

SENY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, 2158 WATSON AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10472-5402
Monday, April 3, 2017 (7:30-9:30 p.m.)

(7:00 pm) New DCM Orientation

Meeting Called to order @ 7:30 pm

- Serenity Prayer and A.A. Preamble (*in English*, Jane E.; *en español*, Eddie D.)

General Housekeeping

- Voting clarifications and rules of order.
- No volunteers to cook for next SENY Committee — bring your own food.

Approval of Minutes from January 2, 2017

Introductions of new DCMs and visitors

Officer Reports

Delegate (John W. — delegate@aaseny.org)

- I want to update you all on my preparations for the General Service Conference. I received all the background material on Wednesday, February 15. The packet sent to all delegates was 1,277 pages long. I got another nearly 500 hundred pages of material that was only for those of us on the Literature or Archives committees. I'm still working my way through some of the material, but I have read, reread, and continue to study my committees' background material.
- Some of what I get to see that's confidential to our committee are the completed draft revisions to some of the pamphlets such as "AA for Women" and the revised AA for the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic, which has been renamed "Finding Acceptance: AA for the LGBTQ Alcoholic"; revisions to the text and illustrations of the Twelve Traditions Illustrated pamphlet, and sample chapters to the proposed book of Bill's talks from the General Service Conference.
- I want to thank Fred, Web Chair Chris N., Eddie and Rosa for all their help in getting the Delegate's questionnaire — in English and Spanish — posted online, as well as mailed. It was all deployed in about 72 hours after I received the final agenda. It was great teamwork and a wonderful display of unity.
- I also want to thank Mel and Heidi, and everyone else from Brooklyn County for making the DDoS such a success. The turnout was terrific and the presentations by all helped enrich the assembled's understanding of the agenda items. I've already received back about 100 responses and expect many more on Saturday.
- NERAASA, held February 24-26 in Framingham, MA, was a great event and I got to spend time with my fellow NERDs and our NERT bonding in preparation for the Conference. And as a first-year delegate, I had the honor of presenting our Area highlights which get published in the final Conference report. A couple of quick highlights from our Trustee's report on AA's financial health:
 - AAWS was projected to have an operating loss of about \$27,000 in 2016.

- Contributions were up about 10% — mostly due to individual members setting up a recurring monthly gift online at AA.org. Expenses were down about 5%. The net result was an operating surplus of \$1,464,624.
- I'll have the audited financials after the conference, but this is very good news.
- But we as a Fellowship still only cover about 80% of our expenses. So this good news means keep encouraging folks to consider a monthly gift. One day soon we may be fully self-supporting and that will mean more 12th work by GSO and less expensive Big Books for the newcomer.
- I attended the North East Regional Delegates' reunion, affectionately known as NERD, in Connecticut the weekend of March 10-12. While it's primarily a social weekend for past delegates, it's a working weekend for the current delegates helping us to be better prepared in advance of the conference.
- Grapevine has an issue on AA and the Armed Services coming up later this year. If you have experience, strength, and hope to share, please submit your article by April 30.
- NERF - Mars, PA weekend of June 2-4. "Forums offer a meeting place to ask questions and spark new ideas to help carry the AA message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic." SENY will be hosting NERF in 2019 (May 31-June 2).
- Lastly, I want to applaud Janice and her team on an incredible convention. Everything that we had control over was terrific. I think you all know that the area agreed to give the delegate Right of Decision on whether or not to exercise our option to stay at the Renaissance or move somewhere else in 2018. I want to report to you on my process and where we now stand.
 - I heard from many people who attended. There were challenges with layout and space, especially given the larger number of attendees this year.
 - There were no major mishaps. Overall, I thought it went really well. I sat in on the Convention Committee's debrief, and five of us stayed after to meet with the hotel's representatives: Manny (Alternate Delegate), Janice (Convention Chair), Jane (SENY Chair) and John W. (Convention Treasurer). We came up with a bunch of scenarios that could have made minimized walking time and more food options. I left thinking we would probably stay there.
 - Doing my due diligence, I got in touch with the Westchester Marriott to find out if the dates were available. They got back to me and said they could make it work. They wanted us back. In 2016, we agreed to \$131 room rate, \$78 banquet and zero attrition. What I got from them in 2018 is the following deal: \$129 room rate, \$70 banquet, and a 15% attrition rate. So we can book up to 550 room nights and as long as we have 467 we won't have any penalties.
 - For me the deal breaker with the Renaissance was some of the rooms were just too small. We had over a hundred people who wanted to hear the Saturday night speaker who couldn't fit into the room. Maximum capacity for the Renaissance ballroom is about 600, as compared to 1100 at the Westchester Marriott. It's a better deal, and a bigger space.
 - I have decided to sign the contract with the Westchester Marriott and will let the Renaissance know before the deadline.
- I am honored to serve as your delegate and grateful to all the support I receive

Questions included concerns about Hospitality Suite and future contracts with the Westchester Marriott, and the dates: March 23-25, 2018.

