

Nassau Intergroup of AA, Inc.

361 Hempstead Tpke., West Hempstead, NY 11552-1342

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# MARCH 2017

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are Intergroup events held at 361 Hempstead Tpke., unless otherwise noted.

### MARCH 2017

- 3/1**— Institutions Committee, 8pm, Simpson United Methodist Church, 30 Locust Ave. (off Sunset Ave. from Count Line Rd.) Amityville 11701
- 3/1**—Corrections Committee, 8:30pm, same address as above, immediately following Institutions.
- 3/2**—**NIG Reps Orientation**, 7:00pm (suggested for new Reps) **NIG Reps Meeting**, 7:30pm
- 3/4**—Delegates Day of Sharing, SENY, Area 49; 9am – 3pm; St. Patrick's School, 9511 Fourth Ave., Brooklyn 11209
- 3/8**—Share-a-Day Committee, 7pm
- 3/9**—PI/CPC Committee, 7:30pm (meets every other month)
- 3/15**—Website Committee, 7:30pm (meets every other month)
- 3/18**—**Exchange Meeting**, 7-9am, Nassau Community College, 1 Education Dr. (Stewart Ave. to Lifetime Brands Blvd.), Cluster F, Rm. 27, Garden City 11530 (Park in East 2)
- 3/18**—Liaison Meeting
- 3/20**—[Nassau General Service Group \(NGSG\)](#) Roundtable Workshop, 7pm; Concepts III and IV
- 3/23**— **Newsletter deadline** for April
- 3/24-26**— Area 49 SENY Convention, Renaissance Westchester Hotel, 80 West Red Oak Ln., West Harrison, 10604 (For details, go to [www.aaseny.org](http://www.aaseny.org).)
- 3/30**— **Steering Committee** :30pm (By Invitation)

### APRIL 2017

- 4/5**—Institutions Committee, 8pm, Simpson United Methodist Church, 30 Locust Ave. (off Sunset Ave. from County Line Rd.) Amityville 11701
- 4/6**— **Reps Orientation**, 6:30pm (Suggested for new Reps.) **Reps Meeting**, 7:00pm
- 4/12**-- Share-A-Day Committee, 7pm
- 4/19**— Website Committee, 7:30pm
- 4/20**— **Newsletter deadline** for May
- 4/26**—Archives, 7pm
- 4/27**— **Steering Committee**, 7:30pm (By invitation.)
- 4/29**—Share-a-Day Committee, pm

## ...From the Chair

*The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking- Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Tradition was especially comforting to me as a newcomer to AA. I didn't know God-Steps-Traditions-Spirituality and was not sure I even wanted to. I did want the pain and misery of my alcoholic life to end. I'm not sure I even knew whether or not I truly had the desire to stop. It's the simplicity and inclusiveness of this tradition and all those who I came to know in AA who encouraged me to just keep coming back and it would eventually feel like home. They were right and I am forever grateful for those kind words. As I continue on and attend meetings, do service work, carry the message in any way – I try my best to follow the example and not decide whether or not anyone else has a desire to stop drinking but just reach out my hand and say welcome – Keep Coming Back!*

In Service,

Elise M

Chair – Nassau Intergroup

## Safety & Respect in AA

March 18, the Baldwin Group hosts an important discussion on the topic, "Safety and Respect, and Our Common Welfare in AA," from 12:30-4:30pm at our home on St. Luke's Place, Baldwin.

When I think back, I recall coming as a newcomer to AA with feelings of fear and vulnerability. I remember too how important it was to my early recovery that I felt I could trust the members around me. This played out for me in particular in my early relationships with my first sponsor and my fellow home group members, good experiences for the most part.

(Continued next page.)

## Corrections Committee

**Good news! The Nassau Intergroup Corrections Committee just brought our first NEW SPEAKERS into the county jail in over a year!** The jail has begun processing new speaker clearances again, so if you want to get involved in carrying the message to alcoholics behind the walls, we hope you'll join us!

