**November 2, 2020 - SENY COMMITTEE MINUTES – Draft**

**CHAIR:** (Jerry R.) Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m.

Serenity Prayer and AA Preamble, in English and Spanish.

Quorum established; and Housekeeping (explanation of voting)

**Spiritual Parliamentarian:** Rich S.

**Timekeeper:** Keith P.

June 1, 2020 Committee Meeting minutes - Approved

October 5, 2020 Committee Meeting minutes - Approved

**OFFICER’S REPORTS**

**DELEGATE’S REPORT** (Jane E): delegate@aaseny.org

NERAAASA (Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) [NERAASA.org](https://www.neraasa.org/) February 26-28 will be virtual; registration fee is $21 for the entire weekend. Our Planning Committee is concerned: will we have enough registrants to cover our expenses? The Northeast Region (Maine to Maryland) has never had this before virtually, so we don’t know. Just like in person events, virtual events have expenses.

Registration will be open before December, save the date and please spread the word!

 The Roundtables are my favorite part and will be fun to do virtually for the first time ever. I encourage all AAs in SENY to attend!

(Save the date 1-minute video shown)

The Northeast Regional includes 18 General Service Areas which stretch from Maine to Maryland.

Unlike NERAASA, Forums were implemented by GSO to bring the office to AA members all over the US and Canada. All 2020 and 2021 in person Regional Forums were cancelled and the first ever virtual Eastern US/Canada Forum will be held as a one-day event on December 5! There will be participation from four Regions, ours (the Northeast), the Southeast, East Central, and Eastern Canada Regions! Registration will open November 6, on [aa.org](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/regional-and-local-forums) The delegate from Area 31, Western Massachusetts served with me on the conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities and we will be doing a workshop on Accessibilities: what it was like, what happened and what it’s like now. GSO urges all of us to get on the virtual bus and bring a newcomer!

The Grapevine is supported solely through GV sales. I’ve purchased some wall calendars and subscriptions as gifts and recently purchased the MP-3 version of “Language of the Heart”- today I listened to the chapter on “The Safe Use of Money” and the one titled “Policy on Gift Funds”. Both are poignant at this time, especially about Bill’s vision that we be fully self-supporting through our own contributions.

Many groups are not using a virtual basket, and not sending in contributions down the triangle, some members think virtual events are free. In AA we do not do free. Please read my Link article. If you missed it in the email, please reach out to me at delegate@aaseny.org, I’ll be happy to send you a copy. There is a summary of the questions and answers from the August 15 financial presentation if you email me as well.

In addition to the full financial report and the picnic table presentation on the [from-the-delegate page](https://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate) there is a question about “What does your group think?”, I have received some great feedback from a couple of members, but not from groups, yet. I will report on the feedback at the Assembly. At the Assembly, we will elect the SENY candidate for Trustee At Large, US, if a qualified member chooses to stand. The qualifications and resume have been on the [from-the-delegate page](https://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate) since June, so far no one has made themselves available. In the event no one stands, we will not be alone in not providing a candidate, another NE Area has no candidate. I was hoping to be able to inform our Chair, Jerry, six weeks before the Assembly as is customary for anything for an Assembly agenda but will accept them up until the day before (November 13). The delegate must submit the candidate the Area elects to GSO by December 15. There are no nominations, the person who wants to serve makes themselves available.

The GSO General Manager, Greg is stepping down and a search has begun for a new one. The letter has been sent to DCMCs, Committee Chairs, SENY officers and SENY delegates of past rotations to disseminate. Thank all of you for an overabundance of emails from me as of late, I’m sorry there’s been so many, but it cannot be helped, there is much to report to you. I have also sent news about the other retirements at the office, updates to the Meeting Guide app, and more.

The GSB Weekend ended yesterday, Francis reported that the top three candidates for Chairman of the board were interviewed, and after what Francis called a “cooling down period” there was a Third Legacy Procedure to elect the GSB’s choice for Chair of the Board. Michelle Grinberg will remain Chair for the 71st GSC, as her term is not yet over, The GSBs choice will be confirmed, or not, at the 71st GSC. Tom will be reporting on that after his first General Service conference!

