

Queens Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Newsletter

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Happy New Year Everyone. Since this is the first time I am writing the QIAA Quarterly newsletter, I just wanted to introduce myself. My name is Atif Chaudhry, and I am an alcoholic. By the Grace of God, I have been sober for three years now and I am privileged to do service below the Group level. My sponsor, Eddie, had this commitment for the past three years and asked if I wanted to take it over and I said yes because I don't want to say no to service. As reminded by Eddie and other AA members, I don't ever recall saying no to a drink.

Along with myself, we have the following new chairs for the Steering Committee for the term starting January 1, 2023.

QIAA Steering Committee Chairs

1. Chairperson - Emily M.
2. Vice Chairperson - Eddie F.
3. Webmaster - Chelsea M.
4. Treasurer - Herbert M.
5. Vice Treasurer - Martin M.
6. Secretary - Laurie S.
7. H&I Literature Coordinator - Darren S.
8. Intergroup/SENY Liaison - Gretchen W.
9. Special Events Coordinator - Emily M.
10. Meeting Book Chairperson - Audette
11. Office Manager - Stephanie P.
12. Advisor - John Francis
13. 12 Step Coordinator - Currently Vacant (If you are interested, please see qualifications at <https://queensaa.org/service>)

With the return of the in-person Share-A-Thons (Thanksgiving and Holiday Share-A-Thons), John Francis was gracious enough to submit the following article:

"Back By Popular Demand" (2022 Share-A-Thons)

After a three-year hiatus, Queens Intergroup re-initiated "Live" Share-A-Thons, both during the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend and from December 24th until January 1st (Holiday Week). Queens AA members had been approaching the QIAA Steering Committee members, and myself, since late 2021 when live meetings really started to reopen. In the fall of 2022, the QIAA meeting book listed about 180 in-person meetings, so at that point, the timing seemed right.

Queens Intergroup conducted the lotteries for both events remotely, although group representatives were given the option of coming to the QIAA office to participate. Group representatives enthusiastically got involved in the process, and were "psyched" to once again get a slot and cover that slot. We at QIAA cautiously anticipated solid turnout and group participation at both upcoming events.

For the Thanksgiving Share-A-Thon, QIAA was able to secure Grace Lutheran Church. This was a new location for any QIAA event, even though the Liberty Group has been meeting there since 2002 or so. The location was four blocks from the QIAA Office. Since this was our first live Share-A-Thon in three years, the proximity to the office was advantageous, and gave some of us a sense of serenity and security. A lot of members approached me to note that they felt the location was "centralized."

In terms of the actual Share-A-Thon, it went as well, maybe even better, than we could have expected. The room had the capacity to hold 90 seats. There was a low ceiling so the sound was good and everyone could hear each other easily. The kitchen was in the back of the meeting room. The meetings were well-attended and most people noted that they were so happy we were back live.

Collections for the weekend were robust, a clear indicator that people were making a "7th tradition" statement about being back live. The Share-A-Thon is the only generator (event-wise) of revenue for QIAA. Groups and members really showed appreciation through their generosity. Most importantly, members of Liberty 2 as well as volunteers whom I have seen at Share-A-Thons for decades went "above and beyond", doing any service that needed to be done. There was a real sense of unity all weekend, and those at their first Share-A-Thon told me, "This is great!" Many stayed for hours at a time.

The holiday Share-A-Thon was held at our mainstay location for six years or so, The Christ The King Center in St. Albans / Springfield Gardens. Members of the AA Group that

meets at the host location, A Fresh Way To Start The Day, as well as dozens of local AA members, did everything possible (and more) to make sure everything ran smoothly.

The holiday Share-A-Thon is twice as many days (plus one) as the Thanksgiving Share-a-Thon. However, this did not taint the gratitude, service, generosity, or participation of Queens AA members. Meetings were well-attended, collections were robust, and AA unity was evident all week. Again, people approached me to express gratitude that the Share-A-Thon was back live.

In summary, the general sentiment from virtually every (Queens) AA member that approached me was gratitude that the Share-A-Thons were back. In my hours at the meetings, I also spoke with AA members from Brooklyn, Staten Island, The Bronx, and even some from Florida and Maryland. From a practical standpoint, the Share-A-Thons achieved some needed goals. Revenue flow was successful and just as importantly, the Twelfth Step contact list was replenished. That was something that was greatly needed. Most importantly, the enthusiasm and unity which began with Gratitude Day in June of 2022 was continued and expanded. So, see you in June 2023 for Gratitude Day. Thanks again for all your support, both from Queens AA Groups and of course, every AA member.

Sincerely, In Love & Service,
John Francis, QIAA Advisor

2022 Holiday Statistics

As mentioned by John Francis, both 2022 Share-A-Thons were extremely successful. Just some of the rough estimates of attendance and 7th Tradition collections for the Holiday Share-a-Thon are as follows:

There were a total of 198 meetings starting at 12 pm on December 24th and ending at 6 pm on January 1st. The average attendance was 13 people per meeting and average 7th Tradition was \$21 per meeting. This again, as noted by John Francis, were very generous contributions by members.

H & I Update

As of January 12th, 2023, according to Darren S., The H&I Literature Coordinator, here is the most recent update. Currently, there are five commitments as follows:

1. Creedmoor is to open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
2. Faith Mission is open on Sundays and Wednesdays

3. Cornerstone remains open and has 64 meetings per month
4. The Ed Thompson Center for Vets is open on Mondays through Saturdays
5. Flushing Detox is open on Mondays and Wednesdays. Two openings are available for Saturdays, 6 pm.

Please bear in mind, this is all subject to change. If interested in doing service, please contact Darren S. at 516-592-9517 or Mike L. at 718-757-9317 or email Secretary@queensaa.org.

I chair the Tuesday evening Daily Reflections meeting at my homegroup, Elm Heights. One of my recent speakers, Lenny from Seaford Gratitude, gave us a great 10th step poem that I would like to share with you.

It's Up To You!

Did you make someone happy, or make someone sad?
What did you do with the day that you had?
God gave it to you, to do just as you would.
Did you do something wicked, or do something good?
Did you make someone smile, or just give a frown?
Did you lift someone up, or push someone down?
Did you lighten some load, or progress impede?
Did you look for a rose, or just gather a weed?
What did you do with your glorious day?
God gave it to you, did you throw it away?

Special thanks to Chelsea M., John Francis B. for edits, my sponsor Eddie Fee, and the entire QIAA Steering Committee. If you have any articles that you would like to submit, you may email me at newsletter@queensaa.org. Please limit articles to 1-2 pages and a maximum of 2,000 words.

In Love & Service,
Atif Chaudhry
Newsletter Coordinator