

# THE BIGAA GAZETTE

January  
2026

A Publication of Brooklyn Intergroup of A.A.

Bringing Experience, Strength & Hope—From Our Groups to You

Hotline: (718) 851-3039 ♦ Office: (347) 315-2380 ♦ Website: [www.brooklynintergroup.org](http://www.brooklynintergroup.org)

Volume I  
Issue #1

## This January in Brooklyn A.A.

At a Glance

### Brooklyn Intergroup Service

- *The BIGAA Gazette in print arrives!*  
Pick up your copy at our office, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>
- *Institutions Committee Meeting*  
Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 PM
- *BIGAA's Monthly Meeting*  
Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9 AM

### Fellowship Events

- *The Hole in the Donut Sober Open Mic and Fellowship Hour Weekly Event*  
Saturdays @ 5:00 PM (Meeting, 6:00 PM)
- *Concepts Workshop at Three Legacies!*  
Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM
- *The Gateway Group Holiday Party*  
December 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 PM
- *Greenwood Group's New Year Alcahthon*  
January 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM

### Meeting Updates

- *New Three Legacies @ Montrose Group*  
Every Monday & Thursday @ 7:00 PM,  
128 Montrose Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11206

### Sober Life & Resources

- *Available! BIGAA's Fall 2025 Directory -*  
[Order online](#) or [download now!](#)



Communications Committee Chair

## The Gazette—A new lifeline

A new, easier to read format available in print and in your inbox

Brooklyn Intergroup of A.A. has unveiled a major step forward in how it serves the still-suffering alcoholic — and how it keeps our Brooklyn groups connected to each other. The new six-page service publication, called **The BIGAA Gazette**, will now be available in print and as a PDF in members' inboxes.

This is not just “another newsletter.”

**The BIGAA Gazette** is built for action. Page One is built like a front page: urgent schedule changes, this month's service needs, where to show up, and—right up at the top—“How to Get Help Right Now,” including the BIGAA Hotline and a direct path to the meeting guide. Page Two lays out concrete service opportunities across BIGAA (hotline coverage, institutions/H&I, bookstore/office support, communications/tech), plus district, county, area, and group highlights or a new borough-wide report of meetings that have opened, changed locations/time, or closed.

Page Three carries the latest news on event updates right here in Brooklyn, and where to find the fellowship you seek. Pages Four, Five, and Six are all about spiritual structure and longevity: one Step, one Tradition, and one Concept of the Month or handy tools to use today in your journey to sobriety.

Each issue will also include a set of inserts that can be posted in meeting spaces or read at business meetings: Announcements and flyers (A), Bookstore and literature info (B), Contribute/7th Tradition support (C), and Resources (R) for all.

This new format is about carrying the A.A. message, not promoting personalities. It's about putting recovery, unity, and service in someone else's hand. If you're brand new, we want you to know where to go tonight. If you've been around, we want you to know where you're most needed.

## Get Help Now!

Need help with drinking?

Call **BIGAA's Hotline**

@ (718) 851-3039

- ⇒ Talk to an alcoholic volunteer.
- ⇒ Find a meeting on our [Directory](#).
- ⇒ Want to be helpful? See [Page 2](#).

### Service Opportunities

Find out how you can help

BIGAA Committee News

Hotline volunteers needed; Institutions; Office/Bookstore help; Work with our Website, Events, and Communications Committees; Why we rent an office  
**Page 2**

### Fellowship & Events

Anniversaries, Workshops...

Events Committee & A.A. Groups

Anniversary celebrations, Workshops, Speaker meetings, New Year's Eve Alcahthons, Open mics, and more  
**Page 3**

### Sober Resources

*Big Book in Context* & More

A.A. Service Material

Read stories of Experience, Strength & Hope in *The Beacon*; Fundamentals: Steps, Traditions & Concepts of the month; *Big Book in Context*, and more!  
**Pages 4-6**

## Brooklyn Intergroup

**Why Brooklyn Intergroup Rents an Office**

Outlining the history, cost, and service functions behind the BIGAA office lease

Last December, Brooklyn Intergroup of A.A. (BIGAA) issued a direct explanation to Brooklyn A.A. groups in response to two recurring questions raised at monthly meetings: why Brooklyn Intergroup rents an office space, and whether the expense is justified. BIGAA reports it has leased an office space since June 2021 at \$1,550 per month—an expenditure it acknowledged as significant and funded entirely through A.A. member and group contributions.

[According to the letter](#), the move followed several years of planning. For instance, a dedicated savings fund was voted on and created around 2018 specifically to secure an office, and the decision to deploy those funds was later voted on again by group representatives in keeping with informed group conscience.

Furthermore, BIGAA described how its operations were fragmented before the lease: literature stored in basements, meeting preparation done at home, no consistent place for members to meet and organize, and monthly meetings held in a rented classroom at a local Brooklyn elementary school. The office, the letter explained, now functions as a stable base for essential operations, including a quiet setting for hotline volunteers taking phone shifts, centralized storage and distribution of A.A.-approved literature and related items, and dependable in-person space for committees and service teams to meet, collaborate, and plan events. It also helps support community engagement through public information, professional outreach, and workshops.

Finally, BIGAA emphasized that it exists to support—not replace or control—Brooklyn groups and maintained that a functioning physical office improves its responsiveness, volunteer coordination, and long-term service stability. The letter noted access to the landlord’s real estate office for monthly meetings and the availability of a full kitchen and bathroom.