Alternate Delegate (Manny A. — altdelegate@aaseny.org)

- Since we last met he has attended NERAASA, the Delegate's Day of Sharing, NERD and the SENY Convention. He has conducted group inventories and facilitated post-inventory sharing sessions. He has spoken at group anniversaries and meetings on the Traditions.

- As NYCYPAA Liaison he has attended their meetings. He is impressed with all they do for A.A.
- As Hispanic Districts' Asamblea Liaison has been attending Asambleas; they are doing great work. As with the Young People, the future of A.A. is in good hands.
- As Service Participation Liaison: all DCMs and DCMCs invited. At March 9 meeting, they discussed county concerns. Delegate made presentation of the Questionnaire followed by discussion.
- He did a presentation on the Delegate's Questionnaire in Spanish at one of the Spanish meetings.
- He is already negotiating with a group for a group inventory in September, so if you want him to do a Movie Night or group inventory or sharing session, please get in touch with him as soon as possible, because his schedule fills up quickly.

Treasurer (Michelle G. — treasurer@aaseny.org)

- Presentation of February and March financials.
- Treasurer gratefully acknowledges contributions from ESCYPAA, and from 2016 New York State Informational Workshop.

MOTION: to accept the February and March financials.

Motion carries: YES - 40 NO - 0 Abstentions - 2

Registrar (Fred M., registrar@aaseny.org)

- Updates for the next printing of the Eastern Regional Directory are due by May 12, 2017.
- There was some confusion about his presentation at the last Assembly. To clarify: when someone calls an Intergroup outside of SENY looking for a meeting in our Area, the phone rep of that Intergroup may use the Directory. Our local Intergroups use the Directory in the reverse situation: when someone calls us looking for a meeting outside of SENY. While they might not be used frequently, accurate information could be the difference between someone making it to a meeting or not.
- After the motion to list local Intergroups in the directory instead of group contacts failed, he spent about 40-50 hours in March cleaning up FNV. He also added 700 groups and 500 associated contacts into our database — which frustrated some DCMs who had already cleaned up their views and now had a lot of stale data dumped on them from FMV.
 - The good news is that now we can clean up all of GSO's database — and the two are as synced as they possibly can be for the first time ever, which is exciting.
 - People can now see whether or not they're opted into the Directory in the sign-in sheets.
 - Our analytics are also now more accurate. We had 8% participation at our last Assembly.
- He launched a welcome email to new GSRs that is automatically generated and automatically sent — it provides links to the calendar for upcoming Assemblies & county meetings; DCMs and DCMCs are CC'd so they're still notified of new GSRs and the two are immediately connected, and it reduces the shared database expense by 60% — wins all around.
- He will be asking in New Business that the Body confirm that we have substantial unanimity around our shared database system so that our Treasurer can budget for it.

Questions and comments addressed the following:

- Concern about GSRs being listed as directory contacts. Registrar is withdrawing the second motion made at the April Assembly — wasn't a good idea.

7th tradition: \$183

Chair (Jane E. — chair@aaseny.org)

