

## **SENY Area 49 Committee Meeting**

Monday, October 4, 2021

Serenity Prayer

SENY Statement of Purpose

Approval of June Committee Meeting Minutes

### **Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report** - Rich S - [treasurer@aaseny.org](mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org)

- June, July and August were reviewed at the September Assembly.
- Financial results for the month of September:

We received 107 Contributions totaling \$11,031; collected \$364 in the Assembly 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition basket; and had \$840 in revenue from the sale of Literature and Grapevine materials; for total revenue for the month of \$12,238.

Expenses totaled \$5,986 with \$972 in Officer expenses, \$1,500 for our monthly Office Rent, \$650 in Tech and Website costs, \$774 for the printing and distributing of The Link, and \$1,340 for interpretation and translation services being the major items. That resulted in a net surplus for the month of \$6,253 which increased our available cash balances to \$76,430.17. In addition, our Prudent Reserve held steady at just over \$127,000 or 10.55 months, and we had \$6,000 in "seed money" in both our Convention and Special Event accounts.

- For the 9 months of the year to date, Contributions were \$92,851 and Total Revenues amounted to \$102,342 both of which are higher than budgeted and ahead of last year's results for the same period.
- Total year to date expenses of \$46,436 are significantly better than the budgeted numbers and last year's actual results, as is the Net Surplus for the year to date of \$55,906.
- I'll be distributing Budget Worksheets to the Officers and Standing Committee Chairs later this month so we can begin our planning process for the 2022 budget.
- We are accumulating a significant surplus and we will need to begin discussions on how we will deal with that. Last year we contributed \$50,000 to GSO from our surplus. We may want to consider doing something similar this year or we may have other needs or uses for it.

*Treasurer's report passed*

### **County & Hispanic District Reports:**

**DCMC Bronx/Upper Manhattan - Laura**

- BxUm Share a Day was on 9/18/2021 which was a success. There were 90 people in attendance and this event was live.
- The BxUM County will be having a Spiritual Breakfast on 10/24/2021 and this will be a virtual event. It will be from 10am to 12noon. All are invited to attend.
- The BxUM County continues to have open positions for some committees. A large number of the AA groups in BxUM have been opening their doors again. There are some who continue to have virtual meetings too.

#### **DCM Putnam County - John L**

- Will be hosting it's Unity Breakfast on Sunday November 21st at the Centennial Golf Club in Carmel NY from 8-11am. Tickets are \$25, capacity is limited to 125, and there will be no tickets sold at the door. We will be getting an account, and number to make the event hybrid. Details are on the area website, as well as at, putnamcountynyaa.org.
- Getting involved with the Bridging the Gap program.
- Have filled all but the Literature and Archives Committee Chair positions.
- Planning to hold a New Years Alkathon.
- Groups are doing well. Most of them are meeting in person on their pre-pandemic schedules. There are still some virtual and hybrid meetings available. Meeting information is available on the county website.

#### **DCMC Nassau County - Marty**

- We had 2 officer meetings about how to get GSRs more involved.
- The districts have to nominate the DCM. We are trying to go to meetings and make announcements.
- We are still meeting virtually.

#### **DCM Sullivan - Jeff P**

- Last county general service meeting was Sept 26th.
- Next meeting will be Oct 17th on zoom.
- We are working closely with Sullivan Intergroup to bring meetings back into 1 rehab and the county jail - both restarting since Covid19 shutdowns.

#### **DCMC Queens - Bert**

- Next meeting Oct 25th
- Oct 2nd we had our first Queens Share a Day meeting - we will be doing it next year and have picked the theme: "No Matter What"
- We need help, and people to stand up for positions

### **DCMC Suffolk - Melissa**

Events coming up:

- Dec 3rd from 7-9:30pm. What's this crazy little thing called Service?
- Dec 18th 10am-2pm - Spirituality through Service
- A lot of vacant positions, please encourage people to do service

### **DCMC - ALT Hispanic District Nelson**

- DCM meeting is Oct 9
- The Assemblia is Oct 17th in Brooklyn
- Most groups are back to in person meetings
- Dec 5 - Service Workshop in celebration of 30 years of the Hispanic District committee
- Dec 18th - Christmas party coming up.