On cost, BIGAA stated that rent began at \$1,500, rose to \$1,550 at the last renewal, and is expected to increase to \$1,600 at the next lease. BIGAA reiterated its unreserved commitment to financial transparency and invited groups to ask questions, visit the office, or discuss our operations directly.

We have [service opportunities](#) available to be part of the Office Committee. Contact Irene C. at (347) 315-2380.



The Brooklyn Intergroup Institutions Committee carries the message of Alcoholics Anonymous by providing support and resources to those in institutions. Joining this committee would be a great fit for you if you are passionate about helping others and want to make a meaningful impact in the community. Interested? Email [institutions@bigaa.org](mailto:institutions@bigaa.org)

## BIGAA Institutions Committee

**Carrying the Message**

...and bringing hope to places that need it most

On a quiet Thursday at 7 p.m., a small act of civic service can happen: one sober alcoholic chairs a meeting at a federally run residential reentry center—bringing the A.A. message to people rebuilding their lives. We’re now seeking reliable volunteer chairs for this commitment. The requirements are real—background check, fingerprints, and dependability—but so is the impact made: an A.A. room where accountability is practiced, hope is

spoken plainly, and the next right action has a witness.

If you’ve ever wondered where service most directly meets public need, start here. Our Institutions Committee is organizing and training members who want to carry the message into institutions and hospital settings. Join the committee meeting on [Saturday, January 26, 2026, at 8:30 PM via Zoom](#).

## BIGAA Hotline Committee

**Volunteers needed!**

Answer a call, help save a life

It usually starts the same way: a phone ringing in Brooklyn, and a person on the other end who does not know what to do next. For Alcoholics Anonymous, that moment is not abstract. It is operational. It is the hotline—answered, quietly and consistently, by sober volunteers who remember what it felt like to make that first call.

[Brooklyn Intergroup is looking to strengthen that front line](#). Answering the hotline is among the most direct forms of service in A.A.: one member simply picking up for another. Volunteers can take shifts from home, making this commitment unusually practical for working New Yorkers, parents, and anyone balancing schedules while still trying to be helpful to others.

The ask is straightforward. If you have a year or more of sobriety and can offer a regular time slot, Brooklyn Intergroup will train you and place you where the need is. The payoff is less measurable but familiar to those in recovery: a voice of calm, a bridge to a meeting, and—sometimes—a life that turns, as it did for “Max,” because someone answered. [Read his story here!](#)

To learn more about the Hotline, email [Brooklyn Intergroup](#) or call us directly at (718) 851-3039.

For general inquiries, announcements, or meeting changes, please email [info@bigaa.org](mailto:info@bigaa.org), or write us at: Brooklyn Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous, 1283 Prospect Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11218-1380





Assorted A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature. Image used under Creative Commons license.

## The Big Book in Context: January 2026

This month, we discuss what early A.A. meant by “moral psychology”

In Dr. Silkworth’s hands, this phrase named a practical cure for the mind’s obsession—firmly anchored in spiritual reliance and service. As the time passed, however, we’ve lost its original meaning, and some A.A. members, both new and our dear old-timers, don’t know what it meant back then. Let’s try to find out.

The phrase “moral psychology” can sound, to modern ears, like an academic subfield—journals, laboratories, peer review. In the 1930s, Dr. William D. Silkworth used it differently: it served as a clinician’s shorthand for the one piece missing after detox—the re-education of an alcoholic mind that could not stay stopped.

In “[The Doctor’s Opinion](#),” Dr. Silkworth makes the problem plain. Doctors had “realized for a long time” that some form of moral psychology was “of urgent importance” to alcoholics, yet medicine struggled to apply it. The profession’s “scientific approach to everything,” he wrote, left it “not well equipped” to use “the powers of good” that lay outside “synthetic knowledge.” In other words: the body could be stabilized, but the obsession still required something medicine could not easily manufacture.

Dr. Silkworth’s *Medical Record* writings show what he meant by the term. In “[Reclamation of the Alcoholic](#)” (1937), he describes the third phase of treatment as “mental and moral stabilization,” and then turns explicitly to “moral psychology.” There, he treats sobriety as more than a vow. A lasting “decision,” he argues, differs from a mere “resolution”: it rests on an intelligent grasp of the condition and a changed attitude, not willpower strained to breaking. The result, he observes, can look like an “inspiration”—a felt relief—after which the once self-absorbed patient begins to

ask a surprising question: how can I help others? That outward turn is not decorative; it is the mechanism. Dr. Silkworth then recommends “moral psychology,” noting that patients who joined or formed such groups often changed “spectacular[ly].”

Two years later, in “[Psychological Rehabilitation of Alcoholics](#)” (1939), he names the engine more directly. The alcoholic mind, he says, runs on compulsive thinking; psychoanalysis often failed to break it. What could work was a “transfer” of that compulsion—rarely achieved except through a recovered alcoholic serving as

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“[O]nce they’ve made their decision... [alcoholics] can help others.”

— Dr. William D. Silkworth

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the credible medium. The emerging A.A. plan, he wrote, was “a combination of psychology and religion,” culminating in a transfer “to one greater than themselves, to God,” and made durable by group life and active carrying of the message.