If you're interested in sharing your experience, strength and hope, we ask that you attend a monthly meeting of the Corrections Committee for a brief orientation and to fill out the proper form. You'll need to bring your driver's license too. The committee meets the **FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**, immediately following the monthly Institutions Committee meeting in Amityville (see calendar for address, time).

You can also volunteer for our Corrections pre-release hotline, or sign up to correspond with alcoholics incarcerated in long-term facilities (always in a different region of the country). Are you ready to be rocketed into the fourth dimension of love and service?

(Continued pg. 4)

Nassau Intergroup of AA  
Cordially invites you to attend  
**SHARE A DAY 2017**  
Saturday, April 29th 2017  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
St. Joseph's School  
1346 Broadway  
Hewlett, NY

==STEP INTO THE SOLUTION!==

KEYNOTE SPEAKER— OLD TIMERS PANEL  
TRADITIONS PLAY  
OVER 25 TOPIC MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS  
AL-ANON, GENERAL SERVICE &  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
AA LITERATURE & ARCHIVES

SERVING CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST,  
LUNCH AND PLENTY OF COFFEE



## Safety & Respect in AA (Continued)

Sadly, not all of us have quelled all our demons, and some few of us, even well into recovery time-wise, will take advantage of the vulnerability of fellow members. This may take many forms ranging from simply troubling insensitivity on through to things truly dark, hurtful and dangerous.

I'm reminded of an early experience doing service bringing AA meetings to a rehab type facility here in Nassau. After chairing the facility AA meeting for quite a while (as what I now call a "service freelancer," a well-intentioned member with little or no awareness of or tether to the service structure offered through Intergroup and General Service, and with no service sponsor), I handed the meeting chair off to a well-regarded local old-timer. Sadly, I soon started to hear rumors that the old-timer was using the meeting to act out some of his sexual issues with the very vulnerable clients of the station. I didn't know what to do.

Situations like the one I describe from more than 30 years ago are playing out in AA today, particularly where individuals members or groups take institutional service commitments without that all important tether to the service structure. Do we know what is happening behind the meeting? How do we proceed when there is trouble? Do we believe the client complaining that he or she is being misled or even abused? Do we confront the accused member? Do we share our concerns to facility staff? What happens to the good name of AA? Are there other approaches? What is our responsibility?

Problems with difficult or outright bad behavior hit closer to home too. Our home groups are not immune from seeing members with incomplete recovery affecting vulnerable members.

Part of the answer I believe rests in groups remaining vigilant by keeping a protective eye out for vulnerable members, in good sponsorship both to recovery and to service, in knowing that the vulnerable member will not always be a newcomer and that the offending individual may be hiding in plain sight wearing a familiar, friendly and even respected face.

Safety and respect in AA is an important discussion which is only just starting in some corners of the Fellowship, and one which we cannot afford to fail. Hope to see you in Baldwin on March 18, that we might all be part of a solution.

Bill C.,  
Baldwin Group



**Baldwin Group Workshop, "Safety & Respect, & Our Common Welfare,"** March 18, 12:30-4:30pm, 717 St. Luke's Pl., Baldwin  
**New Look on Life, 2<sup>nd</sup> Group Anniversary Party,** 881 Merrick Rd., Baldwin Saturday, April 22, 7-11:00pm  
**Intergroup Open House,** May 13, more to come...  
**Intergroup Picnic,** July 16, The Cedars @ Eisenhower Pk.

# AA'S THREE LEGACIES FOR MARCH

**Step 3** – “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”

**Tradition 3**— “The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

**Concept 3**— “As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision".

## IN MEMORIUM:

### **Mel B.**

He left behind a wealth of material for which we all can continue to benefit from. They include books and Grapevine articles. We will miss his talks, sense of humor, and appreciation of history.

### **Step 3: “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”**

“God I offer myself to thee-to build with me and to do with me as thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always.”

