

# QUEENS INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS NEWSLETTER

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2019 3RD QUARTER/(JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER) NEWSLETTER

## MANNY'S A. - A LEGACY OF LOVE AND SERVICE

It's with great sadness to report the passing of Manny A., Senior Advisor to the QIAA Steering Committee. Manny left us on June 24, 2019. John Francis B., Advisor to the QIAA Steering Committee and Manny A's Service Sponsee, submitted the following article

I met Manny A. in 1993, when I was first counting days at meetings, calling AA Members daily, and making coffee. We did not know each other well then, but Manny was always kind, low key, and humble. When I, or anyone else, needed support or guidance, Manny was always there. Little did I know that shortly after that Manny and I would bond through both Intergroup and General Service, and that he would eventually become my Grand Sponsor, Mentor, and Service Sponsor.

When Frank R., the Queens intergroup founder, started the Share-A-Thons, it was basically 9 or 10 individuals covering various time slots. The Share-A-Thon's growth and popularity coincided with Manny's strong involvement with the

Share-A-Thon. Over the years, Manny created forms and documents that made everything run smoothly. Some of these forms are: "A list with clearly designated time slots", "The Ground Rules", and "The 12<sup>th</sup> Step Contact List". All these forms made it easier for AA Groups to participate in the Share-A-Thon. Manny also spearheaded and perfected the Share-A-Thon Lottery process.

The gradual conversion of a smooth-running Share-a-Thon created a solid blueprint for QIAA Special Events Chairpersons that followed Manny over the years. Adina C. and Chris R., who later served as Special Events Chairpersons have remarked to me; "Manny created all those forms to make the Events Chair

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday December 7th

Queens Speaker  
Exchange Followed by  
the Group  
Representative's Meeting

Location:

All Saint's Lutheran  
Church

164-02 Goethals Ave.  
Jamaica, N.Y., 11432

7:30 am Exchange  
meeting

9:00 am Group Reps  
Meeting

## 5TH ANNUAL QUEENS COUNTY

### *Spiritual Breakfast*

"A.A. - Our Big Book 80 Years, 71 Languages"



Sunday October 20th, 2019

The Immaculate Conception Center  
7200 Douglaston Pkwy ♦ Little Neck, NY 11362

9:30am ~ 1:00pm  
doors open at 9:00am

Tickets are \$32 ♦ Seating is limited!

#### What To Expect:

- Breakfast
- Speakers
- Fellowship

#### How To Purchase:

- Ask your GSR
- VIA Email
- Attend the QCGS Assembly

Info: [spiritualbreakfast@qcgsa.org](mailto:spiritualbreakfast@qcgsa.org)

Hosted by Queens County General Service

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



Manny did service for Queens County and SENY in multiple capacities. It is funny, we would be driving home from the Queens intergroup Steering Committee Meeting or the SENY Assembly, and we would discuss various things that went on. Manny's insights and ideas were always based on the 12 Traditions, the 12 Concepts and the by-laws that applied to the situation. It was never based on his opinion.

Bert L., another QIAA Steering Committee member reminded me; "Manny always wanted to stress by-laws in all QIAA policy, and he strived to help us all understand and utilize the QIAA by-laws.

While Manny was a vital part of the AA "service structure", that did not prevent him from AA Spiritual Service. Manny's other Sponsees, who I have known for years (Billy, Hector, Linda, Mike and others), all said they loved Manny "like a brother". They all realized they were fortunate to have a loving, humble mentor who really cared about them

to guide them on a spiritual path.

At Manny's wake, those who spoke shared loving gratitude that they knew Manny, and the fact that he enriched their lives immensely. His daughter Roxanne was touched, but not surprised, by the AA outpouring of support. His daughter also reminded us that Manny was loving, never judged us, and only gave us an opinion if we requested it (in a kind way).

Manny lived a life we should all strive for: Serving God and Fellowship, and in doing so, enhancing the lives of others. This was true both in his involvement in spiritual and fellowship service. Our current QIAA Chair, Antonio G., reminded me that all he learned about QIAA service was from Manny, as well as others. I personally grew in service with Manny, and we were always there for each other.

At the Funeral Home, many people stated that all

Manny did for the fellowship would be sorely missed and hard to replace. To some extent that is Very valid and true. What we all should try to do, whenever possible, is to do all we can to volunteer at QIAA, Queens County and SENY. It is rewarding to cover an institution, take a phone shift or be an Intergroup Rep. or GSR. Service outside the group level will not only fill the void left by Manny, but it will also keep us well connected and involved in AA. Service. It will also be a tribute to the example Manny set for all of us. Being his "running buddy in service" for 25 years, I know this would please him immensely.

