



THE

BROOKLYN JUNCTION

January / February 2012

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 Incoming DCMC

Greetings to all Brooklyn County from your incoming DCMC. It is my pleasure to serve the county and to enable us to carry the message of sobriety to the suffering alcoholic. My thanks to all previous DCMCs who have paved the way and set such high standards for me to follow.

Bill W. stated in Concept IX: “Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous;” and in Concept X: “Every service responsibility should be matched by equal service authority - the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.”

It is my intention to live up to the Traditions and Concepts to the best of my ability in my service to Brooklyn County.

One major goal for Year 2012 is to have a General Service Representative (GSR) for each active group; and a District Committee Member (DCM) for all 13 Districts as delineated on the Brooklyn General Service Map. This I intend to accomplish by establishing an ad hoc Committee on Service Participation on which some trusted servants have agreed to serve.

A second goal is to fill our Standing Committee Chair positions with persons who are enthusiastic and willing to carry out the duties of these positions.

Lastly, I intend to review our group inventory and bylaws to see in which order we can address outstanding issues.

None of these goals can be accomplished without your help - i.e., stepping up to the individual service positions such as GSR, DCM and Standing Committee Chairs, as well as attending Brooklyn County’s General Service Meetings and the SENY Assemblies.

In Love and Service,

Nellie P., DCMC Brooklyn County

A Heads-Up from your Treasurer

Insofar as I shall be at every Brooklyn County General Service Meeting, and insofar as I always like to find a primo parking place near St. Francis College, you can expect to find me at the meetings early. Feel encouraged to arrive early as well when you need to be reimbursed for expenditures made on behalf of Brooklyn County.

In Service,

Cathy M., Treasurer Brooklyn County

Brooklyn County Group Inventory

*Below is an excerpt from a letter that summarizes the main items to focus upon as we follow up on our County’s Group Inventory, which was conducted June 8, 2011. The letter was part of the County mailing in advance of our September General Service Meeting(GSM). We did not get to the inventory follow-up at either the September or November GSMs. The County’s business at the beginning of the new year (and rotation) may not leave enough time to pursue the inventory-related issues. Nevertheless, it remains “old business” until it does get addressed.*

At our last County meeting [June 2011] we conducted a group inventory....Below are some points that came up multiple times throughout the inventory minutes.

1. Is the County message or voice harsh, and if so, how do we make it more inclusive and less judgemental?
2. How do we improve the connection between members and with the SENY area?
3. How do we attract service from members throughout *all* of Brooklyn and get better representation from darker districts?
4. How do we open up communication between servant to servant (e.g., when someone rotates out)?
5. How can we become more involved in educating Brooklyn groups? Should we host more workshops or events?
6. How do we as a county insure that people have the freedom to do their service positions without being overly criticized for “failures”? How do we trust our trusted servants? (People need to have the “freedom to fail” in AA.)
7. The AA purpose sometimes gets lost amongst personalities. How do we better incorporate the traditions to help with this?
8. How do we better incorporate spirituality into our work and our communication at the county level?

The above points are simply recurring issues that came up, but are not all-inclusive. Although these are “defects,” please also note that many comments were very positive about the service that is done at the County. Like every person and group, we have both assets and defects....

Sincerely,

Heidi C., Service Sponsorship Chair 2010-2011

August 31, 2011

2012: New Year, New Rotation

Brooklyn County made quick work of electing its officers for the new 2012-2013 Rotation. DCMC is Nellie P., former DCM of District 410 and member of Army Plaza Group. Alternate DCMC is Michael C., former Recording Secretary, and member of the Greenwood Group. Treasurer is Cathy M., Alt-DCM of District 405 and member of the Once Again Group. Recording Secretary is Susan F., Greenwood’s GSR. And Registrar is Sara Z, member of the Park West group and formerly the County’s Treasurer.

This County General Service Meeting will devote some of its time to selecting Standing and Ad Hoc Committee chairs.

AA and Dual Diagnosis

To begin the new year the South East New York (SENY) Accessibility/Special Needs Committee (A/SNC) put on their annual Share a Day on Saturday January 7, 2012. The turnout was between four and five times the number of people we estimated would attend. Seating was inadequate: it was standing room only; we didn’t prepare enough food for everyone to eat lunch; the microphone malfunctioned. In spite of all these mishaps, the event drew over 80 people from 10 of SENY’s 12 counties, plus a few people from Northern New Jersey.

The theme was “AA and Dual Diagnosis,” a subject that, in my opinion, is not talked about enough. Those living with mental illness and learning disabilities too often use alcohol as a way to manage unmanageable symptoms. Those of us who have another diagnosis besides alcoholism know all too well that our lives can continue to be unmanageable even after we get sober. We live with depression, anxiety, confusion, and indecision. It can be overwhelming and it can impede our success in finding a meaningful sobriety that is joyous, happy and free. This is the point at which it becomes imperative to find a spiritual solution.

Spirituality comes in many forms and most often it comes from the alcoholic sitting next to you. The SENY A/SNC decided it was time to draw together to see how to improve the prospects of recovery for those of us who live with dual diagnosis. The Share a Day gave an opportunity for those living with dual diagnosis—and the professionals who treat us—a place to meet on equal ground to start a frank and open dialog on this heartfelt issue.