[An online thread discussion](#) by A.A. history fans frames “moral psychology” in plain, almost homespun terms: many sufferers, it suggests, are trapped in an exhausting preoccupation with their own problems and thoughts—and the beginning of restoration is a redirection of attention outward, toward responsibility and care for others. That lay gloss tracks closely with Dr. Silkworth’s own emphasis on what he observed in early A.A.: the “unselfishness” of our people, their “entire absence of profit motive,” and the “community spirit” that replaced the illness’s isolating spiral.

In Dr. Silkworth’s usage, “moral psychology” is less a theory than a practical pivot—away from self-absorption and toward a lived ethic, strengthened in fellowship and expressed via service.

Brooklyn Intergroup

## Who Speaks for Your A.A. Group at BIGAA?

An overview of our services, representation, and support for the local fellowship

[Brooklyn Intergroup](#) stands as a beacon of hope for those battling alcoholism. Our mission is simple yet profound: to help Brooklyn alcoholics achieve permanent recovery. We do this in several ways:

- [Curating a detailed meeting directory](#)
- [Operating a 16-hour, daily hotline](#)
- [Holding the BIG Speaker Exchange](#)
- Publishing a [website](#) and [newsletter](#)
- Running an [office](#) and [bookstore](#)
- Bringing meetings into institutions
- [Supporting Brooklyn A.A. groups](#)
- Planning events and workshops
- [Monthly hybrid business meetings](#)

BIGAA is more than an organization—it's a true lifeline. It's where people find hope when they think all hope is lost. It's also a

community that ensures that no one in Brooklyn will face their alcoholism alone.

Our [bylaws](#) require us to take important decisions only after discussion and vote, often by substantial unanimity of those groups present, wherever possible.

Many Brooklyn-area groups, however, do not have representation—a voice and a vote—in the work that we do, because they have not elected a member to speak for them at our monthly business meetings.

A.A. members can attend our meetings. Your support is paramount, and many of you already take part in our events.

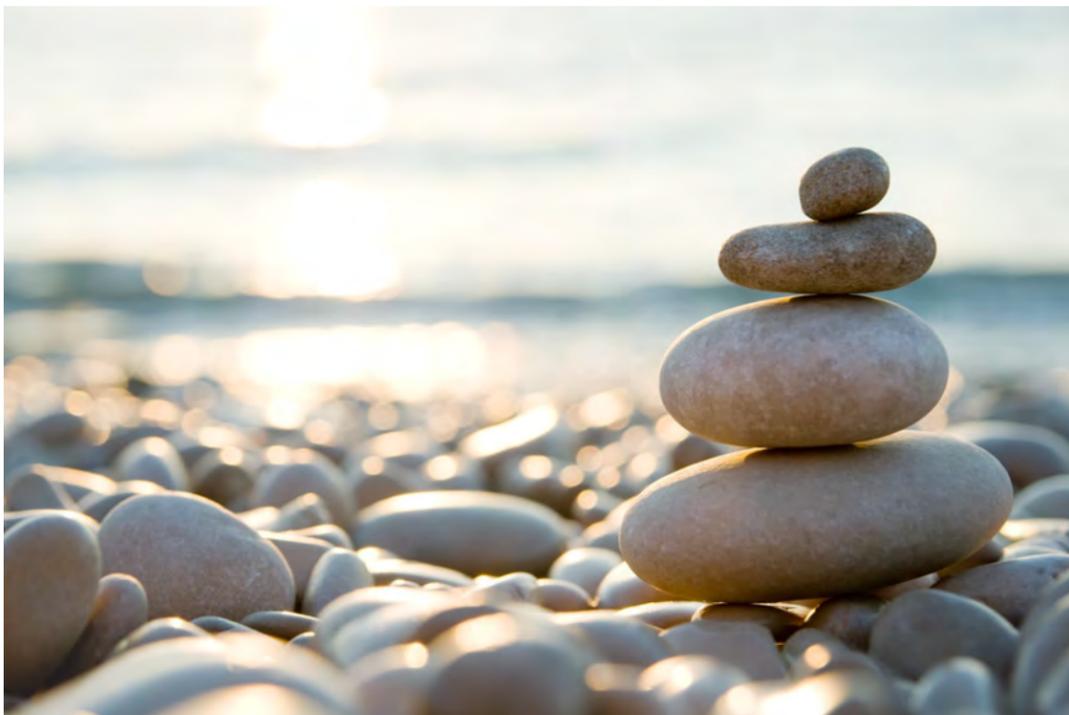
Know this: your presence helps save lives.

One way to help stands out, however: by participating in your home group's business meetings and ensuring its representation at Brooklyn Intergroup. Check if your group has a BIGAA representative. Take a step forward. We want all Brooklyn-area groups to have a voice and a vote in our decisions.

After all, recovery is a collective effort. We can inspire change, offer hope, and build a stronger, sober community together.

Let's make a difference, one step at a time.

Reach out. Ask questions. [Join us!](#)



*The Wisdom Wire* is The BIGAA Gazette's ongoing column of short, room-tested guidance—drawn from the lived experience of A.A. members and grounded in our shared language of recovery. Each issue offers a handful of “wire-length” pieces: a slogan unpacked in plain English, a brief pause-practice you can do anywhere, or a personal journey note that shows what it looks like to apply these tools on an ordinary Tuesday—not just in a crisis.

BIGAA Communications Committee

## The Wisdom Wire

Slogans, Daily Practices, and How We Live Them

### “Give time, time.”

Let the process unfold without trying to force a timeline. Healing happens in so many layers—physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially.

