

# NEW YORK SOUTH ASSEMBLY AREA

P.O. Box 30. Radio City Station. New York. NY 10101

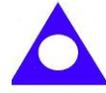


## Speak-Easy

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Summer 2017 / July - September



### The Officers and Coordinators of Panel 57

#### Officers

Delegate / Taaj J. – [NYS57delegate@aol.com](mailto:NYS57delegate@aol.com)  
Alternate Delegate / Emily D-C. - [nys57altdelegate@gmail.com](mailto:nys57altdelegate@gmail.com)  
Chairperson / Ellen D. – [NYS.area.chair@gmail.com](mailto:NYS.area.chair@gmail.com)  
Area Secretary / Sue V.  
Area Treasurer / GraceMarie H. - [nystreas@gmail.com](mailto:nystreas@gmail.com)

#### Coordinators

##### **Alateen / VACANT**

Archives / Paula A.  
AAPP / Lyna M.  
Discovery 2017 / Sabrina H. – [nysdiscoveryconvention@gmail.com](mailto:nysdiscoveryconvention@gmail.com)  
Forum-Literature / Marissa W. – [NYS57forumliterature@gmail.com](mailto:NYS57forumliterature@gmail.com)  
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The **Speak-Easy** will be published four (4) times a year:

The **Summer** edition (July, August and September), will be ready for the May AWSC, and the June Assembly.

The **Fall** edition (October, November and December), and will ready for the September AWSC, and the October Assembly.

The **Winter** edition (January, February and March), to be ready for the January AWSC, and the February Assembly.

The **Spring** edition (April, May and June), will be ready for the AWSC in March, and the Assembly in April.

#### Dates for 2017:

**AWSC** = Sunday, January 8 / Sunday, March 5 / **Sunday, May 21** / Sunday, September 10

**Assembly** = Sunday, February 19 / Saturday, April 1 / **Sunday, June 11** / Saturday, October 21

**ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR FALL ISSUE ARTICLES = AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2017**

## Discovery 2017: It Takes A Fellowship



It's Here ...

July 14 – 16, 2017





## Thoughts From Our Officers



### Area Delegate / Taaj J.

The World Service Conference took place in Virginia Beach in April. There were 92 voting members attending with several more international guests who had a voice but no vote.

Many sessions focused on expansion of our membership as well as digital strategy of the fellowship.

We looked at a few hot topics including finance. A full report will be forthcoming at the June Assembly and information on the next conference will be available then as well.

We are in great shape financially, thanks to our membership and we are focusing on ways to make that new vision sustainable.

The future of our membership rests in the hands of our members, so how do we make our fellowship more inclusive.

See you all in June, and thanks everyone for the great area service!



### Alternate Delegate / Emily D-C.

*Guidelines again?? Oh, NO!!* As a new Group Representative from Brooklyn, I'd cringe when the Area Chairperson dimmed the lights at Assembly and projected a yellow highlighted section of Area Guidelines onto the screen. Line by line, acronym by acronym, comma, parentheses, period, and dash (*slight exaggeration*), we'd review each proposed change. The Chair would then ask the GRs to discuss, modify, and hopefully, approve them.

It wasn't until I imagined standing for an Area position that I realized how important Guidelines actually were. Area Guidelines are job descriptions for each Officer and Coordinator. Reviewing the responsibilities of Alternate Delegate helped me understand what I was volunteering for.

As a child, I often stumbled over unstated boundaries and rules in my alcoholic family. Sometimes I was even punished for things my parents had never explained to me were wrong. Doing service in Al-Anon is different.

Concept Ten states: *Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority and double-headed management is avoided.*

In our Area Guidelines, expectations are clearly stated: which trusted servant is in charge of which job ("carefully defined service authority"); while Concept Ten reminds me to focus on my own tasks and not step over another person's service authority ("double-headed management is avoided").

According to a vote last year, one of my responsibilities as Alternate Delegate is to prepare Guideline changes for the Assembly, and to update those sections once changes have been passed.

