### 2014 Second Quarter (April/May/June) Newsletter

# 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 12pm

Tradition 4: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Tradition 5: Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Tradition 6: An A. A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

#### Malini's Thought of the Quarter

I'm sure you hear it at every meeting in the Secretary notes. "Queens Intergroup is looking for Phone Volunteers" or "Queens Intergroup is in need of overnight and daytime phone coordinators." And I'm sure that you mean to ask for more information and what that entails. However, by the end of a meeting, there's the usual thanking the speaker, greeting the newcomer and fellowshipping that it slips your mind.

Answering the A.A. Hotline is a great way to be of service. All you need is 90 days of continuous sobriety as a recovering alcoholic. You can answer the phones in the office (a great way to fellowship) or the phone lines can be forwarded to your phone.

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.

"We must, at all costs, preserve our essential unity; it must be unbreakably secure. Without permanent unity there can be little lasting recovery for anyone." (p. 70, The Language of the Heart)



#### **Upcoming Events**

March 1

#### Queens Speaker Exchange & Delegate's Meeting

#### Location

All Saints Lutheran Church 164-02 Goethals Avenue (@164th. Street & Goethals)

- 7:30am Exchange Meeting
- 9:00am Representatives Breakfast
- 9:15am New Representatives Orientation
- 9:30am Representatives Meeting

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#### QIAA Service Workshops (What does QIAA do?)

Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 12-1

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 12-1

Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 12-1

Workshops take place at the QIAA office

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Email me your story ideas, thoughts, questions at maliniqueensaa@gmail.com

#### In Remembrance

#### In the Spirit of Service By Andi C.

My journey of a thousand miles began with a simple act of service – performed by the gentleman that answered the phone at NY Intergroup the morning of June 25, 2006 and asked me if I thought I had a problem with alcohol. Upon my admission of "Yes, I do," and "Can you help me?" he directed me to my first meeting.

The walk to that first meeting felt far longer than four short Manhattan blocks, and the thought of crossing the threshold seemed an unimaginable leap of faith until I was greeted by a lovely woman who welcomed me to "The Workshop," assured me that I was in a safe place, and promised me that it would all be ok.

My sobriety was forged on the service of others, and I soon learned that I could be of service, too. I learned that showing up, sharing my experience, strength and hope, reaching out my hand, and being of service to others would become the basic tenets of my program. I also learned that sobriety is found at the bottom of a coffee pot, in a bag of chocolate-chip cookies, behind a broom, and in the Secretary's notes – that not only are we self-supported by our own contributions, but that our contribution of time and focus and energy and commitment keeps our fellowship alive and keeps us alive. I learned these lessons in my first home group as I began to show up and grow up and make friends and live a sober life of grace and dignity. Then we moved to Queens.

The borough I was born and raised in seemed a foreign land, as I hadn't been sober in Queens since the (very) early 80's, and I felt like a newcomer once again.

I quickly turned to service knowing that it would be the best way to get acquainted and connected, and establish a local sober network. As a result, months turned into years, friendships have grown strong and my commitments within this amazing community of recovered others have kept me grounded and sane and sober. From service at my home group, to service outside of the group and, of course the Cluster Event skits and more, I owe everything to the program of recovery and this fellowship.

Now my journey of a thousand miles continues as I look to the west and our new home in San Francisco. Fortunately I know that the fellowship is there waiting, that new friends who speak our language and share our experience, strength and hope will be found, and that all I'll need to find them is a meeting book as my guide and a coffee pot that needs tending to. Frank R, founder of QIAA Stan \_\_, Garden Group of FH

#### In Gratitude

Michael L, after twenty years of service at institutions for alcoholics and addicts in Queens, has moved to Pittsburg to assist the White Fields Foundation at its three quarter house for men in recovery. In December, 1990, Michael was a patient at Creedmoor when he first met Frank R, dressed as Santa Claus and carrying the message. So inspired, Michael got sober; and also became a trusted servant, particularly at Creedmoor and Faith Mission. He served as Institutions Chairperson of Queens Intergroup from 2009 to 2013. Michael, and wish you the very best in your new ministry. We miss you.

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Andi C. & Steve C., have moved to San Francisco after 5 years of service in Queens. Both carried the message through service within their home group, Survivors – creating the 10pm Saturday meeting; writing, performing, and directing the skists for Districts 304 and 311; as well as countless areas of service. Thank you and there is definitely a coffee commitment with your names on it. We miss you.

If you would like to submit a name of someone in the Fellowship who has moved or passed away, feel free to email me at **maliniqueensaa@gmail.com**.