### “Don't compare; identify.”

If you compare, you'll find differences and talk yourself out of help. If you identify, you'll hear the same problem in a different suit—and you'll stay.

### “One day at a time.”

Don't try to solve “never drinking again” today. Your job is to not drink *for this day*, and use help to get through the hours you're in. No more “forevers.”

### “Pray and meditate.”

Take a few minutes each day—five in the morning, ten during lunch—to be more present and unplug from the negative self-talk that is keeping you stuck.

Alcoholics Anonymous

## The Fundamentals

Three Principles for January

**Step One.** “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.”

**Tradition One.** “Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward” (Long Form).

**Concept I.** “The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship” (Long Form).



## The Anonymity Corner

Some Questions & Answers

**Q.** “After I tell my loved ones about my A.A. membership, should I ask them not to disclose this information to anyone else?”

**A.** This is entirely a personal matter, but it is usually best for all concerned to let the A.A. member decide who shall be told and when.” (Quoted from the A.A. pamphlet, “Understanding Anonymity,” AAWS, 2023, p. 8).

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A long detour from sobriety ended in the ordinary discipline of service—the kind that functions like a beacon.

## *The Beacon* | Stories of Experience, Strength, and Hope

**IT WAS JANUARY 2022. I CAME BACK TO A.A. THE WAY SOME** folks return to churches: not because they’ve become holy, but because the alternatives have become unlivable.

The second time, I walked in on a cane and with an alibi. I told myself I was there for my nephew—he needed “you people,” I said, with the bored confidence of someone who believes he already knows the ending. I was the drunk escorting another drunk, still half-planning the next binge, still convinced I could quarterback the consequences if I simply managed the optics.

I had been in A.A. before, long enough to learn the language and short enough to avoid the cost of real change. I didn’t sponsor. I didn’t serve. I kept the program on a shelf, like a book you mean to read “when things settle down.” That delay became a ten-year vacation—long enough for the illusion of “I’ve got this” to rot into “I might not survive this.”

The details aren’t heroic. My work slid. Career gone. I thus drank with the impatience of a man trying to erase his own handwriting. I harmed people I loved and told myself I was still, at bottom, a decent guy. Eventually, my best arguments failed to convince me.

Then, outside a church, a man asked, “Do you want to read?”

I assumed he meant a pamphlet. “Read what?”

“[The Big Book](#),” he said. Then he added, with a bluntness that felt like mercy: “I go to lots of meetings, but you need to meet God. You need the Steps. You need the Big Book. Let’s read.”

He became my sponsor.

We read the Big Book cover to cover. Not just the pages people quote, but the plain instructions that refuse to flatter you. What changed me was not an atmosphere. It was action. My sponsor didn’t offer me a “safe space.” He offered me a path. Write the

inventory. Tell the truth. Pray. Make amends where you can. Be vigilant. Call other drunks. Then go help someone else before your thinking turns inward and starts manufacturing excuses.

In the rooms now, I notice how easily we import the vocabulary of treatment centers—“safe spaces,” “oversharing,” or “trauma dumping”—and how quickly that language can become a way to avoid surrender. The Big Book isn’t concerned at all with my preferred therapeutic model. It’s concerned with whether I am willing to be honest and useful. The spiritual life, I’ve learned, is not mainly an internal mood. It’s a set of outward commitments.

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### *The Long Surrender* by Anthony G.

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That is where fellowship gets tested. Fellowship isn’t dropping thirty dollars at a restaurant after a meeting, hunting company in the same frantic way we hunted relief at the bar. Meanwhile, the broke newcomer or the alcoholic fresh out of detox goes home: alone, famished. The Big Book’s idea of fellowship is sturdier and cheaper: show up, serve, and go find someone else to help.

Service brought me back to my core. Today I sponsor six AAs. I serve as [General Service Representative](#) for my homegroup, and I volunteer at [Brooklyn Intergroup](#). I stay busy, every day, not to distract myself, but because service keeps me properly placed. It turns my gaze outward. It breaks the spell of self-preoccupation.

When I do that—when I work the steps, when I try to be useful—God meets me in ordinary ways: enough money, enough peace, enough direction to do the next right thing. I used to think I needed a better plan. It turns out I needed a different master.

My ten-year A.A. vacation taught me what the Big Book already knew: if I keep the program as ideas, I drift. If I live it as a plan of actions—surrender and service—something steadier takes hold. God alone suffices. And for the first time in my life, I believe it.

# INSERTS

THE BIGAA GAZETTE

## Announcements and Flyers

### Section Contents

# A

This section contains important announcements and flyers related to BIGAA or Brooklyn-area A.A. activities. Check the inserts here for the latest news and opportunities to get involved.

Some of the things you may find here:

- Meeting schedule updates
- Special event announcements
- Volunteer opportunities

## Bookstore and Literature Information

### Section Contents

# B

Explore this section for information about Conference-approved literature, new arrivals at our bookstore, and service resources. Discover insightful readings and expand your A.A. knowledge.

Look for:

- New book and pamphlet announcements
- BIGAA Price Lists
- Special offers and discounts

## Contributions & Seventh Tradition

## Section Contents

# C

This section is dedicated to offering members instructions and tools on how to send their contributions to BIGAA and other A.A. service structures in accordance with our Seventh Tradition.