John Francis/ QIAA Advisor

## **POSITIONS OPENING FOR QIAA**

The Following is a list of odd year elections, along with the description of the 12 step Coordinator position from the by-laws. The 12 Step Coordinator is a non-voting, appointed position.

***Queens Intergroup currently has a vacant position for the 12<sup>th</sup> Step List Coordinator. This list is contact information from the Queens groups and is vital for 12<sup>th</sup> Step work. As a contact, you might be called upon to bring an alcoholic, leaving a detox or an institution to their first meeting.***

12th Step List Coordinator. Two Year Term. Must have at least two years of sobriety.

### **Duties are:**

- Maintain confidential "Twelfth Step Lists" from the Queens County AA groups.
- Work closely with the Daytime Telephone Coordinator.
- Volunteer at least four hours per quarter to answering telephones at the QIAA office. Note: This is an appointed, NON-VOTING position.

## **QUEENS INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS STEERING COMMITTEE POSITIONS FOR ELECTION IN ODD YEARS; WE GROW THROUGH SERVICE**

It is suggested that individuals interested in becoming candidates for offices attend the October and November Steering Committee Meetings to familiarize themselves with QIAA procedures.

### **Positions Open for Election:**

- Vice Chairperson
- Vice Treasurer
- Service Committee Chairperson
- Meeting Book Committee Chairperson
- Newsletter Committee Chairperson

**The below duties and qualifications of positions are taken from the By-Laws of Queens Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous.**

### ***Qualifications and Duties of Vice Chairperson***

- One-year term (Two-year commitment).
- Must have at least five years of sobriety.

**Duties are:**

- Perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Chairperson.
- Assume the position of Chairperson for the next term.
- Volunteer at least four hours per quarter to answering telephones at the QIAA office.

**Qualifications and Duties of Vice Treasurer**

- One-year term. (Two-year commitment)
- Must have at least five years of sobriety.
- Must have experience in accounting and bookkeeping.

**Duties are:**

- Assist the treasurer in keeping financial records.
- Assist the treasurer in preparing monthly and quarterly reports.
- Assume the responsibility as Treasurer for the next term.
- Volunteer at least four hours per quarter to answering telephones at the QIAA office.

**Qualifications and Duties of Treasurer**

- One-year term. (Two Year Commitment)
- Must have at least five years of sobriety.
- Must have served as Vice Treasurer, unless waived by the Intergroup Committee.
- Must have accounting and bookkeeping experience.

**Duties are:**

- Receive all funds and deposit them in the corporation's checking account.
- Pay all authorized expenses of the corporation.
- Prepare and maintain a monthly cumulative report of all receipts and disbursements and present this report at regular meetings.
- Maintain a file of all receipts, vouchers and check records.
- Pay frequent visits to the QIAA office to pick up mail relating to the treasurer.
- Keep the Vice Treasurer informed.
- Volunteer at least four hours per quarter to answering telephones at the QIAA office.

**Qualifications and Duties of Service Committee Chairperson (Institutions Coordinator)**

- Two-year term.
- Must have at least two years of sobriety.
- Must have an understanding of AA's "Twelve Traditions" and "Twelve Concepts of Service."

**Duties are:**

- Supply chairpersons, speakers, and literature at jails, reformatories and other institutions.
- Deal directly with staff and personnel of the institutions, who are responsible for alcoholics.

- Appoint, subject to Steering Committee approval, Coordinators to serve on the Service Committee.
- Assume responsibility for all vacant Service Committee Coordinators.
- Work closely with Service Committee members to achieve AA objectives.
- Volunteer at least four hours per quarter to answering telephones at the QIAA office.

**NOTE: UNTIL AMENDED, THE SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INSTITUTIONS, HOSPITALS, DETOXES, AND TREATMENT FACILITIES.**

### **Qualifications and Duties of Meeting Book Chairperson Two-year term.**

- Must have at least two years of sobriety.
- Must have experience with computers.

#### **Duties are:**

- Keep up-to-date records of Queens County group information (meeting day, time, place and type), making any changes, additions, or deletions.
- Publish and distribute, at regular intervals, up-to-date meeting lists of groups in the Queens area.
- Arrange for printing of meeting books and monitor the printing process.
- Work closely with the Secretary in keeping up-to-date information.
- Work closely with the Meeting Book Committee to achieve the above objectives.
- Volunteer at least four hours per quarter to answering telephones at the QIAA office.

### **Qualification and Duties of Newsletter Committee Chairperson**

- Two-year term.
- Must have at least two years of sobriety.
- Experience with computers preferred but not necessary.

