

QUEENS INTERGROUP  
**QIAA NEWSLETTER**

P.O. Box 754088  
(105-29B METROPOLITAN AVENUE)  
FOREST HILLS NY 11375-9088

**SEPTEMBER 2007**

**\* SHARE-A-DAY \***

**SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

24-HOUR HOTLINE:

**7 1 8 - 5 2 0 - 5 0 2 1**

**\* SPECIAL EDITION \***

www.queensaa.org

EMAIL: secretary@queensaa.org

EMAIL: institutions@queensaa.org

..... Action Items and

**Queens Share-A-Day** will be held on **Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at IS 5, 50-40 Jacobus Street**, ½ block south of Queens Blvd. **Breakfast is at 8 a.m. & Lunch is at Noon!**

(Bring your feet, your hearts & your minds... Meet the friends you haven't met yet!) Meetings, fellowship & *planning*.... SENY has done a great job for Queens County this year, as expected, and, while this is not a carnival, it's hard to keep the festivities from getting a little *oUt oF cOnTroL !!*

The Day-Care Committee is staffed, scheduled, equipped & organized to care for kids, so after we come-to, the kids come, too, and *nobody* stays home this year: I.S.5 is also wheelchair accessible. Come to the Intergroup table and find out all you need about Hotline and **Institutions Commitments**. If you could use a meeting, there will be a few of those starting at 9 a.m., with last call at 4 p.m. Some special interest meetings, too.

The Thanksgiving Holiday Share-A-Thon is set to **start at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**, and it will run twenty-four hours per day to the very **last meeting at 9 p.m., Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**. (Catnapping is permitted, but no pets are allowed at **Our Saviour Lutheran School, 64-33 Woodhaven Boulevard**, across from St.John's Cemetery, and a block north on the northbound side.) Come hear some of our elder statespersons, and some stately people who never seem to have a lot to say. You will be surprised who shows up to speak at this great annual event! Unlimited coffee & cookies available, with lots of other things to eat, too. Food goes fast. Keep an eye out for the cheesecake!! (It was gone in sixty seconds last year!!)

The Lottery for Share-A-Thon time slots for the groups will be held on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m., also at Our Savior Lutheran School, right after The Lighthouse Group meeting. Contact: Manny A. @ 917-406-4783.

[more.....]

Upcoming Events .....

If you missed the Quarterly Meeting held on **September 8<sup>th</sup>**, Intergroup's next **Quarterly Exchange & Intergroup Representatives Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**, at **All Saints Lutheran Church, 164-02 Goethals Avenue, Jamaica**, and no pets are allowed here, either. That's just two blocks south of Union Turnpike. **SENY** will be there. Meet your friends in the General Service Conference. Everyone is welcome. (Please remember to thank Queens County's great volunteers for the job they did at **Queens Share-A-Day!**)

**The Following Groups Have Asked For Support:**

**Bellerose/Glen Oaks:**

"Glen Oaks"  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
263rd. Str. & Union Tpke.  
Mon. & Sat. 7:30 P.M.

**Forest Hills:**

"Women Living  
in the Solution"  
St. Luke's Church  
85 Greenway  
Tuesdays. at 7:30 P.M.

**Springfield Gardens:**

"Newcomers Welcome"  
Christ the King Center  
145-02 Farmers Blvd.  
(off South Conduit &  
Farmers Blvd.)  
Saturdays at 1:00 P.M.

**Flushing:**

"Men on the Move"  
Dutch Reformed Church  
167<sup>th</sup> Str. & 35<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
(2nd Floor Library).  
Tues. at 7:00 P.M. Closed

**Queens Village:**

"Hollis Bellaire"  
Incarnation Meeting Rm.  
89-43 Francis Lewis Blvd  
Thurs. & Sat. at 8:00 P.M

**Woodhaven:**

"Living Sober" (Men)  
St. Thomas Apostle  
Parish House. 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
87-04 88th. Ave. (use side  
entr. door on 87th. Str.)  
Thursdays at 7:30 P.M.

**INSTITUTIONS COMMITMENTS ROTATING:**

— JAMAICA HOSPITAL: PSYCHIATRIC WARDS #1 & #2

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS AT 3 PM

— QUEENS MEDICAL TREATMENT CENTER:

"T" BUILDING - FRIDAYS AT 11 AM

— ST.JOHN'S HOSPITAL, FAR ROCKAWAY: MONDAYS,

WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS AT 7 PM

COME TO THE **INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING AT QUEENS INTERGROUP AT 6:30 PM ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.** OR, WE'LL HELP YOU GET THIS STARTED AT YOUR GROUP. A LIMITED SUPPLY OF LITERATURE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THESE FACILITIES. COME AND GET COORDINATED! CALL MANNY AT 917-406-4783.