So the next time you see the Guidelines go up on the screen, remember that one day, you too, may be pouring over the bullet points when preparing to run for an Area position!



### **Area Chairperson / Ellen D.**

The April 30th reading in the ODAT (One Day At A Time) book speaks of the selfishness of the Al-Anon program. On the surface this may seem to contradict the basic principles of this beautiful program, in truth the opposite is true. When I finally learned to put myself first and dove into study of the Al-Anon program, my life completely transformed. No longer steeped in insecurity, I learned through service, the power behind giving back. Each step along my journey, I learned the importance of taking well thought through risks. I have grown the most through the challenges faced. Accepting new service responsibility helps me grow both emotionally and spiritually. Lois W. spoke of the importance of adherence to the traditions as a necessity for Al-Anon's survival. Where better to practice traditions than doing service? I hope that in some small way, I am able to give back some of what I have been given from practicing these principles.



### **Area Secretary / Sue V.**

This past month has been a difficult challenge and one that has given me an even greater sense of gratitude for Al-Anon and the fellowship. You may recall I had to unexpectedly leave the April 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly meeting due to a family emergency. My uncle was sick and I'm sorry to say he passed away on April 6. I was his caretaker and spent a great deal of time with him especially in the past few years. If not for this program and the support of all of you, I don't know where I would be today. The outpouring of love and support that I received was overwhelmingly comforting. It is because of you that I had the courage to handle my responsibilities even in the face of some of my greatest fears. Such member to member support can only come through the grace of this fellowship and the miracle of Al-Anon. And, for me, that miracle really takes off through service. When I came into this program in 1999. I immediately got involved in service and it was through service that my friends in Al-Anon grew by leaps and bounds. I am so grateful for each and every one of you today. Never would I believe that I could gain so much by giving. Service has really helped me appreciate what it means to keep the focus on myself and not the alcoholic. Service gave me something productive to do and has paved the way to a healthier me. It has helped me connect to an inner strength I never knew I had. It is this strength that gives me hope even in the saddest of times. Thank you Al-Anon, for putting me on the road to recovery and teaching me some of my most valuable life-lessons.



### **Around the Area**

#### **P.O. Box Coordinator / Arthur S.:**

I continue to enjoy, even thrive on the service of picking up the mail from the PO Box. It's a chance to get into the city, and an excuse to go to a meeting, and an opportunity to do service. I have established a routine of emptying the mailbox and forwarding the contents to our Treasurer weekly, and the system works well for both of us.



#### **District 24 / District Representative / Sue V.:**

District 24 is really making strides as we come together for the common good of Al-Anon. This past month our District had the honor of hosting the April 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly. Mildred stepped up as coordinator and assembled a wonderful team of volunteers who worked together brilliantly to balance the right combination of healthy, tasty and decadent snacks! The quality, selection and quantity of refreshments were truly sensational! Some volunteers baked homemade goods, some got together to do the food shopping, some gave their time to help set up, others gave time during the Assembly to keep the table well-stocked; still others helped clean up at the end. All worked together and the result was a huge success! Big thanks to Mildred and crew. It was heartwarming to see everyone come together for the betterment of all.

**The Steps, Traditions, and Concepts***July [7] / August [8] / September [9]***Steps:**

- 7 Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
- 8 Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
- 9 Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

**Traditions:**

- 7 Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
- 8 Al-Anon Twelfth Step work should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
- 9 Our groups as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

**Concepts:**

- 7 The Trustees have legal rights while the rights of the Conference are traditional.
- 8 The Board of Trustees delegate full authority for routine management of Al-Anon Headquarters to its executive committees.
- 9 Good personal leadership at all service levels is a necessity. In the field of world service the Board of Trustees assumes the primary leadership.

**The Al-Anon Declaration**

Let it begin with me, When anyone,  
anywhere reaches out for help,  
Let the hand of Al-Anon  
and Alateen always be there,  
and Let it begin with me!