The Share a Day held 4 Workshops: “Different Ways to Do Step Work for People with Special Needs;” “Following AA Principals & Taking Medication;” “Online AA” and “Other Ways to Work Through Anxiety.” I was inspired to see how many people were interested in talking about things that are frequently very shameful to talk about.

How can I learn more about the Brooklyn Accessibility/Special Needs Committee and join the conversation?

The committee plans to start 3 to 5 dual diagnosis AA meetings in Brooklyn in the next year and to get more involved with Online AA, which brings meetings to those who cannot get to a face-to-face meeting. If you would like to join the Brooklyn A/SN Committee please contact me, Charlene B., via email at [specialneeds@brooklynaa.org](mailto:specialneeds@brooklynaa.org).

You can check out the Accessibility/Special Needs committee page on the SENY Web site, [www.aaseny.org](http://www.aaseny.org). It offers online special needs resources. You may also wish to visit the Alcoholics Anonymous Web site at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) or call the Treatment Facilities/Special Needs desk.

- Traditions for January/February
1.

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2.

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
- Concepts for March/April
- III.

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- IV.

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

Brooklyn County General Service Meeting Dates

St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street  
New GSR orientation at 6:30 PM, General Service Meeting at 7:30 - 9:30 PM

- Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Wednesday, May 2, 2012
- Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Wednesday, September 12, 2012\*

Wednesday, November 14, 2012\*

\*These dates are tentative: St Francis’ Calendar is not set this far in advance.

Brooklyn County Contacts			
DCMC	Nellie P.	dcmc@brooklynaa.org	
Alt. DCMC	Michael C.	altdcmc@brooklynaa.org	
Treasurer	Cathy M.	treasurer@brooklynaa.org	
Secretary	Susan F.	secretary@brooklynaa.org	
Registrar	Sara Z.	registrar@brooklynaa.org	
Archives	vacant		
Convention Liaison	vacant		
CPC	vacant		
Corrections	vacant		
Grapevine	vacant		
Intergroup Liaison	vacant		
Junction Editor	vacant		
Literature	vacant		
Public Information	vacant		
Share-A-Day	vacant		
Special Needs	Charlene B.	specialneeds@brooklynaa.org	
Spiritual Breakfast	vacant		
Sponsorship	Richard S.		
Treatment Facilities	Lois B.		
Website	Michael S.	webchair@brooklynaa.org	
Brooklyn County DCMs			
District	Name	District	Name
400	Adam S.	407, 409 cluster	Bill R.
401	Dennis A.	410	Pamela J.
402	Blake B.	411	Russell D. Kevin Y. (alt)
403	Annette C.	412	Holmes R. Lou G. (alt)
404	Craig S.	Hispanic (414)	Mario
405	Richard S. Cathy M. (alt)	Polish	Mark
406,408, 413 cluster	Karen K.	Russian (in 408)	Valentina G., GSR

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 400 402 Cluster Meeting** - 2nd Mon. of the month at 6:45 PM  
Grace Episcopal Church (Corner of Hicks St. and Grace Ct.)  
**District 401 403 411 Cluster Meeting** - 2nd Sat. of the month at 7:00 PM  
103 Quincy Street basement, between Franklin and Classon, 11238  
**District 404 Meeting** - 2nd Sunday of the month at 6:45 PM St. Francis Di  
Paulo Catholic Church / 213 Woodpoint Rd., Williamsburg 11211  
**District 405 Meeting** - Last Sat. 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 Tues. of each month at 7:00 PM  
Church of the Good Shepherd (7420 Fourth Avenue )  
**District 412 Meeting** - 3rd Sun. of each month at 6:00 PM  
St. John’s Lutheran Church (281 Prospect Ave off 6th Ave., 11215)  
**District 414 Meeting** - Every Sat., 5:00 - 7:00 PM  
30 Jefferson Street, 11206 (Bed Stuy)

SENY ASSEMBLY HOSTED BY STATEN ISLAND  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

CURTIS HIGH SCHOOL  
105 HAMILTON AVE  
STATEN ISLAND 10301

BY CAR FROM VERRAZANO  
Take the exit toward Bay St. (0.2 mi)  
Stay straight to go onto School Rd.  
(0.2 mi) Turn Left onto Bay Street.  
(2.4 mi) Turn Left onto Victory Blvd.  
(0.2 mi) Turn slight left onto Corson  
Ave. (0.05 mi) Take 1st right onto  
Daniel Low Ter. (0.3 mi) Turn right to  
stay on Daniel Low Ter (0.2 mi) Turn  
right onto Hamilton Ave. (0.05 mi)  
105 Hamilton Ave. is on the left.

VIA SI FERRY: Whitehall Ferry  
Terminal to St. George Ferry Terminal.  
Exit near Richmond Ter and Bay St.  
Go Northwest on Richmond Ter and  
Turn Left onto Hamilton Ave.

Brooklyn Intergroup - New Information!

Website:

[www.brooklynintergroup.org](http://www.brooklynintergroup.org)

Email: [bklyn-aa@vei.net](mailto:bklyn-aa@vei.net)

Phone:

Please send donations to:

Brooklyn Intergroup

Post Office Box 21022

Brooklyn, NY 11202

For meeting books, contact  
Telephone volunteers contact Thea