

District Committee District 617

DCM (District Committee Member) for District 617. Fast Break is one of 40 groups in this district.

This week, the DCMs, GSRs and other trusted servants of Manhattan met -- there are about 20 districts inside of Manhattan and as you may remember, we are part of SENY Area 49, which represent all the groups in Southeast New York.

There was a lot of discussion about contributions -- where they go, what is the recommended percentage splits, etc. There was a follow up email that went around that I thought could be very interesting to either share electronically to our email list, or that I can summarize quickly at the next business meeting.

What follows below is the email from Justin, the DCMC (District Committee Member Chair). It's a good primer that explains the difference between Intergroup and General Services. I've been in service for four years below the group level and I learned a lot from this email and I know many of our group members would be helped from this information as well. The good news is that we are one of the 2% of all groups in Manhattan that have contributed to Manhattan General Service this year. The pandemic has really taken its toll.

Here is the email:

First, our discussion about contributions was illuminating. Based on the information we had last night, **less than 2% of groups in Manhattan have contributed to Manhattan General Service this year (2023).**

Many groups are reexamining their financial situation as we are evolving from the pandemic. For your convenience as well as for a general and important discussion of 7th tradition contributions, I am including the publication, *Where Money and Spirituality Mix*.

In addition, I wanted to provide more specific information as to our localities. As many of you know, New York Intergroup (NYIG) and South East New York (SENY) are two separate and unaffiliated entities. In many ways, they do cooperate, but their missions are slightly different.

A former Manhattan DCMC explained it like this - if you need an emergency room or ambulance, you call Intergroup. If you want to build the hospital, talk to General Service (and the levels therein).

Intergroup acts as the “boots on the ground” answering calls from alcoholics, conducting speaker exchanges for numerous groups, and distributing literature. (For info on NY Intergroup: <https://www.nyintergroup.org/>)

General Service, at all levels from the General Service Office (GSO) to the district. works on more structural issues to ensure the endurance of the fellowship and our 36 spiritual principles (Steps, Traditions, and Concepts). Each is critical to our primary purpose of

helping the alcoholic.

Each level of service within the General Service structure also fills a vital role in our community and fellowship.

The Area Committee (Southeast New York - SENY/Area 49). Our Area Committee is the link to the General Service Office and is essential in being the voice of all the groups within it to GSO, and the voice of GSO to the groups. *A GSR's primary role is to attend an Assembly. The Assembly is where your group's voice becomes part of the conscience of the greater AA fellowship via voting and vibrant discussion.* (For info on SENY: <https://www.aaseny.org/>)

The County (Manhattan General Service/MGS). In addition to carrying the message through events like Manhattan Share-A-Day (which had approximately 500 attendees this year) and blast emails, the County operates to support Districts and groups (including providing transportation to Assemblies), it provides service opportunities for AA's with various amounts of sobriety time and works to serve the unique needs of the groups within the county. (For info on MGS: <https://www.manhattanaa.org/>)

The District. Participation in District Meetings is a great way to bring up and help find new solutions to the challenges facing the groups. Manhattan County is also unique in that each District has a service committee obligation (Communication with the Professional Community (CPC), Archives, Treatment Facilities, etc.) for the duration of the panel. Districts sponsor events on behalf of the entire county as well as serve as liaisons to the corollary Area Committee.

Like your home group, each level of service requires dedicated trusted servants and funds to operate effectively. As your groups consider how to allocate excess 7th tradition funds, please consider contributing to all these 5 service entities (GSO, SENY, NYIG, MGS, and your District). While percent distribution is determined by the group conscience, page 13 of the attached pamphlet might suggest the following distribution, given the service bodies operating in the New York Metro area:

10% to the County (Manhattan General Service)
10% to the District (the district in which your meeting operates)
10% to Area Committee (SENY)
20% to G.S.O.
50% to Intergroup (NYIG)

I would also strongly encourage you to invite group members to attend meetings of these entities beyond the group to learn more and get more involved.

Please let me know how you'd like me to share this information, I know time at our business meetings is precious so sharing this as an FYI on an email might be a good solution, My recollection is that we have a pretty robust email list. I've copied Kent, Allen and John as well for their perspective on the best way to share this important -- and non contentious -- information.