

**Articles of Association and By-Laws of the Suffolk County General Service Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**Article I**

The name of the organization shall be Suffolk County General Service Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is an unincorporated organization under IRS guidelines, and is treated as tax-exempt by the State of New York.

**Article II**

The purpose of the organization is to serve the needs of the A.A. groups within its geographical area and to function as a constituent part of the A.A. General Service Conference of the United States and Canada. It shall function within the guidelines and spirit of the A.A. *Service Manual*, the A.A. *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the *General Warranties of the Conference* of Alcoholics Anonymous, which state:

In all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

**Article III**

The area served by the Committee and Assembly shall consist of the County of Suffolk in the State of New York, including such towns, villages, hamlets and other subdivisions which are a legal and geographic part thereof.

**Article IV**

The members of the Committee shall be:

1. The District Committee Member Chairperson (DCMC)
2. The Alternate District Committee Member Chairperson
3. The Registrar
4. The Treasurer
5. The District Committee Members (DCM)
6. The Chairpersons of the Standing Committees
7. The Recording Secretary, who shall (after consultation with the DCMC) prepare, duplicate and transmit the requisite copies of the minutes of the County meetings for distribution.

The members of the Assembly shall consist of the above Committee members and the General Service Representatives (GSR) elected by the A.A. groups of the County and duly registered with the Registrar upon completion of the orientation session.

**Article V**

The terms of office of Committee and Assembly members, with the exception of the appointed Chairpersons or Liaisons named hereafter, shall be two years. The term of the Chairperson of the Unity Breakfast, the Birthday Brunch, the Big Meeting, the Share-A-Thon and the Liaison to (or Chairperson of) Long Island Spirituality Through Service (LISTS) shall be for up to one year. The duties of the Officers, Committee members and Assembly members shall be as specified in the A.A. Service Manual, or as delineated in other appropriate documentation if not addressed in the Manual (e.g. the SENY Handbook). Standing Committee Chairs are appointed by the DCMC and are subject to consent of the Assembly. Substantial unanimity (2/3 majority) should be sought in the election of Officers (see Article IX, 2.), in accordance with Third Legacy Procedures.

**Article VI**

The Standing Committees shall be:

Aligned with SENY and/or AAWS

- Accessibilities (formerly Special Needs)
- Archives
- Cooperation with the Professional Community
- Corrections
- Grapevine
- Intergroup (Suffolk - SIA) Liaison
- Literature
- Public Information
- Service Participation
- Service Sponsorship
- Treatment and Facilities
- Website

Local / Suffolk County

- Big Meeting
- Birthday Brunch
- Coffee / Hospitality
- Hispanic District Liaison
- LICYPAA Liaison
- Long Island Spirituality Through Service (LISTS)
- Share-A-Thon Representative
- Unity Breakfast

**Article VII**

The County shall be divided into geographic districts, consisting of varying numbers of A.A. groups. Each district is entitled to be represented at both the SENY Committee and the Suffolk County meeting by a District Committee Member (DCM), elected by the General Service Representatives (GSRs) of the district. The DCM shall serve as a link between the Area and County Committees and the General Service Representatives. If a DCM is not active in the Committee and fails to attend two or more Committee meetings in succession, the GSRs in the district may elect another on their own initiative or by the request of the Committee or County Chairperson.

**Article VIII**

It is suggested that the General Service Representatives (GSRs) be elected by their A.A. group to serve for a term of two calendar years. The GSR's duties are to serve as a link between their group and A.A. as a whole. The GSR represents the group conscience, reporting the group's wishes to the Committee members and to the Delegate, who passes them on to the A.A. General Service Conference. The GSR shall represent his or her group at County Meetings and Area Assemblies, and shall participate in the election of new Committee Members, SENY Officers, and Delegates.