### **DCMC Staten Island - Brian**

- Nov 13th - Staten Island General Service Workshop - Joy of Service
- Nov. 28th - Spiritual Breakfast (in person)- tickets are \$40 - Vanderbilt at south beach  
300 Fr. Capodanno Blvd
- Dec 4th - Share A Day
  - We are having issues finding liability insurance, we need it, if anyone has any contacts.
- We are starting hybrid meetings for GSR meetings in November
- We need people, a lot of positions are vacant.

### **DCMC Manhattan - Larry**

- Attended Share A Day committee meeting for upcoming Manhattan share a day on Oct 10th
- No meetings during summer
- Attended District 620 meeting on 9/8/21
- Attended SENY Assembly 9/11/21

### **Brooklyn DCMC - Deborah**

- Last meeting was Sept 16th
- Next meeting is sept 17th - will continue to meet on zoom
- Still have a lot of vacant positions
- 12/5 - spiritual breakfast for zoom, will have planning meeting this month

### **DCMC Rockland - Thomas**

- Voted on having a Spanish Speaking Liaison. We are hoping to bridge that gap and get connected with the community- Joanne is helping us
- Working on Christmas alcathon
- Working on updating our bylaws
- We had Lucas come out at the last meeting to share about corrections

### **Standing Committee Chairs:**

#### **Archives - Jeff**

- We meet every Friday of the month
- We have our archives committee workshop Oct 23rd 11am- 2pm “Link between disaster, Celebrating the Link’s 30th anniversary”

#### **Accessibility Chair - Annabel**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month 7:30 – 9:00 p.m – virtual until further notice
- Suggestion of the Day: For virtual meetings, please provide phone-in numbers (in addition to I.D. codes and passcodes), to allow access for AA’s who lack video capability
- IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION at Bronx/Upper Manhattan Share-A-Day – Committee Member Jo A. staffed a table with literature and collected Accessibility Survey results.
- Virtual accessibility – be mindful of your background and your behavior during virtual meetings, as distractions may make AA unattractive (and less accessible!) to people who need AA

#### **Link Chair - Mary**

I've gotten a few more volunteers to help me with The Link, since I asked for help preparing the newsletter, collecting actual news items and updates from the Area, printing and mailing the newsletter, etc. Working on organizing and delegating things to our committee

Our next issue of The Link will be out by the end of this week, expect an email from me about it! The deadline for next month's submission is October 15th and the theme for November is "Diversity: Outreach and Attraction" I would love to hear about interesting stories of expanding our outreach and attraction to AA service. Send your story!

When you have an event coming up I want to remind everyone that I am not in charge of the SENY calendar on the website, so please send your event information to [agenda@aaseny.org](mailto:agenda@aaseny.org) to get your event on the SENY website, as well as sending me a flyer to put in the Link. Makes my job much easier!

#### **Service Sponsorship Chair - Keith**

- We met all summer and continue to meet the last Sunday of every month. We go through traditions and we have an open forum. We will be discussing Tradition 10 this month.
- DCMs if you have service sponsorship chairs, please encourage them to attend the events
- A lot of useful sponsorship, structure of AA, any related service workshops on my website.

#### **Website Chair - Claire M**

- Website has a search bar now.
- All pages are up and running

#### **Literature Chair - Kingsley**

- Everybody should check the “what’s new” tab on AA.org
  - Shipping test pilot ends on October 18th
  - Various New Literature release from the 71st GSC
- We have been meeting all summer long
- We added a “what’s new” segment in our committee meeting to fill each other in on what's going on in districts and groups
- We had a table at the Assemblée and the literature was flying off the table!
- If you have an event, please invite me.
- Going to have a literature table at the Putnam Cty unity breakfast on 11/21
- Finished our discussion on the pamphlet "Q and A on sponsorship"
- Next month's Lit. discussion choices:
  - A NewComer Ask's
  - AA Comes of Age
  - AA Big Book

#### **Recording Secretary - Jessica**

Please send your reports to [secretary@aaseny.org](mailto:secretary@aaseny.org)

#### **Treatment Facilities Chair - Hank G**

- Working with A49 Accessibilities Committee on bringing GV subscriptions to treatment facilities in Southeastern New York.
- Bridging the Gap requests are picking up. Recently we have had one in Manhattan, SI, Suffolk, and Nassau Counties. Putnam County is developing a Bridging The Gap program.
- Anyone can request Bridging The Gap by emailing [tf@aaseny.org](mailto:tf@aaseny.org) or by filling out BTG request form on the treatment landing page of [aaseny.org](http://aaseny.org).

