

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 Pioneer Years

In September 1991 a flyer boldly announced that "a Queens Intergroup has been started." Fourteen months later a newsletter proudly proclaimed its initial accomplishments. A 24/7 hotline was in regular operation. Exchange & Delegates meetings were being held. A Queens Area Meeting Book had been published. QIAA was gaining recognition and support.

And a new, larger office was opened in central Queens. Although the rent was low and flexible, the building itself was a wreck, requiring continual repair and renovation. The stories are legendary of holes in the roof, lack of heat, broken toilets, electrical hazards, etc. With skill and unending hard work AA handymen transformed the "pigeon loft" into a proper office. A separate meeting room was created, providing home space for several AA groups and sorely needed cash to help pay the rent. Over the years the office above the theatre became a special place for Queens AA's to meet and to serve

In its third year the corporate structure of Queens Intergroup was framed out. Delegates from the 200 or so AA groups in Queens were meeting quarterly to establish the governing policies of their central office and to elect members of its Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was in turn charged with performing the services set out in its Declaration of Purpose. Bylaws were adopted establishing how the Steering Committee was to be organized and make decisions. To administer daily operations in a business-like manner an Office Operations Committee was established. And to comply with legalities a nonprofit membership corporation qualified as a tax exempt organization was formed.

Also in 1994 an Institutions Committee was established to carry the message into Creedmoor, Faith Mission and other previously underserved alcoholic treatment centers. Supporting materials and procedures for the Hotline were created to systematize that central office function. Maintaining a core staff of forty five volunteer phone operators was then (as now) a vital and interminable task.

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Upcoming Events

Queens Speaker Exchange and Delegates Meeting

Saturday, September 12, 2015

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

I.S. 5
50-40 Jacobus Street
Elmhurst, NY 11373

The 32nd Annual Queens Share-A-Day

"The Foundation of Our
Future"

September 12, 2015
8:30am - 5:00pm

I.S. 5
50-40 Jacobus Street
Elmhurst, NY 11373

www.qcgsa.org
www.aaseny.org

Inaugural Queens County Spiritual Breakfast

Sunday, October 4, 2015
10:00am to 2:00pm

Italian Charities of America
83-20 Queens Boulevard
Elmhurst, NY 11373

www.qcgsa.org

The Bill W. Dinner

Celebrating the 81st Sobriety
Anniversary of Bill W.
"We Are Not Saints"

October 31, 2015
www.nyintergroup.org

The History of Queens Intergroup: The Pioneer Years

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Computer data bases for the meeting book, the 12th Step list and mailing list were created. Less successful were efforts to maintain a regular newsletter and to create a workable AA literature sales program.

QIAA started out with a few dollars and a few commitments. No financial records from the first months survive, but minutes from the first two years never report a bank balance of more than \$2,000. There is no evidence of any accounts being past due, but those first years were very hand-to-mouth. Members of the Steering Committee frequently visited groups to explain its mission and to appeal for donations and volunteers. Donated labor and materials were regularly credited against office rent due. Several small bequests were eagerly accepted. The annual meeting book printing cost of \$1,700 required careful budgeting. Fundraising for AA literature for institutions was always a special concern. Gradually, more groups made larger contributions more regularly. It took almost five years before a prudent reserve could be set aside.

In 2001, www.queensaa.org was established. At the end of that same year Queens Intergroup was asked to partner with New York Inter-Group in taking AA meetings non-stop around the clock to the responders at the World Trade Center. Those meetings were a very emotional and exhausting display of the strength of the Fellowship, its individual volunteers and its service organizations. The 9/11 meetings and the last Shareathon held in the rooms over the Cinemart theatre in December, 2001 marked the end of QIAA's Pioneer Years.

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.

HELP US ALL TO "REMEMBER WHEN?"

Our Archives Committee Chairperson is compiling a permanent record of the history of Queens Intergroup. This will be available to any and all those that are interested. It will also become the basis for a presentation at our 25th. Anniversary Celebration in 2016. Anyone who wishes to provide material (pictures, stories, written or printed information and so on) are asked to contact Allen C. at archives@queensaa.org.

MEETING TIME CHANGES

Astoria:

Young at Heart

Bikram Yoga Studio, 38-01 23rd Avenue, Room
201

THURSDAY: OPEN at 8:00PM

Ozone Park:

Bill W. Group

133-09 120th Avenue

FRIDAY: CLOSED at 7:00PM

OVERNIGHT TELEPHONE COORDINATORS NEEDED

QIAA has shift coordinators who are always available to support phone volunteers if questions arise. In addition to answering phones, we are always looking for daytime and nighttime coordinators.

As coordinator, you switch the phones from one volunteer to another. Daytime coordinators do that 3 times a day (10am, 2pm, 6pm). Evening coordinators do that 2 times a day (10pm and 6am). If you're a night owl or an early riser, the evening coordinator service position has your name written all over it.

Overnight – 10PM to 6AM Open Positions

Mondays (even months - Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug, Oct., Dec.)

Fridays (even months - Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug, Oct., Dec.)