#### **Duties are:**

- Be responsible for the publication of a newsletter to be distributed among the AA groups in Queens County.
- Obtain current information to be published so that the AA groups in Queens County are kept informed about what is going on at QIAA and what AA group events are going on, e.g., group anniversaries, dinners, conventions, special meetings, etc.
- Obtain current information, to be published, regarding General Services and Intergroup in the surrounding areas.
- Secure approval of the Steering Committee for articles, events, etc., before publication.
- Volunteer at least four hours per quarter to answering telephones at the QIAA office.

Special thanks to Chris R. for posting the update.

***\*The following SUGGESTIONS FOR SPEAKING AT AN INSTITUTION, were contained in a flyer distributed by our QIAA institutions' chair Richie P. at our monthly steering committee meeting.***

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR SPEAKING AT AN INSTITUTION**

An A.A. member speaking in an institution carries the message to the suffering alcoholic. The institution meeting should not be used as a dumping ground. An institution meeting is not the place to look for a relationship, engage in welfare work, or crusade about religion, antabuse etc. Socializing after the meeting is not advised.

An A.A. meeting in an institution is basically a beginners meeting. It generally lasts for one hour. The speaker should have at least 90 days sobriety. He or she should qualify briefly, sticking to the basics of the A.A. fellowship. After the speaker has qualified, individuals should be allowed to share. No one person should monopolize the meeting, the speaker or chairperson should make sure that all share that wish to share.

An alcoholic's hope for recovery may or may not be kindled by the example a speaker sets. A.A. is a program of attraction & every speaker either adds to or detracts from A.A.'s message. His or her appearance should be neat & clean their attitude should be positive. Language, manners & mood all affect other people's opinion of our fellowship. You may be the only copy of "THE BIG BOOK" many people will see.

A.A. Twelve Step work, including referrals to outside meetings, information about temporary sponsorship and New York Intergroup can be discussed. We carry "ONLY" the A.A. message in and "NOTHING" out of any facility. The chairperson is responsible for screening out A.A. members who cannot conform to these guidelines for speaking.

## **SUGGESTED DO'S**

1. Abide carefully by all the rules of the facility. A.A. members are guests
2. Make sure every A.A. promise is kept on the dot and to the letter
3. Limit yourself to carrying your own honest message alcoholism recovery
4. Listen at least as much as you talk
5. Live by the spirit of A.A. traditions
6. Always maintain a cheerful humility about the amateur status of A.A.
7. Remember that you are "RESPONSIBLE" & should insure that sponsorship is available to individuals.

## **SUGGESTED DON'T**

1. A.A.'s should not try to claim special exemptions or privileges nor try to manipulate the agency into making concessions.
2. Do not make any commitment that you cannot meet. Excuses do not speak well for A.A. but faithfulness and results do.
3. Do not talk about medication, psychiatry or scientific theories on alcoholism this is territory for professional. Our own personal spiritual life does not make us experts on religion either.
4. Do not argue about anything with clients, patients, inmates or staff. Arguments never win friends.
5. Do not expect professional agencies to govern itself by our traditions.
6. Do not give an agency, personnel or clients any reason to be unhappy with A.A.
7. Do not brag about A.A. let the results speak for us.
8. Do not just carry the message to the facility and leave it there. Inform other groups and persons of the need for help in an institution.

When an A.A. takes responsibility for a meeting in a professional center, it is necessary to keep in frequent friendly contact with the centers officials to eliminate any problems before they arise. A good reminder of the last drunk, is working with Alcoholics in facilities. It has strengthened the sobriety of many of us.

**Remember you are the Spring to these alcoholic's Winter. Give them a sense of strength and vitality that comes with warm weather. Keep a positive attitude when carrying the message of A.A.**

***Here are a few anecdotes, You might find amusing***

The town drunk had died. A wonderful funeral was in progress and the Preacher talked at length about the good traits of the deceased; What an honest woman she was, what a loving wife and a kind mother. Finally, the widower leaned over and whispered to one of his children, "Go up there and take a look in the coffin and see if that is your mom". - October 1999 Edition of The Grapevine

The drunk phoned the police to report that thieves had broken into his car; "They've stolen the dashboard, the steering wheel, the brake pedal, and even the accelerator", he cried on. Before the police investigation could get underway, the phone rang a second time, it was the drunk "Never mind," he said with a hiccup, "I got into the backseat by mistake". - December 1999 Edition of The Grapevine.

Special Thanks to: Martin O'K, John Francis B., JoAnn M., Sponsee Atif C., The Entire QIAA Steering Committee

**QUESTION, COMMENT, EVENTS, NOTES?  
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**Love and Service  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
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