We thought well before taking this step making sure we were ready; that we could at last abandon ourselves utterly to Him.

-A.A. Big Book, p. 63 –

Step 3 is where I decided to trust God with my recovery. I had admitted my powerlessness and had realized there was a Higher Power that could deliver me from the insanity of my addiction. Once I was willing and ready to give these matters over to the God of my understanding I began to trust. I trusted that He could restore me to a right mind, a mind that leads me to sane and healthy behavior, and a life which is filled with serenity, personal growth, and joy.

Today, I let my God to whom I refer to as my “Higher Power,” run the show. My Higher Power is the manager, so to say, in my life. When I “let go and let God,” life is truly beyond my wildest dreams!

Kim W., Floral Park Bellerose Group



## Literature

Most members are familiar with the [AA Grapevine](#), “our meeting in print” offered since 1944. Less familiar perhaps are the other AA periodicals, *About AA*, *Box 4-5-9*, and *Markings*. “These newsletters include information about AA history and current activities; sharing from groups, service committees, and individual AA members; and notices of upcoming events.”

“[About AA](#) is the newsletter from the General Service Office . . . for professionals of all types who deal with alcoholics . . .” AA has a long history of cooperation with non-AA professionals, and our *2014 Membership Survey* (P-48) tells us 57% of AA members found their way to AA through a professional such as a physician or some other health or behavioral health professional. This makes it important for AA to be known to, and understood by professionals. Available as a free subscription via e-mail or for download at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), *About AA* is AA’s PI/CPC informational outreach to the professional community. Back issues are available along with searches by topic.

“[Box 4-5-9](#) is a quarterly news bulletin from the . . . General Service Office. This newsletter includes information about AA service, literature, events, sharing from groups, service committees and individual US/Canada AA members.” It is also available as a free subscription, and in back issues through the website.



Beginning in 1980 but discontinued after 2016, [Markings](#) was the newsletter of the GSO Archives, and offered glimpses into AA history along with chronicling the work of AA archivists at all levels of the Fellowship. Back issues (1997-2016) available on the AA website offer interesting glimpses into our history and archives activity.

This is a good resource for those who enjoy and are looking for a bit more AA history. Going forward, articles of interest about AA history and archives may be found in *Box 4-5-9*.

Go to “[GSO Newsletters](#)” from the home page at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) to find the current AA newsletters. Go to “[Archives & History](#),” then “[Markings E-Newsletter](#)” for *Markings*.

Next month we’ll explore the book, *Experience, Strength & Hope* (B-20), and more of the “hidden” gems of AA literature.

Bill C., Literature Committee Chair

516-292-3045 or [literature@nassauny-aa.org](mailto:literature@nassauny-aa.org)

## From The Night Book "Service Marches On"

Doing service in A.A. is the way we give back to a Fellowship that saves lives, and makes sure that the Fellowship is there for all the lives that are yet to be saved; thus, "securing our future." In fact, that is the theme for the next General Service Conference coming up this April in NYC. Doing Service outside of my home group has been a life altering experience for me, and it can be this way for you too!

What better way of securing our future is there than giving a chance for drunks "out there" to become A.A.'s in recovery with us, "in here" at our meetings? Our daytime hotline and our Night Book Service provide that chance. It could never happen without your help and devotion.

We "Night Bookers" are the living example of our Fifth Tradition: "Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." At the Intergroup Rep meetings, it is heartening to see the hands go up when Reps volunteer their groups to take the Night Book Service for a week. I love it when I go to a meeting and announce that I am the Night Book Chair and group members come up to me to ask me to sign them up! By far, this year, the Night Book has been the most popular service commitment a group can take. The enthusiasm is at an all-time high! I cannot see any reason why it should not continue to be so.