- At four o'clock March 3, on the night before our DDOS (wasn't that great?) the church called me to say that we could not meet Monday March 6. Whoa, I was like a deer caught in headlights, I asked many questions including asking if we could meet in the sanctuary, and when they told me no, I asked if we could have April 3, and they said yes. And the outpouring of support of my use of Concept 3 was amazing. AA in action. Thank you! I am so grateful that I get to work with you all. What a gracious group of people!
- Two days after our last Committee meeting, I got a copy of a Staples receipt. It didn't look like anything we use at SENY, I forwarded it to our Treasurer as usual, discussed with her, and forwarded it to the Ad Hoc Finance Committee for their input (I've sent several others that look unusual since) and made an Assembly announcement that if you have reason to use our tax free number for your commitment, it must be used for SENY purchases exclusively. Please, if your commitment involves, or at one time did involve, use of the tax exempt number, it must only be used for SENY purchases or our 501C3 status will be threatened.
- It came to my attention this week that we have two Staples rewards accounts and am working on closing one.
- I reported at the last Committee meeting that I became aware of a couple of recurring charges on personal credit cards, I have now been made aware of 7. They are: Zapier, One on One, Dialpad, Mailchimp, QuickBooks, aahistory.org domain, and Zoom. I have asked the Finance Ad Hoc Committee to make a recommendation on the advisability of a credit or debit card and electronic banking. I also sent to the Finance Committee the following: to look at Strype, which was set up for the 2015 NYSIW, that Pay Pal has policy changes, to review the current SENY Spending Guidelines and an old B and H account. I am so grateful that we have this robust Committee to look into best practices for SENY!
- Handbook update History- the Handbook historically was done by a trusted servant with editing experience, who came to Committee meetings and Assemblies, took notes, talked to trusted servants about their job descriptions and made edits which were then presented to the Committee for approval, and the Handbook got updated regularly. Along the line that changed. Our current Handbook says that the Chair is responsible for the revision and editing of the book in consultation with the Ad Hoc Service Participation Committee. This puzzled me, Chris B, Chair of the Ad Hoc Pub Committee had already done a lot of work on it, and I'm thrilled to work with him. I asked Manny if I could have a few minutes on the Agenda and I told the Ad Hoc Service Participation all this and that I had learned from AA's experienced in editing that about the worst way to get editing is done is by Committee, and would they be okay with my continuing to work with Chris? They agreed. Thank you Manny, and DCMC's!
- The process: Chris reached out to each person to get updated job descriptions. Since this was done last rotation, it was appropriate to ask again. This so far has been done with all the Officers. Tonight, at the end of the meeting, I will be handing out the proposed edits made by the current Officers. There are no proposed edits for the Delegate's job description. These edits are not carved in stone, they are proposed for Committee approval, and in May we'll address each officer's job description. This will give you time to consider, reach out to the specific Officer with questions, and come back in May with a more informed conscience. You already know why I edited who the Chair should consult with for Handbook revision, so that's a good start!
- Email provider history: Back at December's Committee meeting, we got a very brief report from Panel 65 Web Chair Jon O that the migration to one on one for those that wanted it, and no migration for those who wanted to stay with Gmail would commence and one on one migration would be complete by January 15. On December 14, before the rotation began, I

was asked by a committee member to please have Chris N. explain (to all users of SENY email) what the new platform is, what issues it will solve, migration plan from Gmail, etc. This alerted me that we did not have an informed conscience, so I turfed it to Rick (I was not yet Chair) and the migration was put on hold, which I directed to continue when I rotated in January 1. There was supposed to have been a transition meeting between Jon and Chris at the January 2nd Committee meeting, but Jon cancelled, and Chris has done enormous work researching what was done before he took on the Chair position. Thanks Chris!

- NERASSA was an amazing event, thanks for sending me! I brought copies of the Area Chair Roundtable Summary Report given Sunday morning. This SENY Chair had only good to share about Area 49. I'm grateful to you for that being true.
- It has come to my attention that the Convention Guidelines need updating and I have appointed John W. the SENY CON Treasurer who graciously accepted. Thanks John! I had the best time EVER at the 49th SENY CON! Janice and the Committee did an amazing job.
- I am available for Tradition and Concept meetings and Group Inventories. Thank you so much for allowing me to serve as SENY Chair!
- Any questions?

Committee Reports

SENY Convention (Janice M. — convention@aaseny.org)

- We had 1126 attendees, hotel room nights were 504, banquet sold out with 290 people — all easily meeting the hotel's requirements.
- Preliminary survey results: 332 surveys were turned in. Two-thirds "excellent" and "very good" on Overall Experience. Forty-two percent of respondents chose to comment on hotel. Of those, 62 expressed dissatisfaction with the hotel size, remote location, accessibility issues and lack of affordable food options.
- The Committee's wrap-up meeting will be held on April 29.

Agenda (Jeanne C. — agenda@aaseny.org)

- The calendar on the SENY website has been updated. If you would like to have your district committee meetings included on the website, please email her.