Francis also shared:

“In my experience, this past General Service year has been like no other:
coping with Covid, grieving the loss of in-person meetings, experiencing crippling sales figures, drawing down from our prudent reserve, implementing work-at-home for all GSO employees, outstanding Fellowship contribution rally, expanding electronic means of practicing our seventh Tradition, hosting a virtual General Service Conference (and aftermath), cancelling four in-person Forums, drawing down from our prudent reserve a second time, reinventing two US / Canadian Forums, cancelling our International Convention, assessing the spiritual and financial impact of GSO’s retirement incentive package, announcing a new General Manager – GSO, polling Conference participants, anticipating the rotation of 8 Trustees, nominating a new Chair of the Board, planning yet another virtual General Service Conference, and suddenly realizing that the year is not yet over!
I ask you – are we doing this on our own?!  Or, are we being guided by a Power greater than ourselves!”

Please read my LINK article.

The numbers of COVID-19 are rising, please be safe. I encourage everyone to wear masks, wash your hands, socially distance and refrain from meeting in large groups. Safety in, and out, of AA.

Thank you for my life.

Q and A: clarifications about TAL, NERAASA.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE’S REPORT** (Tom B): altdelegate@aaseny.org

Good evening / Buena Noches… I have the privilege and the joy of serving as your Alternate Delegate.

Tonight, I will report back to you regarding two of my responsibilities as your Alternate Delegate. The first regards my duty to chair the Ad Hoc Service Participation Meeting. If you would like the full description of what the Committee does, please go to page 28 of the current SENY Service Handbook, which of course you can find at aaseny.org under Resources. The Committee is made up of your DCMCs and their Alternates.

To quote the Handbook, the Committee “focuses on the development of ideas which might help increase and support participation by GSRs, DCMs and DCMCs in the SENY service structure. It addresses the question ‘What can SENY and the counties do to reinforce group and district participation?’. The committee has no formal authority and is not a decision-making body but is advisory to the area committee and assembly in function. It provides an opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas.”

Some of the observations and ideas which have come forth are as follows:

* The importance of our website being up to date and accurate, especially through the pandemic.
* The importance of the 7th Tradition, and new ways to participate.
* Finding solutions to the challenges of County Registrars.
* Contributing regularly to our Area’s newsletter, the Link – ALL members are invited to participate and make their voices heard!
* Asking for help in service – there are myriad resources, just reach out.
* How can we achieve the most fun and fellowship at SENY Assemblies and Events in this time of virtual meetings? It goes without saying that we have loads of both at our SENY Committee Meetings, of course. 😉

The second responsibility I have had in this rotation is to be the “Steward of the Area Inventory”. That’s a lofty title that translates roughly into “how did we as the SENY Committee – collectively – respond to the requests that the last rotation made of us?” You can find my full report once again at aaseny.org, under Resources / SENY-Specific, under the title [A Report from your Area Inventory Steward – The Last Two Years](https://www.aaseny.org/s/Summary-Report-Area-Inventory-Steward-REALLY-Final.pdf).

I strongly – make that “most strongly” – encourage you to read the full report, especially since we have our next Area Inventory in 12 days. In the meantime, I’ll give you the summary points as food for thought:

• Communication: moving forward, adapting, innovating at A.A. speed.

• Support for new trusted servants: refocus our efforts, get constant feedback. • Accessibility: on the right track, much more to do, explore any and all options. • Diversity: we have it, let’s celebrate and honor it.

• Inclusiveness: we have a lot of work to do, and some healing to accomplish…

We have less than 60 days left in this rotation. And as I said last month: let’s inspire the next rotation of trusted servants! Because all of us – ALL of us – are Responsible.

I remain available to facilitate Group and County Inventories, help with meetings or workshops, and to talk about Traditions or Concepts. I would love to visit your group. And beyond being available, I am delighted and honored to be of any service I can to SENY, and to AA as a whole. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Questions / Preguntas?