- Next A49 (SENY) Treatment Facility meeting is on Sunday October 24th from 6PM to 7PM. ID and passcode on SENY calendar.

### **Corrections Chair - Lucas**

- The NYC Dept of Corrections is processing requests for visitors to receive volunteer IDs but the health & safety of those in custody is not great so volunteers aren't allowed in
- Literature and Meetings are being brought into Fresh Meadows
- Our job in General Services to share information and inform the fellowship about Corrections Correspondence, the AA pre-release program and where relevant Bridging the Gap and the general idea of what the status is re: people going into jails in addition to how to get people the right information about going into jails (Intergroup)
- The International Corrections Call group submitted a proposed agenda item to consider a pamphlet or AA world services material that could go before the general service conference for inside sponsorship
  - People can enter as volunteers & then end up as sponsors
  - People who enter the pool as sponsors
- Tradition 4 issues: may not be workable everywhere - in New York state we have strict visitation rules
- Hoping to eventually get some electronic literature onto tablets throughout Area during our rotation. The previous staff member on on the corrections desk has rotated off and there no one on the Corrections Desk at GSO right now, the desk is empty & being covered by volunteers
- Corrections Committee will be in the program in 2022 for Manhattan Share a Day
- Will be meeting with Suffolk County Chair Ali M and LICYPAA to clarify Treatment and Corrections roles as they develop their own Committees

### **Grapevine Chair - Kimbley**

- We are having workshop in person next year
- In the interim, we are doing a history of grapevine presentation
- Hopefully further down the line we will have the editor of the grapevine and la vina attend our meeting
- This wed is our next meeting.
- I am available to speak

### **Intergroup Liaison - Chris**

- Last met on Sept 19th - kept it virtual
- Attended National AA tech convention in Sept. - Learned a lot of things
- Suffolk intergroup is having share a day

- We're continuing to push groups to update their meeting info

### **PI Chair - Paola**

We are still doing our monthly forums for the general public where we have a conversation about what AA is and isn't on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6pm via Zoom.

Last month's PI meeting was focused on PI issues within AA. We discussed the spread of misinformation within AA and what actions we can take around that as the committee tasked with giving facts about what AA is and what AA isn't.

### **CPC Chair - Kristen**

- Committee meets virtually on the 4th Thursday of each month from 7:30pm - 8:30pm
- Continuing to discuss actual need of information in the professional community and target those who need correct information.
- Will be having a workshop on training CPC members and GSR's on how to participate in a non AA speaker meetings.

### **Jeanette - NYSIW**

- Need help on the committee.
- Will be meeting via zoom in early November. Please look for information on our calendar. The workshop will be the last weekend in July. Please email her at [NYSIW@aaseny.org](mailto:NYSIW@aaseny.org) to join the committee.

### **Agenda Chair - Vicky B**

- When sending flyers, please send through a PC, not a cell phone.
- Please only send events that are happening in our Area.

### **Convention Chair 2022 - Mel**

- Pushing for an In person convention
- Discussing if there will be hybrid ability for accessibilities - we are in early planning stages - so we will be discussing this, and asking the hotel
- Will be attending GSR meetings to outreach and get people involved
- Convention dates: April 1st - April 3rd, 2022.
- Next Committee meeting: Sunday, October 24th, 2021 - 3 - 4:30 PM
- Email: [convention@aaseny.org](mailto:convention@aaseny.org)

Questions?

- Does the convention committee have a covid officer?

No we do not, but we have a lot of active members on the committee that are actively looking at the laws etc.