This section may contain:

- QR Codes or Contribution Links
- 7th Tradition guidelines and flyers
- Difference between Contributions & Donations

## Resources

## Section Contents

# R

Find helpful resources, contact information, and important links in this section. Access tools and support to enhance your journey.

Here you can expect to find:

- Meeting directory information and change requests
- Contact information for BIGAA Standing Committees
- Links to external resources from A.A. as whole

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
THE BIGAA GAZETTE**

**A**



**THE GREENWOOD GROUP AND  
DISTRICT 412 PRESENT**

# *Christmas Day Alcathon*

**Speaker meetings every hour on the hour from  
8am to 10pm. Last meeting will start at 9pm.**

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at:  
Greenwood Clubhouse  
367 20<sup>th</sup> St, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Contact Leah F. with any questions:  
(801) 503-8878



# Christmas

## WITH NAGL

MEETING • MOVIE • DINNER

### **Not A Glum Lot Presents it's Annual Christmas Day in NYC!**

#### **DECEMBER 25TH ACTIVITIES**

Please come join NAGL for one or all of these!

**12:00pm – AA Meeting at Midnight Group (220 West Houston St).**

**2:00PM – Dinner- Tony DiNapoli (Times Square;  
<https://www.tonysnyc.com/times-square>)**

**After dinner – Movie TBD – Theater TBD**

**Dinner will be CASH only!!**

#### **RSVP | QUESTIONS**

Please RSVP to [holidays@notaglumlotny.org](mailto:holidays@notaglumlotny.org) so we can plan accordingly.

Feel free to include any questions you may have about the event.

## **Happy Holidays!**



THREE LEGACIES AT  
MONTROSE PRESENTS

# CONCEPTS *Workshop*

GENERAL & INTERGROUP SERVICE

DECEMBER 29TH, 2025

STARTS AT 7:00 PM

128 MONTROSE AVE. BROOKLYN, NY 11206

GUEST SPEAKER - FOOD - FELLOWSHIP

*Let's learn together!*

Includes a Q&A Session





**NYE**

**2026**

**SOBER PARTY**

**DJ HANZI + SPECIAL GUESTS**

**\$20 EARLY BIRD • \$25 ADVANCE • \$30 WEEK OF**

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31ST • 9PM-2AM**

**WHERE: OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL CHURCH**

**21-1 Havemeyer St, Brooklyn, NY 11211**

**VIBES FOR ALL:**

**UPSTAIRS:  
DANCE  
& SWEAT**



**DOWNSTAIRS:  
CHILL &  
CONNECT**

SCAN FOR TICKETS

**TICKETS REQUIRED - PURCHASE ON EVENTBRITE**

**[sober-nye-2026.eventbrite.com.au](https://sober-nye-2026.eventbrite.com.au)**

# **NAGL SKI TRIP**

**@ WHITEFACE  
MOUNTAIN**

**1/9/26-**

**1/11/26**

**ON SALE**

**11/21**



**SERVICE:**

**SKI@NOTAGLUMLOTNY.ORG**

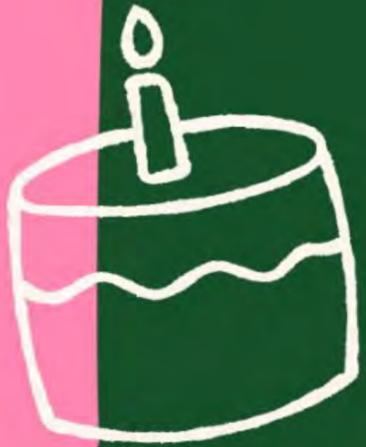
**NON-SKI  
ACTIVITIES**

<http://www.notaglumlotny.org/trips/skiing>

SUNDAY, JAN. 25 2026

BREAKFAST: 9-10AM  
MEETING: 10-11:30AM

# HERKIMER SPONSORS

 **51** <sup>ST</sup> 

## GROUP ANNIVERSARY MEETING

INTERFAITH HOSPITAL CAFETERIA  
1545 ATLANTIC AVE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11213

**BOOKSTORE**  
**THE BIGAA GAZETTE**

**B**

# **BIGAA Office / Bookstore Committee**

## **Service Position Available**



**Help provide  
AA Literature & information  
throughout the  
Brooklyn area!**

### **Join the Office / Bookstore Committee:**

- Answering of office phones and email
- Accounting of monthly bookstore inventory
- Rewarding service opportunities!
- **HOURS ARE FLEXIBLE!**

**Apply today: [info@bigaa.org](mailto:info@bigaa.org)**

**Questions? Contact Irene C. (347) 315-2380**



**FINAL  
REPORT**



**CONFIDENTIAL**

**2025**

**Working Together,  
Increasing Trust**

The 75th Annual Meeting  
of the General Service Conference of  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

**CONTRIBUTIONS  
THE BIGAA GAZETTE**

**C**



Office: (347) 315-2380 | Hotline: (718) 851-3039 | [info@bigaa.org](mailto:info@bigaa.org) | <https://bigaa.org>  
1283 Prospect Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11218

Dear Brooklyn AA groups,

We hope this message finds you well and thriving! This message from Brooklyn Intergroup of AA (BIGAA) addresses a question that recently came up during one of our monthly meetings, and which may be on the minds of AA groups in general.