**CHAIR’S REPORT** (Jerry R.) chair@aaseny.org

Concept of the Month – Concept 11

The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

As we move towards the end of panel 69, this year has been one of a kind for all of us. From Covid-19 and the isolation that has brought on us, to the having to follow regulations that closed our G.S.O. Office, New York Inter- Group office, cancellation of our S.E.N.Y. Convention and the International Convention in Detroit in July, we have all had to make many adjustments and rearrangements that were unheard of before. Thanks to our Tech team we did not have to cancel our Committee meetings or our Area Assemblies, Share-a-Days, assorted Workshops, some County meetings and Standing committee meetings. More groups are opening up to live gatherings, including my Homegroup that is opening up this Wednesday for its first indoor live meeting. We will continue to have our virtual meeting on Sunday morning. This past weekend I was able to hear virtually a wonderful talk from a woman in Dubai AEB, and a man in California who got sober at 15 and today has 43 years. When I got sober they told me there are no strangers here, just friends I haven’t met yet. My big book tells me I will meet some of them as I trudge the road of happy destiny. It comes from chapter 11 titled - A Vision for You.

Upcoming Events

November 14, 2020 - S.E.N.Y. Inventory Assembly

November 18, 2020 - Link Deadline for Dec 7th Committee Meeting.

December 5, 2020 - Virtual Eastern U.S./ Canada Forum - Register November 6th- aa.org

December 7, 2020 - S.E.N.Y. Final Committee Meeting for Panel 69.

February 26-28, 2021- NERAASA.

March 5-7, 2021- S.E.N.Y. Convention.

April 18-24, 2021 - 71st General Service Conference.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** (Joann M.) treasurer@aaseny.org

Report will be available at assembly.

**Motion:** Update the guidelines to show that there is a dollar amount for the Special Events seed money of $6,000 and to raise the amount for the Convention in the Guidelines from $3,000 seed money to $6,000 seed money.

Motion seconded

Motion passes

**TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: (**Mike D.) registrar@aaseny.org

Busy preparing to train Mike for next rotation. Working on streamlining the registration process so it is less work for County registrars. There will be training for county registrars on December 8th and December 15th, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.

If you know who your County Registrar is for the next rotation, please make sure that I get their information so I can reach out to them. I recently sent out an email for members of the Area to fill out a technology survey. Results will be shared at November Assembly.

Registration for new trusted servants will be done using aaseny.org/register. Please direct new trusted servants to that page. Next SENY technology committee meeting will be December 3rd. Info on aaseny.org/tech.

People are still reporting terrible Zoom bomb incidents during meetings. Encourage groups to lock down your security settings in on-line platforms. There are some guidelines on how to best do that on our tech page.

**2021 SENY CONVENTION CHAIR – Kathy W.**: (convention@aaseny.org)

Program committee and convention tech committee have been hard at work. You will see our brand on the SENY website Convention page.

The program committee will meet November 8th, 4:00 - 5:30 pm. ID on website. PW is on website.

Convention tech committee and myself met with a virtual event representative. We need 40 trained and rehearsed people. Each willing to make a four hour commitment the weekend of the event, and some time for training and rehearsal prior to the event. The flyer for tech volunteers will be linked to the convention webpage with an electronic sign up sheet. John L. from Putnam, our volunteer coordinator’s contact information is jplibz@yahoo.com. This is also on a flyer which may be emailed to all DCMC’s, Intergroup contacts, and SENY officers.

Our team will continue to request 3-5 minutes at county meetings when elections are over.

We will have a registration fee of $25 to cover expenses.

Registration page will be ready to go up on website this week.

**Motion**: If the convention has a surplus this year that it be used to set up a prudent reserve in the convention account. This would be distinct from seed money that comes from SENY and goes back to SENY.

Motion seconded.

Motion did not pass.