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→ 24TH QUEENS COUNTY  
→ SHARE-A-DAY !!  
"Are we going to any length?"  
→ Saturday, September 15, 2007  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Intermediate School (I.S.) 5  
→ 50-40 Jacobus Street  
Elmhurst NY  
Breakfast @ 8:30am & Lunch @ Noon  
Meetings: 9 to 5

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QUIP (KWĪP) N. A CLEVER, WITTY REMARK...

**kwĭps'** noun, plural

Do **YOU** have a short sentence or two, something that you heard in the rooms, or at the-meeting-before-the-meeting or at the-meeting-after-the-meeting?

**Send us your quips!**

kwips' POB 754088 Forest Hills NY 11375-9088

"During your first five years you get your brains back. Then, over the next five, you learn what to do with them. By the time you get to fifteen years, however, you realize you just don't need your brains as much as you need your 'heart' to figure out how to do what it is that you want to do." - anon.

"These days I'm not shy, and I talk to my wife so much that she asked me to join another recovery group called: OnAn'OnAn'OnAn'On..." - anon.

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**Third Step Prayer**  
**Alcoholics Anonymous, p.63:**

**God, I offer myself to Thee-  
to build with me and  
to do with me as Thou wilt.  
Relieve me of the bondage of self,  
that I may better do Thy will.  
Take away my difficulties,  
that victory over them  
may bear witness to those I would help  
of Thy Power,  
Thy Love  
and Thy Way of life.  
May I do Thy will always!**

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**Like most newcomers...**

I got a lot of telephone numbers from fellow AA members. It was suggested that I call people & "get connected" to the fellowship and "stick with the winners." I was warned that "Some people don't get it." So, I got active, and called a lot of people. But I had a lot of problems. In fact, I continued to 'bottom out' for quite some time. Maybe I just wasn't a winner: I wasn't getting many call-backs.

My sponsor told me to just keep trying. He had found that it was just the same for him. At first, 'problem people' don't get a lot of return telephone calls. I thought that maybe, after I had 90 days and didn't 'ask for a refund of my misery,' that people would call me back. It's only after you have proven that you're not just loitering that people take you seriously....or so I thought.

Around the time I had my second ninety days, I remem-

ber complaining to my sponsor that I was just getting stiffed! No calls! He suggested that I calm down and take a shift to answer the telephone **Hotline** at Queens Intergroup. I only had six months, and I was dealing with a lot of anger, resentment, guilt and fear about my 25 years of drinking. But I was working the first three steps with a lot of resolve and self-discipline. And I was also starting to enjoy myself. I was feeling freedom from liquor for the first time in a long, long time. Boy, was I feeling good!

So, I went to the Queens Intergroup office and I started getting telephone calls!! But, I found out right away that alcoholics are really sick people. On that shift, on my very first day, I learned patience and tolerance when someone dropped in who was quite drunk on a slip. She had brought her dog with her, stayed a while, got bored with me and then left with her dog to go home. But she left her pocket book in the office! What a pain in the neck!

I might cause a squabble if I just appeared at her door, so I called her first. She was passed out, but she agreed that I should drop off her bag because she was in the bag by then.

But first, the telephone rang again with a call from a man about 50 years old who was crying because he had the shakes, and he was scared because he had no money left for booze. He knew that he would get a bad case of DT's, and he just had to get more booze. But he was also really desperate to get sober. So I told him he should call 911, and ask to be taken to a detox. I reminded him that this is a disease and it isn't anybody's fault that he caught it, and he had it bad. But he needed medical help to get himself detoxed. He'd never been to a detox before, so I told him that he'd be medicated to prevent seizures, and that got him to make the call to 911, and fast, too!

Only an alcoholic could know that alcoholism is a hopeless state of mind and body. I found a sense of usefulness right then and there that I'd never experienced before in my whole life. And I found hope for my own continued sobriety on that very first day.

I still don't get a lot of telephone calls, but sometimes I get an important one that makes my time spent answering the **Hotline** the very best experience I ever had, in or out of AA.

- Alcoholic John

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**QUEENS INTERGROUP'S**  
**INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE**  
**NEEDS**  
***YOU!***

**HAVE YOU BEEN AN IN-PATIENT  
AT A HOSPITAL DETOX,  
IN A REHAB,  
THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY  
OR ANY OTHER LONG-TERM FACILITY?**

**CARRY THE MESSAGE OF HOPE TO OTHER ALCOHOLICS!  
PASS IT ON !**

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**INSTITUTIONS MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> 6:30 PM AT INTERGROUP**

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↓ **PLEASE ACT ON THIS.** ↓

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**THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS NEED MEETINGS:**

**--- JAMAICA HOSPITAL,**  
psych wards 1 and 2  
Saturdays and Sundays at 3 pm.

**--- QUEENS MEDICAL,**  
the T. Building on Parsons Blvd.  
Fridays at 11 am.

**--- ST. JOHN'S DETOX, Far Rockaway**  
Mondays-Wednesdays-Fridays-Saturdays

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**CALL MANNY A. NOW AT 917-406-4783**

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**EMAIL: [institutions@queensAA.org](mailto:institutions@queensAA.org)**

## Understanding Anonymity

*"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."*

What is the purpose of anonymity in Alcoholics Anonymous? Why is it often referred to as the greatest single protection the Fellowship has to assure its continued existence and growth?