I am working on getting new groups, who've never been involved before. Perhaps you know of such a group. I can be easily reached by email: [nightbook@nassauny-aa.org](mailto:nightbook@nassauny-aa.org) or phone at 516-292-3045. Now, I would like to thank those groups who have offered their service to the Night Book during the month of February: *Seaford at Wantagh, Seaford; Road to Recovery, Franklin Square; Stepping Stones, Oceanside; Bayville Triangle, Bayville.*

In Trusted Service,  
Steve S. Night Book Chair  
"Service is Gratitude in Action!"

## Corrections Committee

(continued from pg. 2)

Alcoholics are waiting for us to carry the message to them - they CAN'T COME TO US!

Not able to make the time commitment for any of the above? Maybe you can help us round up literature? Spread the word at your home group? Give me a call if you want to help and we'll find a way that suits your time and talents.

Jim M. Corrections Committee Chair,  
[corrections@nassauny-aa.org](mailto:corrections@nassauny-aa.org)

## Tradition 3: Double Stigma and the Atheist

*"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. "*

At the root of the 3rd tradition, "...any alcoholic is a member of our Society when he says so ([Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions](#) p139)." You are a member of AA once you declare yourself one.

According to the 12 steps and 12 traditions, AA had a bumpy start with this tradition. Elders were worried that certain people would diminish the AA reputation. They began to list "protective regulations" for membership as many feared the collapse of the program. "So beggars, tramps, asylum inmates, prisoners, queers, plain crackpots, and fallen women were definitely out. Yes sir, we'd cater only to pure and respectable alcoholics! Any others would surely destroy us (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p. 140)." After serious consideration, the elders concluded, "At last experience taught us that to take away any alcoholic's full chance was sometimes to pronounce his death sentence, and often to condemn him to endless misery (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p141)." Who were they to condemn anyone to a life of alcoholism?

Then there's the case of a newcomer with a "double stigma," or someone who was an alcoholic, but suffered from another addiction. The Elders initially did not want him to join. They claimed, we deal only with alcoholics. However, when the elders realized this was more about fear of a poor reputation rather than the collapse of the program, they allowed him in. It's uncommon nowadays to have purely alcoholism only (though they are still out there). So many people I meet (including myself), especially young people, have the "double (and sometimes multiple) stigma of other addictions. As long as you have a desire to stop drinking, according to tradition 3, you are welcome at any AA meeting.

Finally, the case of the atheist named Ed. Ed was tired of all this "God nonsense." He managed to stay sober for years until he relapsed when away at work. When he was at his wits ends, he found a bible in his hotel room, thus, finding God. The elders reflected, "What if we had actually succeeded in throwing Ed out for blasphemy? What would have happened to him and all the others he later helped (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p. 145)?"

*"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. "*

Kelly R., Friday Night Rainbow Group, Asbury Park

## NIAA Institutions Committee

Occasionally, AA members will ask what's involved in institutions work, so it might be of value to describe this work and its components. The first installment (chairperson) was in January's newsletter. Last month the responsibilities of speakers at meetings held in institutions were explained. This month, we'll review the institutions committee of NIAA. The institutions committee is made up of volunteers (as is the rest of AA) with a particular interest in supporting hospitals, jails and other institutions. Although hospitals in Nassau County make up the majority of the institutions we support, we work closely with the NIAA Corrections Committee (in fact, the corrections committee meeting immediately follows the institutions meeting each month). The members of the institutions committee are the elected institutions representatives from each group in Nassau, although anyone with an interest is welcome to participate. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 8P at the Simpson Methodist Church 30 Locust Av Amityville, which is right across Sunrise Highway from South Oaks Hospital (this location is an accident of history; many years ago there was one large committee that covered all institutions in both Nassau and Suffolk counties, so this church, in which the County Line group meets, was chosen as a central location for both). The main purpose of the meeting is to bring together the chairpersons of each institution meeting with institutions representatives and anyone else interested in speaking at institutions. The chairperson will announce the meeting dates/times that he/she has available for speakers. Institution representatives will then accept those commitments and take them back to their groups to fill them, or fill the commitments themselves. A secondary purpose of the institutions committee meeting is to distribute conference approved AA literature. As you may know, NIAA accepts contributions from the various groups; a portion of these contributions is allocated each year to the institutions committee to support service work; the bulk of these funds is used to purchase literature, with a very small amount going to rent the church for meetings. The literature that is distributed at each meeting is then taken to the various institutions and provided to patients/inmates at those institutions (if the institutions themselves want to purchase literature, they must follow the standard process). Lastly, the institutions committee meeting can be used as a forum to discuss any issues of importance to the committee.

