



THE BROOKLYN JUNCTION

Tradition 3

"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking." – March 2017

A NOTE FROM YOUR NEW DCMC — MEL R.

Hello, Brooklyn County General Services! I'd like to give a warm welcome to the new and seasoned trusted servants. I am filled with gratitude and robust enthusiasm about the service we're doing for the 2017-2018 term. I am honored and blessed to be your District Committee Member Chairperson. For nearly 19 years, I have done service below the group level and I have never been more pleased than I am now. With only a few months of not drinking, I took a real interest in my group's (Old Park Slope Caton) GSR report. She told me that if I keep coming and did service in the group for 2 years, I could become part of something truly amazing. After doing every service position at my home group, I was voted in to be the GSR alt and, eventually, the GSR.

My predecessor was definitely telling the truth. Meeting different folks doing different things on the County level strengthened and enhanced my sobriety. I know it is doing the same for you, also; I believe that is why you're here. The job we are doing is not only important to our own sober well-being but also necessary for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. As a small but important part of this life-saving fellowship, our task will be great and selfless. With gratitude and concern, we will fulfill the task of making 12th step work possible whenever it is needed. Our fortitude of love and service for AA and each other will be our disciplinarians.

We will live and practice the three legacies (Steps, Traditions and Concepts) as individuals and affectionately as a County. Being students and teachers of responsibility and solutions, we can continue to keep "The" Brooklyn County General Services strong and in the forefront. Working with energetic and exceptional County officers allows me to step back and see all over again the amazing and magical aspect of the leadership that is directly talked about in Concept 9. The service histories of Heidi, Lu, Joe and Nissaa are testaments of love and commitment, not to mention a pretty good guarantee of staying sober. Enough cannot be said about the GSR's, GSR alts, DCM's, DCM alts and Standing Committee Chairs. The enthusiasm and interest I've seen and experienced from you proves that this County is in great hands.

The Delegate's Day of Sharing was a total success! Two-hundred-and-seven people were greeted, seated and fed. We received praises and thanks for all that we did. We accepted the task at hand, provided solutions for

unforeseen circumstances as a County and persevered. For our first service responsibility given to us by SENY we rocked it the "Brooklyn" way! Thank you ALL for your service! Our job isn't over yet. There will be other service opportunities ahead. I conveyed at our last Spiritual Breakfast that the watch words for the next two years will be inclusivity and leadership. Every one doing service in "THE" Brooklyn County are leaders and every one of us will be included in all that is needed to be done. Service Sponsorship is a vital part of doing below the group level work. GSR's, if you do not have a service sponsor to guide you through your task at hand, please talk to your DCM, any County officer or to the Service Sponsorship Chairperson, Colleen V.

I have always believed in the spiritual importance of the GSR. Not everyone shares that gift of serving a two-year commitment; not everyone wants to accept that gift. If you are here and have been elected, appointed or just simply pushed into becoming a GSR, welcome! The service you are about to do or have been doing will not only protect your sobriety but also strengthen the people around you. From myself, the County Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, DCM's and your fellow GSR's, we applaud the job you stepped up to do. This will always be a WE fellowship and this will always be a WE County. Let's stay committed and true to our own selves and the job we're about to do. Let's continue to make 12th step work possible for the still sick and suffering. This is what Dr. Bob meant by added insurance, not only for us but also for the ones we've yet to meet. Last but not least, my friends, whatever service opportunity we are faced with, let's have fun doing it and let's do it the Brooklyn way!

I love each and every one of you.

— Mel R., DCMC, "THE" Brooklyn County

Q&A W/ JOHN W.: DELEGATE'S QUESTIONNAIRES

As Mel R. noted, this year's Delegate's Day of Sharing, hosted on March 4 by Brooklyn County at St. Patrick's School in Bay Ridge, attracted 200-plus AAs. The Brooklyn Junction spoke with new SENY Delegate John W. at the event about the rhyme and reason behind the Delegate's Questionnaire. — Ken K., Editor

Junction: Can you explain the rationale behind the Questionnaire and why groups should answer it?

(continued on back)

John W.: This is a critical point in connecting individual members and their groups with greater AA. It's an opportunity for them to give me, as their delegate, feedback, so I can take that with me when I go to the General Service Conference. The idea is to be informed rather than instructed, so I'm going to listen to what you say ... get responses from the Questionnaire, and then I will go and vote in what I think is the best interest of AA.

Junction: What would you say to AAs who greet answering the Questionnaire with a collective group "meh"?

John W.: I like to phrase it as: Lots of groups in other parts of the country are voting on issues like these; don't you think your group deserves a voice, as well?



Junction: But does anything actually get accomplished in AA? It often feels like debate for debating's sake.

John W.: I always tell people, whether they're new to service or have been around a long while, that there are two speeds in General Service: slow and backwards. We in AA are very deliberative. Absolutely, important decisions do happen — it can just take a while. For example, a few years ago, they voted to revise the pamphlet "AA & the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic." It's taken a couple of years but I am on the Literature Committee and I now have the completed draft of the new pamphlet, called "Finding Acceptance: AA for the LGBTQ Alcoholic." There's very little in AA that needs to be rushed — other than maybe helping somebody with a 12th Step call. It's important to hear out people who don't necessarily agree with you to figure out what's really in the best interest of AA.

Junction: What can be done get more groups involved in General Service and electing GSRs?

John W.: Some of it comes down to sponsorship. I have a bunch of sponsees who followed me into General Service because I was bringing them along to stuff. They saw what I was getting out of it. I also try to get around to the different county meetings; a lot of it is to be visible and vocal. We're fortunate in Southeastern New York in that we're a geographically small area so we get to interact with past delegates and officers with great regularity.

Delegate's Questionnaires can be filled out online — or downloaded for printing — at www.aaseny.org/d-q.

Brooklyn County Contacts			
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Group Contributions to Brooklyn County can be sent to:
 AA Brooklyn County General Service
 PO Box 170582
 Brooklyn, NY 11217
 Checks/Money Orders payable to:
 AA Brooklyn County General Service

SENY Area 49 Pre-Conference Assembly April 8, 2017

8:30AM -- *hosted by Rockland County*
 Venue: Pearl River Middle School
 520 Gilbert Ave., Pearl River, NY 10965

Brooklyn Share A Day Planning Meetings for March and April 2017 will convene:

- **Saturday, March 18**, from 11:45 AM to 12:45 PM at The Garden, 103 Quincy St., Brooklyn, NY 11238.
- **Sunday, April 9**, from 4:30 to 5:30 PM at Prospect Hill Senior Service Center, 283 Prospect Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215

Don't Miss the 49th SENY Convention "Supporting Our Future"

March 24-26
 at the Renaissance Westchester Hotel
 (80 W. Red Oak Lane, West Harrison, NY 10604)
Workshops, panels, activities, banquet
 Fees: Registration: \$20. Registration + Banquet: \$96
 For more information, contact Janice M.
 @ convention@aaseny.org
 For online registration, visit www.aaseny.org.
 (For info on \$30 bus ride, email registrar@brooklynnaa.org.)

Why not hit a CONCEPTS MEETING?!!
Old Park Slope Caton Concepts Meeting
 7 PM -- Every 3rd Monday of each month
 Venue: 74 E. 17th St., 2nd Floor (Off Church Ave.)
 Brooklyn, NY 11226

DISTRICT 404 WORKSHOP
"Sobriety In The Workplace"
Saturday, April 1, 3:30-5:30 PM
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (Cafeteria)
 275 N. 8th Street (Enter on Havemeyer St.)
3-Speaker Panel, Q&A, Lunch
 Info: NorthBrooklyn404@gmail.com