

# Queens Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous

105-29A Metropolitan Avenue, Forest Hills, NY 11375  
www.queensaa.org T: 718-520-5021 (24 Hour Hotline)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7pm to 9pm  
Saturdays from 10am to 2pm

## The History of Queens Intergroup: The First Year

On September 18, 1991, the start of QIAA was boldly announced by a flyer proclaiming its mission "to help carry the message...and to enhance A.A. in Queens." Six weeks later a small office was opened on Jamaica Avenue in Bellerose, staffed by a handful of volunteers, led by Frank R, equipped with a phone and a coffee pot. That was the beginning of Queens Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Some AAs from Queens had come to believe that a Queens-based intergroup could provide more AA meetings in Queens institutions; would generate more funds for free AA literature in institutions; could establish a 24/7 hotline with volunteers more familiar with the details of Queens meetings; and could keep the meeting book up to date. There were other issues and resentments as well. On the other hand many individuals, groups and AA organizations were strongly opposed to breaking away from New York Intergroup. AA unity must have seemed threatened; limited resources wasted by duplication; even personalities placed over principles.

To counter these objections and to ask for support, advocates of QIAA would speak at meetings every night that first year. Every day a few dedicated volunteers would staff the hotline, put together the first meeting book (published April 1, 1992), and perform the tasks necessary to run an AA central office. The written record is sparse, and memories have faded. The names of Frank R, Hank G, Jerry O and Mexican Bob belong on any shortlist of founders of Queens Intergroup; probably also those of Lincoln Y, Truman W, and Billie C. There were others who served that first year, but few who contributed so much hard service. Also vital that first year was the substantial support of a small number of sustaining groups of AAs located throughout Queens. QIAA's first tag line was, fittingly, "we need your support." More volunteers were needed. Money was always short, requiring special visits to sustaining groups and frequent passing of the basket amongst the founders.

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## Upcoming Events

**June 6th**

**Queens Speaker Exchange and Delegates Meeting**

**Location:**

**All Saints Lutheran Church  
164-02 Goethals Ave,  
Jamaica, NY 11432**

7:30am: Exchange Meeting  
9:00 am: Delegates Meeting

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80th Anniversary



Sunday, June 28, 2015  
1:30 - 3:00pm  
New York Hilton Hotel

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

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2015 International  
Convention of Alcoholics  
Anonymous



**July 2-5, 2015  
Atlanta, Georgia**

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

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The 32nd Annual Queens Share-  
A-Day  
"The Foundation of Our Future"

**September 12, 2015  
I.S. 5**

50-40 Jacobus Street, Elmhurst

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

## The History of Queens Intergroup: The First Year

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In the beginning there was no organizational structure. The founders met informally and frequently as an "officers committee." The first Delegates Meeting was held at the St. Albans Veterans Hospital on February 22, 1992. At first curious, increasingly vocal, and often belligerent, the group representatives had to learn by trial and error how to govern their new intergroup in accordance with AA Traditions and common sense.

Acceptance of the breakaway intergroup first came from GSO (General Service Office), later from SENY (South Eastern New York Area - Area 49), and little by slowly from individual AAs and groups in Queens. As the months went by the founders began to feel that QIAA might just make it. It was a fitting conclusion to that first year that the "sober broom closet" of an office on Jamaica Avenue was closed. On October 1, 1992, a new office and meeting room was opened in an equally problematic "pigeon loft" of a space over the Cinemart Theatre on Metropolitan Avenue in Forest Hills.

*This article is the first draft of a portion of a history of QIAA. It is certain to be inaccurate and incomplete. Email any comments to [archives@queensaa.org](mailto:archives@queensaa.org).*

### TEMPORARY MEETING CHANGES

The "Give It A Try" Group formerly meeting in Elmont (Nassau County) is temporarily meeting in Cambria Heights.

The Cambria Heights Community Church  
118-02 230th Street

Monday is a Step Meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
(Traditions on the First Monday).

Thursday is a Beginners at 7:15 P.M. with an  
Open/Anniversaries Meeting on  
Last Thursday.

### *THANK YOU*

Thanks to the efforts of countless people, and some 56 of their Groups, your Intergroup was once again able to provide a safe place for those in the Fellowship to go. Were we all carrying the message? Yes; you made it possible to have 194 Open Meetings, at the Seasonal Share-A-Thon alone.

Suggestions and comments can be emailed to the QIAAC Chair at [survey@queensaa.org](mailto:survey@queensaa.org).

Questions, Comments, Events, Notes?

Email the Newsletter Editor at  
[newsletter@queensaa.org](mailto:newsletter@queensaa.org)

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QIAA 24 Hour Hotline:  
718-520-5021

*One's experience, strength and hope doesn't always have to come in the form of a qualification. Thank you for sharing with the fellowship!*

Dear Alcohol:

I say goodbye to you at last, your bottles I have none;  
I take my power back from you, my life now I have won.

I withdraw my invitation, and fire your stupid ass;  
I now can live with peace and hope, and don't fall down on the grass.

I wake up in the morning and don't have you on my mind;  
I can look at me in mirror, and self-respect there I will find.

I hate you stupid alcohol, of you "good memories" I have none;  
You drugged me to the pits of hell when all was said and done.

You're a product of the devil, a trickster through and through;  
when I choose to fall in love again, it will not be with you.

You smelled, you stunk and made me drunk, see things that  
were not there; you led me to believe it was of myself I should not care.

I fire and dismiss you and ban you from my diet;  
no more you'll have the power to cause in my life a riot.

Be on your way... you alcohol, pack your lies and tricks and go;  
for when it comes to my new life, God and I will run the show.

Rachel K./November, 2013