If we look at the history of A.A., from its beginning in 1935 until now, it is clear that anonymity serves two different yet equally vital functions:

At the personal level, anonymity provides protection for all members from identification as alcoholics, a safeguard often of special importance to newcomers.

At the level of press, radio, TV, films and new media technologies such as the Internet, anonymity stresses the equality in the Fellowship of all members by putting the brake on those who might otherwise exploit their A.A. affiliation to achieve recognition, power, or personal gain.

### **Anonymity on a person-to-person basis...**

From its earliest days, A.A. has promised personal anonymity to all who attend its meetings. Because its founders and first members were recovering alcoholics themselves, they knew from their own experience how ashamed most alcoholics are about their drinking, how fearful they are of public exposure. The social stigma of alcoholism was great, and those early A.A. members recognized that a firm assurance of confidentiality was imperative if they were to succeed in attracting and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Over the years, anonymity has proved one of the greatest gifts that A.A. offers the suffering alcoholic.

Without it, many would never attend their first meeting. Although the stigma has lessened to some degree, most newcomers still find admission of their alcoholism so painful that it is possible only in a protected environment. Anonymity is essential for this atmosphere of trust and openness.

Valuable as privacy is to new members, it is noteworthy that most of them are eager to share the good news of their A.A. affiliation with their families. Such a disclosure, however, is always their own choice: A.A. as a whole seeks to ensure that individual members stay as private and protected as they wish, or as open as they wish, about belonging to the Fellowship; but always with the understanding that anonymity at the level of the press, radio, TV, films and new media technologies such as the Internet, is crucial to our continuing sobriety and growth — at both the personal and group levels.

### **Anonymity at the media level...**

After its first few years of success, the Fellowship attracted much favorable attention in the press. Articles praising A.A. appeared in magazines and newspapers across the country. And, with each new article, the ranks of A.A. grew. In those days, everyone still feared the consequences of public disclosure; and so the first press coverage guarded members' anonymity for safety's sake.

The arrival of new media technologies such as the Internet has offered new vehicles to carry the A.A. message to the public. A.A. members continue to preserve their anonymity in these new public media.

As public awareness concerning alcoholism increased, the stigma decreased, and soon some A.A. members began to publicly acknowledge their affiliation in the media.

One of the first to do so was a famous ballplayer whose comeback was so spectacular that newspapers lavished attention on his successful struggle against alcohol. Believing that he could help A.A. by revealing his membership, he discussed it openly.

Even the founders of A.A. approved his actions simply because they had not yet experienced the costs of such publicity. Then, other members decided to break their anonymity in the media — some motivated by good will, others by personal gain. Some members devised schemes to tie in their A.A. affiliation with all sorts of business enterprises, insurance, sales, drying-out farms, even a temperance magazine, to name a few.

It did not take long for those at A.A. headquarters to realize that overzealous and self-serving anonymity breakers could quickly jeopardize the Fellowship's hard-won reputation. And they saw that if one person was made an exception, other exceptions would inevitably follow.

To assure the unity, effectiveness, and welfare of A.A., anonymity had to be universal. It was the guardian of all that A.A. stood for. In stressing the equality of all A.A. members — and unity in the common bond of their recovery from alcoholism — anonymity serves as the spiritual foundation of the Fellowship.

Back in 1946, Bill W., our co-founder, wrote: "The word 'anonymous' has for us an immense spiritual significance. Subtly but powerfully, it reminds us that we are always to place principles before personalities; that we have renounced personal glorification in public; that our movement not only preaches but actually practices a true humility."

# The Twelve Concepts for World Service

(Short Form)

## Service Material from the General Service Office

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The Twelve Concepts for World Service were written by A.A.'s co-founder Bill W., and were adopted by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1962. The Concepts are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure as it emerged through A.A.'s early history and experience. The short form of the Concepts reads:

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

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

3. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

5. Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

6. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

8. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

9. 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.

10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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The text of the complete Concepts is printed in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* (BM-31). This publication is available from the General Service Office, Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 459, New York, NY 10163. The price is \$1.55. Rev.5/2/02

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