### **Why Does BIGAA Rent an Office?**

[As disclosed in our meeting minutes and reports](#), BIGAA has been renting an office space at a cost of \$1,550 per month since June 2021. Some groups have understandably asked why this expense is necessary and whether it's a good use of the contributions we receive.

We want to assure you that this decision was made carefully and was planned for several years prior to signing our first lease. A savings fund was voted on and created around 2018 for the express purpose of finding an office space for BIGAA. When the time came to use the funds, the matter was once again voted on by all BIGAA group representatives in full compliance with the group conscience and mission of AA at heart.

Prior to securing a permanent office space, our operations were scattered. Literature was stored in basements, meeting prep happened at home, and there was no consistent place for members to meet, organize, or be of service. Our monthly meetings were held in a rented classroom in a Brooklyn elementary school.

The office allows for:

- A stable home base for all of BIGAA's essential operations.
- Hotline volunteers who prefer to take phone shifts in a quiet, professional setting.
- Storage & distribution of literature - We now have a central place to store and sell AA-approved books, pamphlets, coins, and more to help groups stay stocked up.
- Meet in-person - Our committees and service teams now have a reliable place to meet, collaborate, and plan events.
- Build community engagement - It provides visibility and structure for public information, professional outreach, and workshops.

### **Why This Matters**

BIGAA exists to support the groups of Brooklyn, and never to replace or control them. By having a central space, we are simply better able to serve *you*. A functioning office

allows us to respond more quickly to requests, better coordinate volunteers, and create long-term stability for AA service in our borough. Also, we have use of the landlord's real estate office for our monthly meetings, as well as the use of a full kitchen and bathroom.

We know that \$1,550/month is a serious commitment. BIGAA has always been transparent with our finances and treasurer's reports, but we wanted to take this opportunity to address this issue directly and alleviate any concerns you or your group may have. We also want to reaffirm that we rely 100% on AA member and group contributions to operate. BIGAA is dedicated to be careful stewards of those funds, and we will always remain accountable to you. Furthermore, the original cost was \$1500 per month. It was increased to \$1550 with the last lease renewal and it will be \$1600 at the next lease. We have been very happy that our rent has only increased \$100 in four years!

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support, your trust, and most of all, your service to the alcoholic who still suffers. If you have questions or would like to visit the office or talk more about how BIGAA operates, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude and service,  
Brooklyn Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous  
bigaa.org  
info@bigaa.org  
Office: (347) 315-2380  
Hotline: (718) 851-3039

Please direct all  
communications to:

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

## **'We are all going to foot the bill'**

I got sober a few days before Christmas in 1986, so I feel especially grateful and reflective this time of year. I am still awed at how miraculously A.A. has worked in my life, even before I walked into my first meeting.

I was desperate, but a bit clueless. I saw a classified ad (and I am showing my age!) in the back of the local paper that said: "Drinking problem? Maybe we can help." That was followed by a listing of meeting times and places in my neighborhood. It would take me a few weeks of white-knuckling it before I went to my first meeting. I was welcomed into a warm room and offered refreshments. And while someone told me I would never have to hurt like this from alcohol again, I couldn't get out of there fast enough.

But my getaway was slowed by a gauntlet of members who handed me A.A. pamphlets and meeting books and encouraged me to stay for the second meeting. It took me a few days to return, but I didn't drink.

As an alcoholic, self-centered in the extreme, I just came to expect that all this help would be there for me. It wasn't until my first business meeting that I realized it was made possible by the money members were putting in the basket. This was my first of many lessons over the years in the power and [impact of self-support](#).

Bill W. wrote of the critical importance of self-support to the Fellowship and the special obligation this tradition asks of members in his October 1967 article "A.A.'s Tradition of Self-Support," which is included in the 2025 International Convention commemorative edition of [Language of the Heart](#).

*Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship, or the world service Headquarters to maintain unity and effectiveness worldwide.*

*These service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion — to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to a recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill.*

We all share this responsibility to ensure that A.A. is there for the next person who stumbles into our rooms, as it was for us when we needed the gift of recovery. Bill's recognition that "we are all going to foot the bill" is both our spiritual responsibility and our spiritual heritage.

John W.  
Class B General Service Trustee and AAWS treasurer

**Learn more about group and individual contributions and their impact [at aa.org](https://www.aa.org).**

# AA GRAPEVINE

## Supported Solely By Your Participation

### WE'RE SELF-SUPPORTING

The AA Grapevine strives to be self-supporting through the sale of the magazine and related items. An important part of self-support at all levels (individual, group, district, area) is to subscribe and purchase books and other materials to assure the Grapevine and La Viña continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

