

# The Link

Issue 640 - MAY 2024

THE RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT -  
WHAT AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR?

## Anyone, Anywhere.....?

We recite the Responsibility Statement at meetings and events. It is the perfect passage for the work that we do and reminds us of our primary purpose. In our home groups, members practice our 12th step which is to carry this message to help the alcoholic who still suffers. At the district, county, and area level, which is down the upside-down triangle, the focus is similar but expands the further down the triangle as you go. At the General Service Conference each year, delegates, trustees, non-trustee directors, appointed committee members and General Service Office staff, get together to discuss proposed agenda items from our members, groups, districts, and areas. The work done at the conference is for the benefit of A.A. as a whole.

This year's General Service Conference was from April 14, 2024 to April 20 2024 in Brooklyn, NY. I had the honor and privilege of fully participating in the conference process. As I am writing this article, I am on a bus riding with conference members to visit Stepping Stones. My sister, who 12th stepped me over 35 years ago, said she took me there in my early recovery. Either the fog was so thick when I first got sober and/or it could be the burned brain cells that do not allow me to remember the experience. Put it on your bucket list if you haven't been there yet.

The conference committees are made up of delegates from the 93 Areas in the United States and Canada. Some of the area delegates only spoke French or Spanish. My committee, Policy and

Admissions had a French speaker from Canada and the delegate from Puerto Rico who only speaks Spanish. We had interpreters to help us communicate and we discussed and voted on agenda items assigned to our committee. Every one of us listened to each other and we didn't rush the process. We started an hour early on Monday and worked through lunch on Monday and Tuesday. We wanted to give each item the consideration it deserved and make the best decisions for our Fellowship.

I saw the conference working to come to a group conscience. It was an amazing process to witness, and I am honored to have participated. We went back and forth on items, with some recommendations passing and some didn't. Most of the discussion involved the core of the responsibility statement; "Anyone, Anywhere." It is our responsibility to not only think of our current members but also those who have not yet heard our message. Many of the items we discussed had a focus on those who have not yet joined our numbers, and we looked for ideas and solutions to find ways to share the good news of recovery and make our program more accessible no matter who you are; and for that, I Am Responsible.

Jo Ann M., Delegate Area 49 Panel 73



## WHATS INSIDE

- [L.I.S.T.S Flyer](#)
- [Service Beyond the Coffee Pot Flyer](#)
- [The Big Meeting Flyer](#)

*"Excerpts from A.A. literature and current publications (text and graphics) are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. and The Grapevine, Inc."*

## Reaching the Heart of AA

The heart is the motor that keeps things going. Although relatively small, it keeps the whole body flowing. After being sober for 10 years, I decided to jump into service. I wanted my home group to be aware of what was going on in A.A. That's when I realized I wanted to know just how this thing worked and what keeps the heart of A.A. pumping.

Little did I know the assemblies, area meetings, and conventions is where the heart of A.A. would be reached. Life is given to the steps, traditions and concepts by practicing them. In my opinion, the heart of A.A. are the people who do service and keep showing up. It's a great place for a drunk like me. Being a part of this big whole has restored life and love to my heart. I'm proud to be a part of what keeps A.A.'s heart beating, and what keeps the doors open.

Ronnie B., *ALT DCMC Staten Island*



At my first AA meeting, in a state of loneliness and despair, I was asked to read the preamble. I had no clue what the preamble was. My eyes were bloodshot, and my clothes smelled of every neuron killing substance known to mankind. However, in that moment the words "would you like to read the preamble" sounded to me like "Do you want help?" So, in desperation and complete defeat, I said yes. How fortunate I was to have reached a bottom low enough to drag my feet down 9 steps into the Centereach Open Door group. I was even more fortunate that someone was responsible, and the hand of AA reached out to me. If I wasn't asked to participate in sobriety at my very first meeting under the spell of depression and despair, I don't know if I would have been willing to hear the

message of hope.

To be accepted in my worst condition by a group of sober drunks gave me a sense of hope I had never encountered before. So, who am I to turn away a dolorous soul in need of help? I can only hope that other struggling alcoholics experience the same grace that I did in these rooms of love and tolerance. So today, I reach out to newcomers, I share the message of hope and when someone asks me for help, my hand is there with thousands of other hands behind me because we are responsible, and today I'm not alone.