#### **Article IX**

1. The County shall meet at least 10 times per year. Additional meetings may be called by the DCMC and approved by the Body with a 2/3 vote. Meetings may be re-scheduled at the discretion of the DCMC due to weather or other emergencies. At the meetings, reports of the Officers, Treasurer and standing committees shall be presented, and other matters considered which affect the interests of the County, the Area, and A.A. as a whole.
2. The current schedule of meetings for the County has been set as the third Friday of the month. Elections are held in October of the second year of the Committee's term of office / rotation. The term of office / rotation shall coincide with that of its Area (SENY, Area 49).

#### **Article X**

Every A.A. group in Suffolk County is entitled to choose a General Service Representative (GSR) to be sent to the County and SENY Assemblies for the purpose of representing their group and electing new Committee members. Unless otherwise amended in the by-laws, the County elections shall be by "Third Legacy Procedure", as outlined in Chapter I of the *A.A. Service Manual*.

#### **Article XI**

A Quorum for the County meeting shall consist of the following:

- A. The meeting Chairperson can only be the currently elected Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson or Registrar.
- B. At least one other elected officer shall be present, and a recording secretary appointed if necessary.
- C. At least twenty (20) registered District Committee Members (DCMs) and General Service Representatives (GSRs) in the aggregate shall constitute a Quorum.
- D. A Quorum may conduct all the business of the Committee and make all financial expenditures.

#### **Article XII**

Voting and Motion Rights for the County meeting shall apply as follows:

- A. Voting rights shall be as follows: all Officers (except the DCMC \*\*), Standing Committee Chairs, DCMs and GSRs shall have a vote. Alternate DCMs and GSRs will only have a vote if their Principal is not present. No votes will be permitted or accepted by proxy.
- B. \*\* The DCMC may vote in the event of a tie, either simple majority or 2/3 majority. The DCMC may also vote in the County Elections (Article IX 2., above).
- C. The right to make or second a Motion accrues to all voting members on hand; thus the same protocols follow as in the above voting rights. No motions will be brought to the floor by proxy.

#### **Article XIII**

If, for any reason, the organization shall cease to function, all monies, records and other property held in its name shall become the property of its successor organization, or if none such exists, it shall become the property of the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous.

#### **Article XIV**

In the spirit of our 12 Traditions, and to protect our anonymity, all bank accounts shall bear the name "Suffolk Assembly Meeting".

#### **Article XV**

The Articles of Association can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Committee.

## **Article XVI**

1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal and/or state income tax codes or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal and/or state tax laws.
2. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of any member, trustee, director, officer of the organization, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the organization), and no member, trustee, officer of the organization, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the organization's assets on dissolution of the organization.
3. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and does not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
4. In the event of dissolution all of the remaining assets and property of the organization shall, after necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to another organization exempt under I.R.C. (Internal Revenue Code) section 501(c)(3), or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal or state tax laws, or to the federal government, or state or local government for a public purpose, subject to the approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York.
5. In any taxable year in which the organization is a private foundation as described in I.R.C. (Internal Revenue Code) section 509(1), the organization shall distribute its income for said period at such time and manner as not to subject it to tax under I.R.C. section 4942, and the organization shall not a) engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in I.R.C. section 4941(d), retain any excess business holdings as defined in I.R.C. section 4943(c), b) make any investments in such manner as to subject the organization to tax under I.R.C. section 4944, or c) make any taxable expenditures as defined in I.R.C. section 4945(d) or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal or state tax laws.

## **Article XVII**

These Articles supersede any and all prior Articles of Association and / or By-Laws adopted by Suffolk County General Service Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## **By-Laws**

With the exception of Articles XVI and XVII, which are not part of the By-Laws, the By-Laws are identical to the Articles of Association, using the words "By-Laws" instead of "Articles of Association" wherever appropriate. It is desirable unless specifically noted otherwise, that amendments to the By-Laws should also amend the Articles of Association.

Approved: August 17, 2018  
Suffolk County General Service Assembly  
of Alcoholics Anonymous