#### As stated in the AA Service Manual

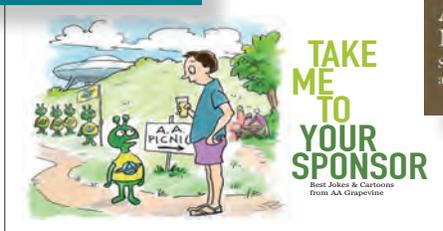
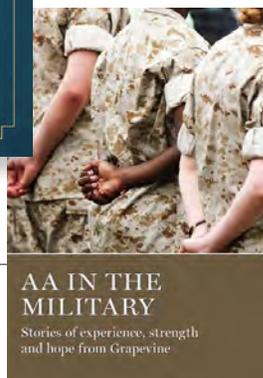
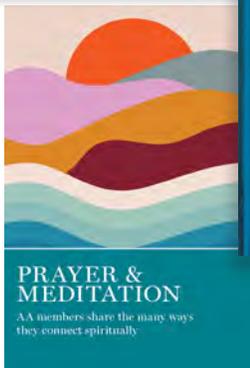
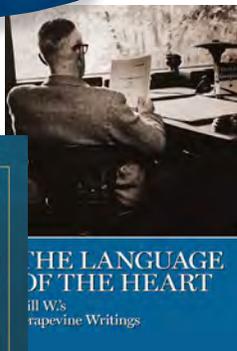
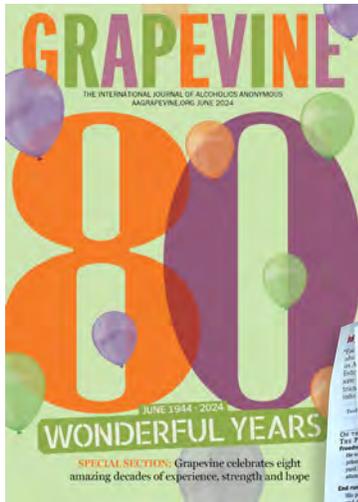
*'AA Grapevine, Inc.'s goal is to be supported by revenues from the purchase of subscriptions and other content-related items. AA Grapevine, Inc. does not accept contributions from individuals or groups. Nor does it accept revenue from ads or membership fees. Instead, it relies on AA groups, committees and individual members who value Grapevine and La Viña in their recovery and in their Twelfth Step work to purchase subscriptions and other content-related materials.'*

### WE'RE CONFERENCE APPROVED

As Bill W. expressed in his letter to Royal Shepherd in June 1946, "The Grapevine will be the voice of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement." In 1986, the General Service Conference officially recognized Grapevine as the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**EACH ISSUE** of Grapevine is filled with stories of recovery and hope written by members of AA and, on occasion, by friends of AA. The stories are direct and personal, and as varied as the fellowship itself. Grapevine writers come from all walks of life and every generation and geographic area. Each month we offer a current, ongoing view of our beloved fellowship!

Visit us at  
[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

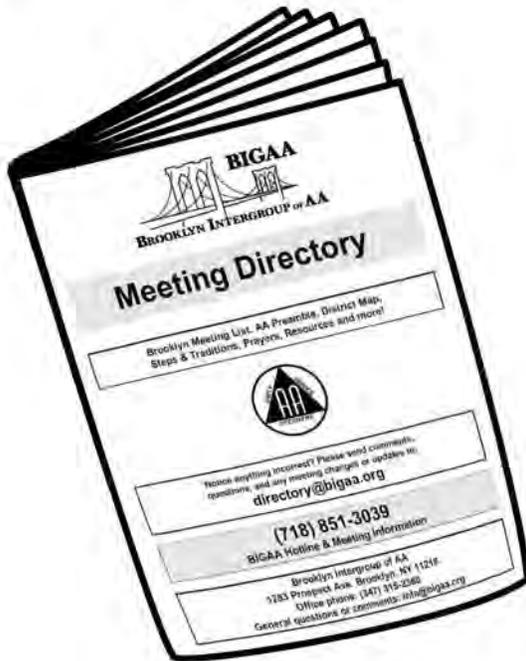


**RESOURCES**  
**THE BIGAA GAZETTE**

**R**

# BIGAA Meeting Directory

# Fall 2025



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# SUBSCRIBE TO THE BIGAA GAZETTE!

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Our newsletter is your go-to source for the latest updates, inspiring stories, and valuable resources from Brooklyn Intergroup of A.A. Whether you're a newcomer or a long-time member, we aim to keep you informed, motivated, and connected with our AA community.



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EACH OTHER ON  
THE PATH TO  
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ALL MAKE A HUGE  
DIFFERENCE...

ONE DAY AT A TIME!