Denzel H., *Former Secretary for District 618*

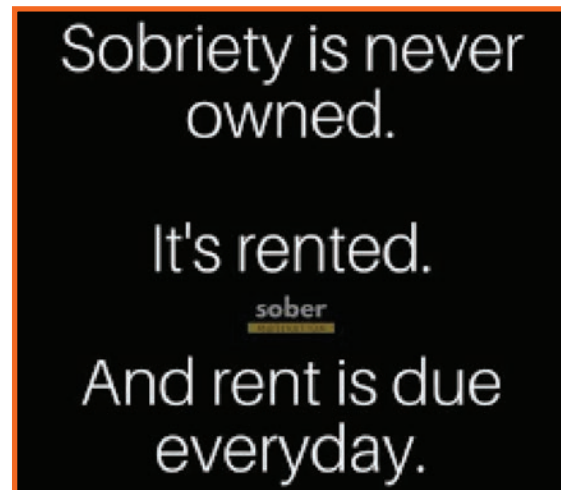
### UPCOMING EVENTS

5/4 - *Service Beyond the Coffee Pot (BXUM)*

5/6 - *SENY Area Committee Meeting*

5/11 - *L.I.S.T.S. - Long Island Spirituality Through Service - Connecting with Love, Unity & Service*

For more events go to [AASENY.org](http://AASENY.org)



## LET'S *Link* UP!

Sharing is caring... Write an article about your experience, strength, and hope in AA service. Please limit your article to 350 words, and email it to [link@aaseny.org](mailto:link@aaseny.org)

## “The Responsibility Statement”: What am I responsible for?

What am I responsible for? I am responsible for my own sobriety, no one else. On the sobriety coins it says, “To Thine Own Self Be True”. Soon after I had taken my 5th step with my sponsor, my sponsor at the end of a home-group meeting came over to me and said, “This is Andy, he is your new sponsee” I said what! I only have 5 months. My sponsor said you have more time than he has. I began working with Andy. I was 29, Andy was 24. Around 90 days in Andy got involved in a romantic relationship with another young woman in A.A., regardless of my suggestions. 7 years prior I had gotten involved in a romantic relationship soon after I had reached 90 days and eventually stopped going to meetings, a month or so later I picked up again.

Andy and his new flame soon disappeared from the A.A. scene and stopped taking my phone calls. I felt responsible. My sponsor explained to me I can’t get anyone sober but myself, he said you stayed sober.

I have since been on several 12-step calls with little or no success. I am reminded again that I stayed sober, so it was a successful effort. A few years ago, I was on phone service and received a call from a young man wanting to go to detox. I could not find anyone to go with me, so I picked him up a couple towns away and took him to the detox of his choice in

Rockland. He gave me his cherished CD collection (about 2 dozen CDs) to hold for him until he got back on feet again. That was 7 years ago, I sometimes wonder what happened. Every now and then I’ll ride past Andy’s parents’ house and wonder what ever happened to him.

We are responsible for carrying the message, not the alcoholic.

Eric O., *Seny Literature Chair*



## THE RESPONSIBILITY PLEDGE

When Anyone, Anywhere Reaches Out for Help, I Want the Hand of AA Always to Be There. And For That: I Am Responsible.

This amazing sentence encapsulates so much of the A.A. program within it. It has many different and diverse meanings as to how it should be applied built into it. As a person who has recovered from a seeming state of hopelessness and despair, I am in a unique position to help others. How I choose to do that is represented in the many diverse ways that the program provides. The obvious inference here is that I must always be ready to help in whatever capacity that I can within my personal limits. I am responsible for reaching out my hand to the newcomer and be there to help guide them onto a path of recovery by making them feel comfortable and included in the conversations that we have in A.A. I am responsible for their safety in the rooms of A.A. by my words and actions. I am responsible for the start of their fellowship in A.A. by acting as an example of the Unity Legacy.

I am responsible for the truth. When someone asks a question that I know the answer to, I must strive to give them the true answer and when I don’t have that answer, hopefully I can direct them to the person who does. I am responsible for showing those who come into the program behind me a path or journey for their

recovery from alcoholism by showing them how the steps are incorporated into my life and how they have made my life and those around me better.

I am responsible for showing them how an A.A. group works to aid in their recovery. I am responsible for showing them all levels of the service structure and explaining to them what it means to do service below the group level and how that helps all who continue to enter our doors stay sober and useful to those who come behind us. I do that because...I AM RESPONSIBLE!

Kevin Faherty, *DCMC Rockland A49/P73*



# AA SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS



OPEN SERVICE POSITION IN YOUR DISTRICT, COUNTY, OR AREA?  
OUR NEW SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS CAN HELP!

**ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE:**

- CORRECTIONS
  - ACCESSIBILITIES
- CONTACT [DCMC@ORANGE.ASENY.ORG](mailto:DCMC@ORANGE.ASENY.ORG)

**SUFFOLK COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE**

- ACCESSIBILITY
  - ARCHIVES
  - CORRECTIONS
- CONTACT [DCMC@AASUFFOLKGS-NY.ORG](mailto:DCMC@AASUFFOLKGS-NY.ORG)

**NASSAU COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE**

- CORRECTIONS
  - PI (PUBLIC INFORMATION)
  - TREATMENT FACILITIES
  - SERVICE SPONSORSHIP
- CONTACT [DCMC@NASSAU.ASENY.ORG](mailto:DCMC@NASSAU.ASENY.ORG)



Send a brief description of the position, any sober time/other requirements involved, and a contact email, and we'll post your "ad" here where other AA's eager to do service can find it!



## *The Responsibility Statement: What am I responsible for?*

I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. That's what I'm responsible for. What does this mean, though? Sponsorship and taking people through the steps are crucial, of course, but there is much more to it.

So many things came together for me to get the message. First, I was referred to A.A. and a treatment center by the Dean of Student Affairs from my school. She learned about A.A. through Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) and ended up referring several students to A.A. This was because of service by the local CPC Committee. While in treatment, meetings were brought in, and I was given a Big Book. This was the work of the local Treatment Committee (and of the committee that put together the 4th edition of the Big Book and everyone who wrote and submitted their stories for consideration). When I was ready to leave the rehab, I was given a Bridging the Gap pamphlet (again, the work of a Treatment Committee). I filled out a request, and I was connected with someone who took me to a meeting.

When I showed up at that meeting, well, there was a meeting space. That was because of members who contributed to the 7th tradition. Also, chairs were set up, there was coffee, and someone leading the meeting. That was all thanks to people who did service at the meeting. I received a list with local meetings (again, thanks to more A.A. service). I was also able to search on the internet for additional meetings (again, more service—these things don't just appear out of thin air).

I could go on about all the ways the hand of A.A. has been there for me. I only told you about the beginning of my sobriety! I haven't gotten to getting a sponsor, fellowshipping, etc. So many pieces came together so I could get the A.A. message. I bet I could find more if I looked carefully enough. This is what the hand of A.A. looks like. This is what I'm responsible for. So many people did so much service for me to get the message. That's why I do and have done so many different types of service. I show my gratitude for what was given to me by making sure A.A. is available for the next person who needs it.

Paola A., *Area 49 Chair*  
she/her

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## **The Story of AA in South Eastern New York**

**Read or download a complimentary copy.  
Scan the following code with your phone.**



# Save The Date

New York Inter-Group  
Invites You to Celebrate  
**A.A.'s 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



**Our Founder's Day Meeting**  
**Saturday, June 1, 2024**  
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

All Souls Church  
1157 Lexington Ave.  
(@ East 80<sup>th</sup> Street)  
New York, NY 10075

- ◆ Three-Speaker Open Meeting ◆
  - ❖ **Must Pre-register to attend, seating is limited** ❖
  - ❖ More Information to follow ❖
- Speaker nomination forms are available!

New York Inter-Group  
307 Seventh Avenue, (28th Street), Room 303, New York, N.Y. 10001  
Phone: (212) 647-1647 / Website: [www.nyintergroup.org](http://www.nyintergroup.org)

# LONG ISLAND SPIRITUALITY THROUGH SERVICE 2024

"Connecting with Love, Unity & Service"

SATURDAY MAY 11, 2024  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

St. John-St. Matthew Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
283 Prospect Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

*The Long Island Spirituality Through Service ("L.I.S.T.S.") Workshop aspires to reaffirm the strong spiritual benefits of service to recovering alcoholics. Sponsored by the General Services of Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, and the Hispanic Districts Hosted by Brooklyn County.*



**FREE EVENT**  
The "Basket" will be passed honoring our 7th Tradition

Service Panels/ Big Meeting / Service Fair / Light Breakfast and Lunch Served

Handicap Accessible / ASL Provided Upon Request / Street Parking

For more information, contact Eddie D. at [altdonc@brooklynny.org](mailto:altdonc@brooklynny.org)

# Servicios Generales de Nassau Presenta el 39avo Desayuno Espiritual

Conectando con Amor, Unidad y Servicio

Domingo Junio 2, 2024 Precio de \$45.00 por persona  
Marriott Hotel 101 James Doolittle Blvd. Uniondale N.Y. 11553  
Puertas a la sala abren 8:30 AM Buffett Empieza 9:00 AM



Boletos estarán a la venta en las siguientes reuniones

Nassau GSR Reps Meetings Febrero 19 y Abril 15  
Intergroups Reps Meetings Marzo 7, Abril 4, y Mayo 2