The founders of AA were visionaries, particularly in their characterization of alcoholism as a disease. This was a revolutionary idea at the time – rather than the prevailing view that alcoholics were simply bad people, the perception was transformed to the modern view that alcoholics are gravely ill people – and people who can get well. As you probably know, the NIAA Institutions Committee brings AA meetings into institutions throughout the county (it is the longest standing committee of NIAA). As you probably also know, these days most of us find our way to AA through an institution of some sort. The goal of the committee is a simple one, and in support of our primary purpose: we try to make sure that whenever someone in a detox, rehab or psych ward reaches out for help, the hand of AA is there. Beyond that, while these institutions provide treatment for the acute symptoms of the disease of alcoholism, we can provide the information and introduction to the broader AA community necessary to get well, and stay well. (Continued pg. 6)

## CONCEPT III

“As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

So, what do all of these words mean to us? Simply put, in order to keep the day to day operations of A.A going, the people tasked with that responsibility need to be able to act when necessary without being hindered by complicated process to request permission at every turn. However, with that granted privilege, our “Trusted Servants” should always act within the scope of their defined or implied responsibilities, trusting them to do the right thing for A.A. as a whole.

The beauty of our system lies in the balance it strikes between ultimate authority (the groups, directed by their Higher Power) and delegated responsibility to our Trusted Servants who have the Right to decide when to act wholly on their own and when to refer a matter to the next level for discussion and guidance and sometimes for decision. What if something doesn't function well or someone gets out of line. There is plenty of ultimate authority to correct inefficiency, ineffectiveness or abuse.

Probably the best summation of how we are to behave is found in the following: “...none of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever 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 A.A., it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of A.A. which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.” This guidance is deemed so important, that it appears not once but three times in the documents that establish our structure: 1. The Conference Charter, 2. The Resolution to adopt the Charter and 3. Concept XII - General Warranties of the Conference. While this specifically mentions the Conference, it seems to be good guidance for all members of our fellowship.

John M., North Bellmore Group

## BALDWIN GROUP PRESENTS A MOVIE

**NIGHT: APRIL 22 @ 9PM- 10PM**

It will be instead of our regular OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING.

We Will Be Showing 2 Movies:

- 1) A New Freedom – Inmates In Recovery Behind the Walls  
It's about 25 minutes.
- 2) 25 And Under.... It's about 6 minutes.

After the movies, there will be 30 minutes for discussion. We will serve light refreshments.



Nassau County General Service  
Unity Breakfast



Presents: Supporting Our Future

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 9am – 1pm

Long Island Marriott

101 James Doolittle Blvd.

Uniondale, NY 11553

\$30 per person

### Meeting List Changes

Please help NI keep its meeting information current and correct by submitting a "Meeting List Changes" form (available through the office or on-line under "Group Services") whenever your meeting details change.

**BEGINNERS = B BIG BOOK = BB CLOSED = C CLOSED DISCUSSION = CD OPEN = O**

**OPEN DISCUSSION = OD STEP = S TRADITION = T**

**WC = WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE YP = YOUNG PEOPLE**

**NON-ALCOHOLICS ARE WELCOME AT "OPEN" MEETINGS.**

#### NEW GROUPS

—Freeport 11520

**Thursdays As Bill Sees It Group**, Freeport Community Church of the Nazarene, 301 Atlantic Ave.; Thur. 7pm C (*As Bill Sees It*).

