

Queens Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Newsletter

105-29A Metropolitan Avenue,
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7pm to 9pm Saturdays from 10am to 2pm

Office telephone: (718) 520-5024

Queens Intergroup Mail: QIAA, P.O. Box 754088, Forest Hills Station, N.Y. 11375-9088

The History of Queens Intergroup: The Share-A-Thon

The Share-A-Thon is Queens Intergroup's signature program. Unique in its early years and uncommon in the world today. The Share-A-Thon is a series of 24/7 meetings hosted by AA groups from all over Queens held in one location over Thanksgiving weekend and again from Christmas Eve through New Year's Day. Typically, The Share-A-Thon consists of about 300 hours of meetings attended by about 6,000 people who donate about \$6,000. Share-A-Thon, in its impact on individuals and its importance to AA in Queens, is simply awesome.

Within weeks of its founding in 1991, QIAA held an "Open House" on Thanksgiving afternoon in its tiny office on Jamaica Avenue in Bellerose. The next year the Open House was held in QIAA's new office space over the Cinemart Theater on Metropolitan Avenue in Forest Hills. Members of the Steering Committee and friends hosted meetings from 10 am to 10 pm on Thanksgiving Day, 1992. The Thanksgiving event was so popular that an "Alcathon" was held the following New Year's Eve and Day.

In 1993 the Thanksgiving event was entitled an "Open House Share-A-Thon" and lasted the entire weekend. We also had The Share-A-Thon from Christmas Eve to Christmas Day and New Year's Eve to New Year's Day in 1993. In addition to food, donations for the Institution Literature Fund were requested. To this day, The Share-A-Thon is QIAA's major fundraiser, accounting for about 20% of its annual income.

In 1994 the name The Share-A-Thon was adopted, although there is still no standard spelling or typography. Also, set a few years later was its schedule of Thanksgiving weekend and Christmas Eve through New Year's Day. Hosted by Groups rather than individuals and selection of the Groups by lottery had become part of the tradition by 2005, together with answering the Hotline and volunteering for the Twelve Step list.

After the Cinemart lease expired in 2003, The Share-A-Thon was relocated to Our Savior Lutheran School on Woodhaven Boulevard in Rego Park. Forced to vacate again in 2014, The Share-A-Thon was most recently held at Christ the King Center on Farmers Boulevard in Springfield Gardens.

Over the years many have contributed significantly and generously to The Share-A-Thon. Five should be noted: Frank R, Hank G, Manny A, John Francis B, and Chris R.

For Queens AA's attending The Share-A-Thon is like going home during the holidays. Sometimes its painful, sometimes consoling or joyful; but we are most always there, if only in our heads.

Note: This article first appeared in the QIAA 2015 1st quarter newsletter

Upcoming Events

March 2nd Queens Speaker Exchange Followed with The Delegates Meeting

Location:

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

7:30am: Exchange Meeting

9:00am: Delegates Meeting

March 22-24, 2019

2019 SENY CONVENTION

Location:

Westchester Marriott
670 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591



We Need Your Help!

Queens Intergroup provides a 24-HOUR Hotline for any suffering alcoholic who needs someone to talk to.

This hotline is 100% Staffed by volunteers and we need YOUR help to maintain it

Help us help the still suffering alcoholic!

Call the Hotline

(718) 520-5021

A Message from Your New Newsletter Editor

Happy New Year Everybody. My name is Eddie F. and I am your new Newsletter Editor for Queens Intergroup. Through the Grace of God, the Twelve Steps, the Fellowship, Sponsors, and Service, I haven't found it necessary to pick up a drink for over Thirty Years. If you had told me in those early days, that I would be sober and serving as Newsletter Chair, I would have thought you were insane. I was very content doing service at the group level and most recently with my present homegroup, Elm-Heights, which meets on the Sixth Floor of Elmhurst Hospital. Over the years, I wore a lot of hats as the Group- Treasurer, Chairman, and Secretary. Also, I've had the great privilege to sponsor many alcoholics. Particularly, many who were residing at the Halfway House, located on Baxter Avenue, across from Elmhurst Hospital. I've also been blessed to chair a Big Book Meeting at the Mustard Seed every Sunday at Eleven AM. It works when all other activities fail.

So, I really had no aspirations for doing service at the lower levels of the AA Pyramid. However, while attending the Queens Speaker Exchange and Intergroup Representative Meeting with Elm-Heights Intergroup Rep-Nick T. last December, I made the mistake of using the restroom. Upon my return, Richie P.-Institutions Chair of Queens Intergroup yells out "Yeah! I nominate THAT guy!", pointing at me in the back of the room. At this point, the whole crowd turned around in laughter and was staring at me because I must have had that "deer in the headlights look". Then I uttered "What am I being nominated for?" at which Antonio-the Chairman approached me and said, "You're being nominated for the Newsletter Chair", O.K" I said, "What does that entail?" To which Antonio responded, "You write a newsletter every three months." I deliberated with myself a few moments, while the crowd fixed their gaze on me. Then I said, "What the hell, I just wrote a One-Act Play." Whereupon the whole crowd erupted in applause. My first instinct was to approach the podium to make a speech.

The moral of the story could be, DO NOT use the restroom, while attending a Reps meeting, you just might get nominated for something. Or, when you take a chance and say Yes to a Commitment, you are saying Yes to Your Sobriety and a World of Possibilities opens up that you could never fathom.

And finally, I will leave you with this amusing story "Buckle Up", which appeared in the May 2015 issue of Grapevine by Chris B. of West Bend, Wisconsin:

An AA was running late driving to work one morning. Noticing that the carpool lane was shorter, she got in it. Soon a police officer came up behind her, turned on his lights and pulled her over.

The officer walked up to the car and the woman lowered her window.

"Ma'am," the policeman asked, "do you know why I'm pulling you over?"

"No, sir, I'm afraid that I don't," the woman replied.

"You're in the carpool lane, yet you have no other passenger in your vehicle. Why is this?" he said.

Thinking quickly, the woman replied, "Well, you see, officer, I'm an alcoholic. Prior to recovery, my life had become one of incomprehensible demoralization. Once I became involved in AA, however, I found my Higher Power and began working the Steps and have lived a life better than I could ever have imagined. In gratitude, I take my Higher Power with me wherever I go. So, while it appears that I'm riding alone, I really am not."

"I see," replied the officer. He then proceeded to pull out his ticket book and began to write her a ticket.

"But, officer, I don't think you understand," she pleaded. "There are two of us in the vehicle."

"Ma'am," replied the officer, "I do understand. You see, I, too am a grateful member of AA and I also take my Higher Power with me wherever I go."

"Then, why the ticket?" she asked.

"Because your Higher Power isn't wearing a seat belt," he said.

Special thanks to Malini M., Martin O'K for their encouragement. John F. and Joann M for their Newsletter Edits. My Sponsee Atif, who happens to be the fastest typer I know. And Adina C. who helped to format this article.

Love and Service,
Eddie F.



**QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, EVENTS, NOTES?
EMAIL THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR (EDDIE F.)**



AT

NEWSLETTER@QUEENSAA.ORG