## 7th tradition / 5 min break

### Technology & Communications Officer (TCO) - Mike O. [tco@aaseny.org](mailto:tco@aaseny.org)

NAATW: On the weekend of September 17th, Justin and I attended the National AA Technology Workshop. Because Area 49 is relatively technologically adept vis-a-vis other Areas, the nuts and bolts of the tech discussion were not that interesting: many Areas are still struggling with what tech tools to adopt, whereas we have already adopted tech and are thinking more about refining the tools we use. But, Billy N., past General Service Trustee, gave a wonderful presentation on AA's history of embracing or not embracing technology since 1955; my take away from it is as an institution we must be way of letting our fear of the unknown, or our desire to replicate the familiar, prevent us from achieving the future, a recognition equally applicable in my personal life and sobriety. And, because I suspect that the some of the best tools for service is right now being used by some 17 year old in YPAA, I'm reaching to the YPAAs to see what tools they are using.

Which leads me to Fellowship Connection and physical GSR kits. GSO is trying to bring Fellowship Connection nearer to the present. But, at the current time, and despite well over a year of promises, there is no still way to do bulk uploads to Fellowship Connection, and the one trial method GSO has proposed is very flawed [basically, a single error in the attempted upload causes the entire upload to be rejected]. And, GSO has not given District or County registrars access to the system. So as of this summer Justin, and to much lesser extent myself, began manually updating and/or confirming all the entries, which takes about 10-15 minutes per GSR. But, it's not clear if the kits have actually been sent. And, the process is sufficiently flawed that, at a recent Registrar's meeting with about 20 Area Registrars in attendance, we learned that about half the Areas present have basically given up and simply ordered and paid for GSR kits.

To address this, we will begin sending new GSR's a link to GSO's table of contents for GSR kit, which has its own set of links to documents. And we could send that link to all the GSRs, so at least they have something.

Spanish language resources: Thanks to Paola, PI Chair, who translated SENY's Rules of Order and Guidelines to Committee Meetings into Spanish; Claire and I will be talking Thursday about adding improved links to GSO documents in Spanish to the website, all of which will be live by our next Area Assembly.

"Unified Meetings:" I first heard this term used at NAATW, including by GSO staffers, though it's not conference-approved, to the best of my knowledge. However, having thought about this, I



have to wonder what this term implies: if a Group has both a virtual and physical meeting taking place at the same time, and decides not to “unify” them, does this mean that the Group or Meeting is in disunion?

The next technology committee meeting is this Thursday, please attend. I am available to speak on the traditions and concepts and for group inventories; thank you for the opportunity to serve.

**Area Chairperson - Nisaa A - [chair@aaseny.org](mailto:chair@aaseny.org)**

- Group Inventory - we have a lot of people that are available to do inventories if your group/committee is in need.
- Exploratory committee is meeting regularly, our chair Heidi is coming to the assembly to keep us informed

**Alternate Delegate - JoAnn M. - [delegate@aaseny.org](mailto:delegate@aaseny.org)**

- Since September 11 Assembly, I attended the Northeast Region Alternate Delegates meeting on Sept 14. The Sept 28 meeting was canceled.
- Attended the BxUM Share A Day, the Annual Staten Island Block Party/BBQ and Queens Intergroups 30th Anniversary Celebration all on Sept 18 and all in person. What a day!! I had a blast except for the traffic. As a reminder, when planning an event please check the SENY calendar to make sure there is nothing already scheduled that will conflict with your event.
- Attended the Hispanic Districts Asamblea on Sept 19 in Queens. I distributed the GSR kits ordered from the GSO for RSGs who had not received theirs. At Toms request, I also inquired about their meetings and discussed the meeting guide app with them. The RSGs will take the information back to their groups for discussion.
- Attended the Intergroup Liasion meeting where I picked their brains about transitioning the Hispanic meetings to the meeting guide app.
- Attended the NERD meeting of Delegates and Alternates. I have been meeting with a group’s safety committee where we were discussing setting up safety guidelines for their group. The new pamphlet on Safety in A.A. is a wonderful resource for groups to use.
- Our Service Sponsorship chair Keith invited me to share on Tradition 9 at the Service Sponsorship Committee meeting on September 26. We did not have a Service Participation Meeting in September but will have one on October 21st at 7:30pm.
- On October 1st, attended the National Alternate Delegates meeting where we discussed our purpose and decided on topics for the next few meetings.