—Garden City 11530

**Grupo Tu Si Puedes**, LI Ethical Humanist Society, 38 Old Country Rd.; Wed. 7:30pm Mujer (Women); en español (in Spanish).

—Levittown 11756

**Serenity Night Live Group**, Good Shepard Lutheran Church, 3434 Hempstead Tpk.; at 6:30pm CD.

—Malverne 11565

**Big Book Fever Group**, Church of the Intercessor, 50 St. Thomas Pl.; Sun. 8pm BB.

—North Bellmore 11710

**Moonlight Group**, Walk in for Love Jesus Church, 906 New-bridge Rd.; Mon. 9pm B

—Port Washington 11050

**Sound Serenity**, \*Left off Dec. printing of mtg. list\* Sun. 7pm B and S, last Sun. O/Anniv.; Tues. 5:30pm OD; Wed. 7:30pm CD; Fri. 7:30pm BB & CD

—Rockville Centre 11570

**Joy of Living Group**, St. Agnes Cathedral, 29 Quealy Pl. (Dominic Room, basement rear); Sat. 9am BB.

—Wantagh 11793

**Peace Within 11<sup>th</sup> Step Meditation Group**, 3050 Merrick Rd.; Sun. 7:30pm O.

—West Hempstead 11552

**Creatively Sober Group**, 482 Hempstead Ave.; Mon. 8am CD, Sat. 7pm B; C.

#### CHANGES

—Baldwin 11510

**New Look on Life**, First Church Baldwin, 881 Merrick Rd., cancelled 6pm CD and "As Bill Sees It" meetings on Friday

—Kings Point 11024

**Great Neck/Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy (Chapel Basement)**, now meeting Thursday 7pm CD

—Levittown 11756

**God's Will, Presbyterian Church**, 474 Wantagh Ave. will now be known as **Acceptance is the Key**. No other changes.

**Instrument Group**, India Christian Assembly, 100 Periwinkle Rd., Anniversary mtg. moved from last Tues. to last Fri. of month. No other changes.

—Malvern 11565

**Sobriety Without End**, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sheehy Pl & Park Blvd; Wed. 7pm S dropped; 8:15pm OD now meeting at 7:30pm; Last Wed TR dropped; Last Fri O dropped

—Syosset 11791

**Brookville-Muttontown Group**, Faith Lutheran Church, 231 Jackson Ave.; Tues. 7:45pm S (T last Tues.), 9pm C, Fri. 7:45pm B, 9pm OD. (New location and schedule.) WC. (Effective 12/2/2016.)

—Westbury 11590

**Hand in Hand Group**, Westbury Friends School, 550 Post Ave; Mon. 8:15pm CD dropped. No other changes.

### NIAA Institutions Committee

(Continued from pg. 5) If you think you might be interested in supporting this kind of service, or would like to learn more about it, or if you know of an institution interested in having AA meetings, please attend the meetings of the Institutions Committee held the first Wednesday of each month at 8P at the Simpson Methodist Church 30 Locust Av Amityville, which is right across Sunrise Highway from South Oaks Hospital. If you can't make it, feel free to contact me at [institutions@nassauny-aa.org](mailto:institutions@nassauny-aa.org). If you or your group has any literature that is no longer needed, or that you would like to contribute, please let me know. We'll pass it on to the various institutions we support. BTW, we owe a debt of gratitude to the AA members who chair the various institution meetings and arrange for speakers, as well as those AA members who go to those institutions to share their experience, strength, and hope.

Mike F., Serenity by the Sea, Pt. Lookout, [institutions@nassauny-aa.org](mailto:institutions@nassauny-aa.org)

### NASSAU INTERGROUP EMAIL ADDRESSES

#### **OFFICERS:**

Chairperson: [chair@nassauny-aa.org](mailto:chair@nassauny-aa.org)  
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#### **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

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