t want to hear it.
- u. Should encourage members to support other district- and county-level events like share-a-days, spiritual breakfasts, etc.
- v. Many groups don’t know about SENY, GSO or AAWS.
- w. Many groups don’t want to be involved in service beyond their group meetings; often the GSR is the last position to be elected in a group.
- x. DCMs should visit groups in their districts.
- y. Stress importance of districts and DCMs.
- z. GSRs don’t bring information to groups.
- aa. GSRs aren’t attending Area Assemblies and aren’t volunteering for committees.
- ab. There is a lack of service workshops in general.
- ac. GSRs should pull a committee name out of the hat and join that committee.
- ad. Bring someone to an Assembly; bring sponsees to assemblies to show them how the AA structure works.
- ae. Have service workshops at the group level: how can we support the districts?
- af. We should be supporting other county and area events.
- ag. SENY provides a lot of information, sometimes too much, but all members need to be more responsible by encouraging active participation wherever they go.
- ah. Some members are lazy and don’t bother to ensure that information on what’s happening in SENY or AA is getting back to groups.
- ai. Maybe there should be a DCM workshop.

Long Island Spirituality Through Service
CELEBRATION

When: Sunday, September 25, 2011 10am-6pm
Where: Sweet Hollow Hall, located in West Hills County Park in Melville 11747 (same location as the June 12 SENY Post-Conference Assembly)

“Spirituality Across County Lines— from Coney Island to Montauk Point.”

contact Rob M. - suffolk@aaseny.org or
Cathy M. - brooklynjunction@brooklynaa.org

Traditions for September/October

- 9. AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
- 10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Concepts for September/October

- IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

32nd Brooklyn County Share A Day 2011 Wrap-Up

The Brooklyn County Share A Day, which was held on Saturday, June 18, 2011 at Bishop Kearney High School in Bay Ridge, was a success. There were 294 people who signed the book at registration, plus whoever arrived without signing in. A hearty thanks goes to Susan F. (GSR, Greenwood) for handling the registration.

The meetings—46 classroom-sized ones (including four in Spanish and two each in Russian and Polish), two auditorium-sized ones, 4 AIAnon ones, four hours of AA DVDs and a panel workshop lasting two hours—were well attended. Thanks go to all the volunteers who chaired and spoke at these meetings. Special thanks go to Holmes R. (DCM, District 412) for serving as the Share A Day program chair, and to Charlene B. (GSR, Slope Open) for serving as volunteer coordinator.

Breakfast was bagels, muffins, yogurt, fresh fruit and an assortment of juices. It was provided along with the day’s beverages by Sue B. (Greenwood/ Brooklyn County Registrar) with the help of Free Willie (Twelve to Life), his sponsees and the newcomers he inducted into service. Free Willie’s team—a long-standing Share A Day institution—was indispensable for setting up coffee, breakfast, lunch and for cleaning up afterward.

Lunch was organized by Karen K. (DCM, District 408), and what a feast that was! The Polish groups made wonderful stuffed cabbage (like they did for the Brooklyn County-hosted SENY Assembly of January 2011). The Russian group (District 408) provided crepes stuffed with cheese and cherries. The Spanish district supplied breaded chicken breasts with a delicious salsa. Karen provided the pasta salads and Althea (New Young Generation and past DCMC) furnished a green salad. Nellie P. (DCM, District 410) supplied collard greens. Sue B. brought a big platter of crudités. Cookies and cream puffs rounded up the dessert.

Thanks are also due to Richard S. (DCM, District 405) for publicity, getting volunteers and standing as master of ceremonies in the Sobriety Countdown. Likewise, thanks to Joseph and Sarah, who furnished childcare. A special thanks goes to Bill F. (Brooklyn Heights) who stepped forward as volunteer-at-large and provided publicity, helped with signage and cleanup, and made Share A Day for the event’s chair completely stress-free. Again, thanks to Sue B. who, having served as Share A Day chair for 2010, provided guidance and encouragement to the present chair. Also to Michael S., Brooklyn DCMC and past Share A Day chair, who kept us focused and on schedule. And to Heidi C., who chaired the Gratitude meeting. And to Alex R., Share A Day co-chair.