- On Sept 24 I attended another planning meeting for the November JOS workshop. We reviewed the flyer and decided on speakers. The flyer and updated information should be on the website very soon.
- Received the Spanish copies of the 71st General Service Final Conference Reports from Tom today and will distribute them at the Hispanic Districts Asamblea on Oct 17th.
- Had an officers meeting, and I ran an idea by the officers. One of the things I get to do as Alt Delegate is to show GSO films. Since covid I have only had one request where I showed Bill W Discusses the 12 Traditions at a county workshop. My idea is to have a couple of movie nights where I will show films virtually. I am thinking of October 30 and November 20 or 27th. I will keep you posted on the dates. If it goes well, we can schedule more nights for next year.
- Please keep DCMC Eric of Orange County in your Prayers. He has been ill and is recuperating.
- I am still available for group inventories.

#### **Delegate - Tom B [-delegate@aaseny.org](mailto:-delegate@aaseny.org)**

##### What's New on aa.org:

- Can be accessed directly, or from <https://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate>, bottom button.
- Tom show's us through the virtual screen the aaseny.org page and how to get to the drop downs on the right. Under the section "From the Delegate" there are 2 sections, "News from the Delegate" and "AA Grapevine/La viña News"
- 9 Items in September, and 2 already in October.
- *Very important to continue to view both What's New and From the Delegate on a regular basis.*

##### Final Conference Reports – printed:

- Copies have already been delivered, or will be in the next several days, to all DCMCs, either hand delivered or by Priority Mail. Hispanic District will receive theirs at Asamblea on October 17th.

##### Proposed Agenda Items for 72nd GSC:

- By the 9/15 deadline, GSO had received over 130 PAIs. This is the first year of a 3-year trial period for Equitable Distribution of Workload (see 2020 Final Conference Report page 22 for details, including the new submission deadline).

##### Pandemic shutdown / last 18 months:

- Challenging time for the world and A.A. as well. Still much fear, mourning, and uncertainty.

##### DCMs (and DCMCs):

- The most challenging job in A.A. How can we convince the groups to send a GSR to Area Assemblies and let their voices be heard? Do we do a good-enough job in letting the groups know how their basket dollars are used by General Service?
- Some suggestions are: We're looking at the long view, the strategic picture. We want to make sure our literature is inclusive and inviting. We want to make sure that the groups have everything they need not only in the US and Canada but also all over the world to reach out to the suffering alcoholic, it's tradition 5.
- Tom goes into a lot of details and examples - he asks us to go into these meetings with a stout heart for the people that don't necessarily want to hear what you have to say, but know that it's important. Your work is critical. Go in knowing what group dollars, basket dollars do, and how they are important to carry not only our message of sobriety, but Bill's message of taking it to the world that we have a solution that works.

I'm available to visit your county, district, or group, and am willing to serve Area 49 any way I can. Thanks for letting me serve!

We should be focusing on how we are serving others.

### **Questions for Tom**

Q: Was Tom involved in negotiations for SENY convention?

A: Our current contract with the Marriot is for 3 years (2021-2023). We are in the 2nd year. We have in the contract an impossibility clause, which did apply to COVID in 2021. We don't foresee it happening again in this coming year, but if you want more information Tom highly suggests you attend the Convention Committee meetings and/or talking to Mel.

Q: How to get a hard copy of the conference report?

A: Go to your DCMC.

Q: In reference to the 3 years contract with Marriott, wouldn't it get extended since we didn't have the convention there in 2021?

A: No, that year just lapsed.

Q: Will we have a contingency plan in place if we do not have enough money to cover the expenses?

A: It is very early in the process. If you are interested in these specific details, please attend the meeting. As these things progress, we will keep the committee informed.

Q: Have you been doing a lot of group inventories? Just curious if people are doing this based on re-opening.

A: I've done a few virtually, but none specific to re-opening. The 2 questions that I always lead with are "What is the group already doing well?" and "What can it do better?"... the re-opening question, live vs. virtual, hasn't come up other than people are saying that it's really divided the group, but as a facilitator of group inventory, it's not my job to provide answers especially with a title of an officer/or seny because they think I have some wisdom that I just don't have. It's up to the group to get it on the table and talk about it at future business meetings. Main topics at inventories, in my experience, usually are more about member retention, how do we get our members to listen to the gsr, spirit of rotation...

Old Business- None

New Business - None

Close- A Declaration of Unity