**Old Business**

Dean J., Ad Hoc Finance Update

AHFL Budget & Spending Guidelines Review 11/2020

Discussed current and proposed items.

Motion to accept Ad Hoc Finance Update Report

Motion seconded

Motion passes

**New Business**

**Motion:** When years when NERAASA is virtual that stipend be used to cover registrations whether it be committee members or GSR’s that wish to attend virtually to help promote participation.

Motion seconded

Motion passes

**Archives Advisory Committee - James D:**

Screen shared and discussed Archives website and YouTube Channel

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Grapevine – Sherri A**.: (grapevine@aaseny.org) (read by Chair)

Tuesday October 27 Committee Meeting

Area 49 Workshop is confirmed for Sunday December 6th, 2020, 11am-1pm, Grapevine & AA’s 3 Legacies.

We have 5 of 6 speakers confirmed. Details on the SENY Calendar.

Next Committee Meeting will be Tuesday November 24th, 2020, 7:30 pm.

GV November Issue: “OUR TWELVE TRADITIONS”, LV Issue: “Accessibilities & Remote Communities”.

LaVina announces all new website, mobile friendly, secure platform, new archive page, there are features to help encourage members to share their stories & listen for FREE, in Spanish, to audio stories. Visit [www.aalavina.org](http://www.aalavina.org)

2020 Carry the Message project continues.

ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST: send your anonymity protected photos in by December 1st for the GV Calendar.

Winners will receive a complimentary Wall Calendar and GV pocket planner.

[www.grapevine.org/photocontest](http://www.grapevine.org/photocontest) for ALL details

Audio story playlist from relapse to recovery GV Youtube channel, [www.youtube.com/aagrapevine](http://www.youtube.com/aagrapevine)

Audiobook “The Language of the Heart” available in English, Spanish & French.

Everyone can participate in GV share your stories, photos, illustrations, Please visit [www.aagrapevine.org/share](http://www.aagrapevine.org/share)

Effective January 1,2021 price change: $2.99 for individual magazine.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Archives – Hank G**.: (archives@aaseny.org)

Had workshop during pandemic, “2020 What a Year”. Continuing to work on SENY history book and am accepting county submissions until end of year. Printed copy will be available sometime in 2021. Next meeting is 11/12, 7:00 P.M.

**Corrections – Eddie D.:** (corrections@aaseny.org)

No corrections institutions in Area 49 have opened for in person meetings or virtual. Rely on correspondence and any pre-release requests from inmates. Continue to meet on third Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m. ,virtually. Three members have participated in ad hoc review of 57 page corrections workbook and are getting ready to submit suggestions the week of Thanksgiving.

**Agenda - Jeannette K.:** (agenda@aaseny.org

Working on keeping calendar up to date: Getting a lot of submissions for 2021. Please remember the format: the title, date, time, venue or virtual information, and the organizer. Include name and contact phone number. Review info on calendar to help proofread.

**Suffolk – Christine D.:** (dcmc@aasuffolkgs-nyorg) October had elections. Gave names of incoming officers.

Big Meeting 12/19. November we are having inventory.

**Manhattan – Mike O.:** (dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org) Elections in September. Gave names of incoming officers.

November 7 county will have workshop on reopening meetings from 10-11:30. “How We Meet, Pay, and Plan, it Doesn’t Have to be Scary”. Info on calendar.

**Nassau – Annabel B.:** (dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org) Had first virtual elections. All positions have been filled. Gave names of incoming officers. November 16 Town Hall open forum for GSR’s and other members of AA for people to come and talk about whatever is on their mind. December 21st we will have an inventory. Our treasurer will present proposed budget for 2021. In the process of scheduling a transition meeting for outgoing and incoming officers.

**Queens – Frank G.:** (dcmc@qcgsa.org) Had elections, gave names of incoming officers. Had virtual Share-A-Day.

**Close with AA’s Declaration of** Unity – 10:05 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting: December 7, 2020 - Virtual – 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Details TBD

Area Inventory Assembly: November 14th, 2020 – Virtual - 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.