

## How to meet local service needs in ACA

A number of us who attend many of the same handful of meetings in Brooklyn, NY were talking about what actions we would take to express our gratitude for our recovery and to “work” the 12<sup>th</sup> Step, especially as it suggests that we “... try to carry this message to others who still suffer...”

What we have organized, having spoken to many new members about what they think they need, is to hold bi-monthly workshops. We will spend 3 hours on a Saturday afternoon, from 2-5, with this format:

2-3 PM: 20 minutes presentations on the Tools, the Steps, and Sponsorship

3-4 PM: A panel of 4 ACAs who will share experience back to questions from the floor

4-5 PM: A facilitated social hour to meet potential sponsors, sponsees, fellow travelers, or just new ACA buddies.

We have had an overwhelming response, will limit the number to 30 attendees per session, and will have one speaker for each of the 3 topics, 4 people for the panel, and one overall moderator, for a total of 8 ACAs doing their 12<sup>th</sup> Step service.

As this initiative has been socialized throughout the local meetings, we have had more requests for other workshops – step writing, loving parenting, spiritual growth/prayer and meditation. As a result, we have taken this initiative one step further, and created a service group called the Brooklyn Service Council. As New York is such a large territory, we felt that a more localized effort made sense, and it has emerged organically from connections and friendships among ACAs at local meetings. We are also seeing a big influx of newcomers, at my home meeting there are 3 or so each week.

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Brooklyn, NY

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