I am honored to thank Isadora (former SENY delegate and member of We Can), Althea (New Young Generation and past DCMC), Boyce B. (former SENY delegate and member of Slope Open) and Jim W. (current SENY chair) for their participation as panelists in the workshop on leadership. Our fellowship needs leadership at all levels to carry AA’s message—from the sponsor to the area delegate to the trustee, we are responsible for making sure the program of Alcoholics Anonymous stays available to, and reaches in unadulterated form, the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

Likewise I am honored to thank Linda McG., our current SENY alternate delegate and member of the Refuge group, for showing the AA DVDs throughout the day, and for speaking at the Big meeting after lunch. Likewise, thanks to Darren F., former Manhattan DCMC and SENY liaison to NYCYPAA, also for speaking at the Big meeting.

Thanks to Bishop Kearney High School for letting us use their facilities for the 32nd time in a row, to Katherine Schmidt, our contact with the school, and to Hector, the school’s janitor.

We spent \$2,457.08, coming in at \$42.92 under the \$2,500 budgeted for this year’s event. I would also like to thank the groups and individuals who made donations to offset our expenses.

Finally, thanks to all who took part in the 32nd Brooklyn County Share A Day—as volunteers and as participants. Without you, Share A Day would not have taken place.

In Service,
Cathy M., 2011 Share A Day Chair

Brooklyn County General Service Meeting
Wednesday September 7, 2011 and Wednesday, November 9, 2011
St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street
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)

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)

District 412 Meeting - 3rd Sunday of each month at 6:00 PM
St. John’s Lutheran Church (281 Prospect Ave off 6th Ave., 11215)

District 414 Meeting - Every Saturday, 5:00 - 7:00 PM
30 Jefferson Street, 11206 (Bed Stuy)

Brooklyn County Contacts		
DCMC	Michael S.	dcmc@brooklynaa.org
Alt. DCMC	Kathleen O.	altdcmc@brooklynaa.org
Treasurer	Sara Z.	treasurer@brooklynaa.org
Secretary	Michael C.	secretary@brooklynaa.org
Registrar	Sue B.	registrar@brooklynaa.org
Archives	Jim H.	archives@brooklynaa.org
Convention Liaison	Charles P.	
CPC	Zack S.	cpc@brooklynaa.org
Corrections	Bill F.	corrections@brooklynaa.org
Grapevine		
Intergroup Liaison	Jane K.	intergroup@brooklynaa.org
Junction Editor	Cathy M.	brooklynjunction@brooklynaa.org
Literature (interim)	Adam S.	
Public Information	Adam S.	
Share-A-Day	Cathy M.	shareaday@brooklynaa.org
Special Needs	Charlene B.	specialneeds@brooklynaa.org
Sponsorship	Heidi C.	
Treatment Facilities	Fred P.	
Website	Cortney D.	webchair@brooklynaa.org

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

September 2011
Wednesday, September 14th at 8:00 PM.
The Russian AA Group in Brooklyn will be celebrating 8 years

2609 East 19th street, Brooklyn, NY (between ave Z и Jerome ave)
The main speaker will be our guest from the new Russian Group that was recently founded in Minnesota. Please come to support and celebrate with us. And pass it on!
For additional information, see our website : <http://russianaa.com/>

Brooklyn Intergroup Beginners Workshop!
Come One...Come All!
Saturday, September 24, 2011, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Location: 367 20th Street (off 7th Avenue)
(Greenwood Meeting Place)

September 25: Long Island Spirituality Through Service Celebration 10am-6pm at Sweet Hollow Hall, located in West Hills County Park in Melville 11747 (same place as SENY Post-Conference Assembly)

October 2011
October 1 10am-3pm: SENY’s Archives Day
50th Anniversary of *the Link*

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Area’s newsletter with a day of speakers, activities, archives displays from all districts and counties! Discover why preserving our history is so valuable and what exactly it is that gets archived! Learn preservation techniques! Enjoy a day of learning, sharing, commemorating! Lunch will be served.
Location: St Monica’s Church, 413 East 79th Street, NYC
(between First and York Avenues - room adjacent to 79th Street Workshop
Send questions to archives@aasenyo.org

Saturday, October 1 at 7PM - 11:30 PM:
Greenwood’s Group Anniversary
at Imaculate Heart of Mary School, Fort Hamilton Pkwy & E. 3rd St.
There will be a pre-Halloween theme—costumes are welcome!
speakers • food • dance • fellowship

New Treatment Meeting at Long Island College Hospital
Thursdays 7pm @ Atlantic and Hicks, Brooklyn

This meeting is an opportunity to bring your experience, strength and hope with in-patients at LICH’s MICA (Mentally Ill /Chemically Addicted) unit. This is not an open meeting. A minimum of two years of continuous sobriety strongly suggested.

If you are interested in doing this type of service, please contact Allison C.