Para mas informacion email: [dcmc@aanassaugs-ny.org](mailto:dcmc@aanassaugs-ny.org)

Habrá fiesta de servicio a las 8:15  
Con venta de Literatura

# Nassau General Service Presents The 39th Annual Unity Breakfast

Connecting With Love, Unity & Service

Sunday June 2, 2024 Ticket Price \$45.00 per person at the  
Marriott Hotel 101 James Doolittle Blvd. Uniondale N.Y. 11553  
Doors to dining room open 8:30



Tickets will be available at the following meetings

Nassau GSR Reps Meetings February 19th and April 15th  
Intergroups Reps Meetings March 7th, April 4th, and May 2nd

For additional information email: [dcmc@aanassaugs-ny.org](mailto:dcmc@aanassaugs-ny.org)

Also there will be a Service Fair and Literature for sale

QUEENS INTERGROUP OF AA'S

# GRATITUDE DAY

GRATITUDE DAY:  
SATURDAY, JUNE 22 @ ALLEY POND PARK!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

## PLANNING MEETINGS!

COME HELP US PLAN OUR 2024 GRATITUDE DAY!

**WHEN:** SAT. APRIL 27, MAY 11 & 25, AND JUNE 8 @ 1PM

**WHERE:** QUEENS INTERGROUP OFFICE  
105-29 METROPOLITAN AVENUE, FOREST HILLS  
3 DOORS OFF METROPOLITAN AVENUE (BEHIND EDDIE'S SWEET SHOP) ON 72ND RD


FOR MORE INFO, EMAIL: [EVENTS@QUEENSAA.ORG](mailto:EVENTS@QUEENSAA.ORG)

## SENY Area 49 Treatment Facilities

### Workshop



Monday June 10th  
8pm - 9:15pm  
Pizza and soda will be served

# PIZZA



413 E 79th street  
79 th street workshop location


# SERVICE BEYOND THE COFFEE POT

- What is "service below the group level"?
- What is a "GSR"?

**MORE WILL BE REVEALED!!**

**BAGELS!**  
**SPEAKERS!**  
**FELLOWSHIP!**



**WHEN:** Saturday, May 4, 2024  
11:00AM

**WHERE:** St. Margaret's Church  
6000 Riverdale Ave  
Bronx, NY 10471  
\*Parking Available\*

**SPEAKERS**

**Paola A.**  
SENY Chair

**JoAnn M.**  
Area 49, Panel 73  
Delegate

**MODERATOR**

**Julio E.**  
Marble Hill  
Kingsbridge Group

SPONSORED BY: BXUM DIST. 701

Staten Island General Services  
Proudly Presents

# Share-A-Day 2024

Connecting with Love, Unity, & Service

AA Share A Day is open to the public and designed for AA's, families, friends, and anyone who would like to learn more of how the message of AA has helped many people for 89 years.

Breakfast, Lunch & Refreshments Will Be Served

MOORE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SATURDAY JUNE 22, 2024, 9am to 4pm | 100 MERRILL AVE, STATEN ISLAND NY 10314

Chair: Melanie (917) 476-0809 • Co-Chair: Chrissy (848) 565-8804 • Hospitality: Ronnie B (917) 952-1191 • Treasurer: Dan S. (347) 733-3433

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS		To add or update email: <a href="mailto:agenda@aaseny.org">agenda@aaseny.org</a>	
SENY Area Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)	5/6	7:30p	TBD
SENY Technology & Communications Comm. Meeting	5/7	7:30p	Zoom ID: 894 0024 2856, Password: 033597
SENY Archives Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)	5/9	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
Brooklyn County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	5/15	7:30p	Zoom ID: 961 9888 5103, Password: 069497
Rockland County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	5/15	7:30p	Zoom ID: 859 3872 9240, Password: 406571
Suffolk County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	5/17	8:00p	Zoom ID: 932 6450 5176, Password: 713704
SENY Corrections Committee Meeting	5/18	3:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
SENY Intergroup Liaison Meeting (VIRTUAL)	5/19	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921
Nassau County General Service Workshop (HYBRID)	5/20	7:30p	Zoom ID: 922 8787 8377, Password: 12345
Orange County General Service Meeting (HYBRID)	5/21	7:00p	Zoom ID: 999 6809 5777 , Password: Acceptance
CPC Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)	5/29	6:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641, Password: 714921

SENY Officers				SENY Standing / Ad Hoc Committee Chairs			
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\*Special committees (neither standing nor adhoc committees)