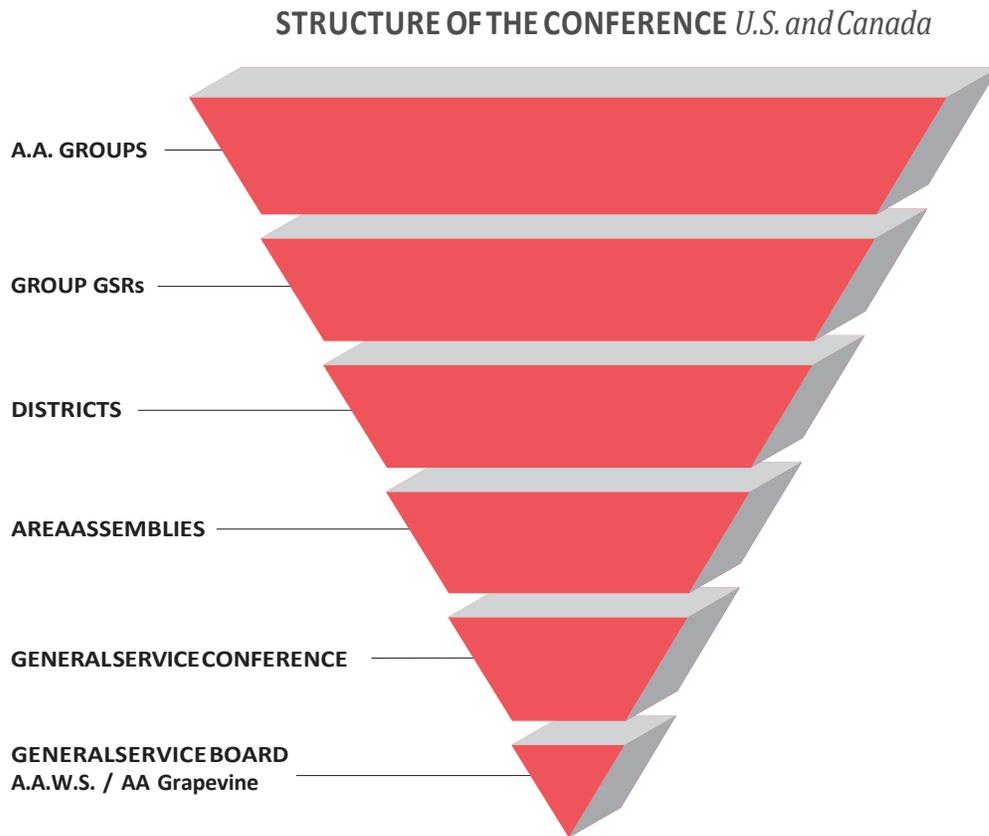
## BROOKLYN INTERGROUP OF AA

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Brooklyn, NY 11218  
Office: (347) 315-2380  
Hotline: (718) 851-3039

[www.bigaa.org](http://www.bigaa.org)  
[info@bigaa.org](mailto:info@bigaa.org)

# STRUCTURE OF U.S./CANADA GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

## THE “UPSIDE-DOWN TRIANGLE”



For more information about the U.S. and Canada General Service Conference Structure, please see [The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service \(BM-31\)](#).



## **Guidelines For Contributing to Grapevine**

**Share your story, jokes, photos and art**

AA members around the world have been submitting their personal stories, their experience, strength and hope, their ups, downs and in-betweens to Grapevine since 1944. Why not join them? You don't need to have had prior publishing experience. All you need is a little willingness and the desire to share. Here are some suggestions to help you. Grapevine is published both as a monthly, print magazine and frequently updated website.

Read the [Editorial Policy here](#).

Here are suggestions and tips for submitting your art, photos and writing:

### **WRITING ARTICLES**

Before writing, you might want to leaf through a few issues to see what kinds of articles are published. Most are first-person accounts of the writer's experience with alcoholism and AA. Grapevine publishes stories for special departments such as Emotional Sobriety, Sponsorship, Newcomers, What's On Your Mind?, Young & Sober, Old-Timers, Spiritual Awakenings, Service and Home Group, as well as articles about each Step and Tradition, jokes for "At Wit's End" and letters for "Dear Grapevine." But you are not confined to these topics. The editors are always looking for innovative material, as long as it relates to AA experience and reflects an awareness of AA's singleness of purpose. Articles are reviewed by the editorial staff and selected by consensus.

### **WHAT GRAPEVINE DOES NOT PUBLISH**

Poems, prayers, song lyrics, tributes to individuals, plays, previously published material or anything unrelated to AA or that violates the principles of AA.

## **LENGTH AND FORMAT**

Grapevine publishes work of different lengths, from snappy one-liners and one-paragraph anecdotes to five- or six-page articles. Suggested manuscript length is 300 to 1800 words or three to five double-spaced typed pages. Handwritten manuscripts should be written clearly on one side of the paper.

## **TIMING**

The process of article selection for any issue begins about five months before the cover date. Take the December issue as an example: Articles are selected around the beginning of August; the editing and production process takes three months; and the issue comes off the press in early November, in time to be mailed to subscribers by the cover date. As a result, a holiday-themed story mailed to Grapevine in November, would arrive after the December issue is already printed. (It might, however, be saved for the following December issue.)

## **SUBMITTING ARTICLES, LETTERS AND JOKES**

To submit your story, letter or joke, [www.aagrapevine.org/content/submit-grapevine](http://www.aagrapevine.org/content/submit-grapevine) and follow the easy directions. If you need, you may also mail your submission to: Grapevine, Editorial Dept., 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 or email it to [gveditorial@aagrapevine.org](mailto:gveditorial@aagrapevine.org). Include your full name, address, phone number and email address. Important: Please keep a copy of your work, as manuscripts cannot be returned.

## **SUBMITTING PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND CARTOONS**

Grapevine uses members' photographs, drawings and paintings when they relate to specific articles. We are also looking for photos of your AA meetings (without people) for "If Walls Could Talk," Grapevine's gallery of meeting places around the world; original cartoons, never published elsewhere; and photos for the annual Wall Calendar Photo Contest. We also are interested in working with artists who can create professional-quality images from assigned storylines.

**IMPORTANT: Photos and art must be sent as high resolution (300 dpi) jpgs.** [www.aagrapevine.org/content/submit-grapevine](http://www.aagrapevine.org/content/submit-grapevine) to submit your work. If needed, prints or CDs of your photos can be mailed to Grapevine, Editorial Dept., 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. If you are mailing prints, each photo or piece of artwork should be clearly marked with your name, address, phone number and email address. "If Walls Could Talk" submissions also should include the AA group's name and location.



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video at [www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine](http://www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine)



2025  
**CARRY  
THE  
MESSAGE**  
PROJECT



**GOD** grant me the  
**SERENITY** to accept  
the things I cannot  
change, **COURAGE**  
to change the things  
I can, and **WISDOM**  
to know the difference.