Link Editor (Domi E. — link@aaseny.org)

- Please pick up your *Links*.
- Working to improve distribution. Nassau Intergroup is distributing *Links*, NYIG has requested more *Links*, and we are providing two extra boxes at Assemblies, so that GSRs and others can pick up what they need.
- The *Link* is now available in PDF and ePUB download on the SENY website.
- Upcoming deadlines are listed in this month's *Link*.
- Standing Committee Chairs and GSRs are encouraged to send in articles.
- All the graphics and artwork in the *Link* are from AAWS or by A.A. members.

Accessibilities/Special Needs (Nellie P. — asn@aaseny.org)

- The committee meets monthly at the NY Intergroup Office.
- At February meeting, stand-in chair gave an excellent presentation of the A.A. Guidelines: Accessibility for All Alcoholics; copies were distributed to members present.

- ASN members were encouraged to announce that the Big Meeting being held at the Hilton Hotel on June 25, 2017 will be accessible to all.
- She attended NERAASA. They had an extensive Accessibilities display, which included linguistic pamphlets and technical devices that could translate four languages. Some were bought specifically for the event; some were borrowed. ASL was available.
- In the roundtable meetings, she learned that Area 31 has extensive services to the deaf community known as CART (Communication Access Real Time). This service is supported by the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Next meeting will be this Friday, 7 pm, at NY Intergroup.

Archives (Richard S. — archives@aaseny.org)

- Thanks to the Convention Committee for providing *three* rooms for the Archives display — we had a film room and two rooms for the materials we displayed, centrally located near the Hospitality Room, so we had a lot of people stopping in.
- The next Archives Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 22nd at 307 7th Ave., 1-3 p.m. Ad Hoc Archives Committee as well as all County Archives Chairs are invited to attend.

Corrections (Mike D. — corrections@aaseny.org)

- Attended the Corrections Roundtable at NERAASA.
- Will be attending the Intergroup Workshop on Corrections and Treatment Committees on April 8 (so will be unable to attend the Assembly).
- He renewed the mailbox at Bowling Green and has been monitoring it for pre-release requests and letters from inmates.
- Next Committee Meeting will be Saturday, April 15th at the SENY office, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. We will be discussing encouraging Corrections Correspondence in the counties, and involvement in the pre-release program.
- He is available for county events, and would love to come and set up a table to encourage participation. He had a table at the Convention, and a bunch of people signed up for the Corrections Correspondence program.
- Please get the word out to your groups (especially guys and gals who've done time) to let them know that these programs exist. Thanks!

Service Sponsorship (Chris D., Manhattan Sponsorship Chair, for Sally B.)

- They had a great time at the SENY Convention. All the Service Sponsorship Committee Members met and decided that:
 - they would like to start a monthly meeting
 - they will put together a list of available service sponsors
 - they would like to put together a Service Sponsorship pamphlet
- Please contact Sally if you would like a Service Sponsorship table at your district events.

Al-Anon Liaison (Vicky B. for Jamie S. — alanonliaison@aaseny.org)

- Please save the date for Al-Anon Convention: July 14-16, 2017. Encouraging early online registration. They will have 15 A.A. meetings, seven of them in Spanish. Jamie is looking for volunteers; flyers will be distributed at the next SENY Assembly.

Website (Chris N. — web@aaseny.org)

- We supported the Delegate's Questionnaire, able to get a web forum set up and have collected over 50 online responses so far.
- Did online Registration for the SENY Convention.
- Will focus on updating the website, including posting minutes to the website.
- Please contact him if you have questions or need help.

Grapevine/La Viña (Laura G. — grapevine@aaseny.org)

- Met the Editor of La Viña at the Convention, and as a result we will coordinate to have a representative from La Viña at county events that Laura attends.
- She will be attending Manhattan Share-A-Day on April 15, and Staten Island workshop on May 13.
- She will have a meeting at the SENY Office on May 20 for Grapevine reps and anyone interested in the Grapevine.

Intergroup Liaison (Steve K. — intergroup@aaseny.org)

- They had a meeting on 3/18 at the Nassau Intergroup office, and it went well. They had speakers from General Service give an overview of the Convention.
- Hoping to have their next meeting at the NYIG office.
- DCMCs, including Hispanic districts, please get back to him when he contacts you. He needs accurate, up-to-date information on your local Intergroups.

Translation (Eddie D. — translation@aaseny.org)

- Convention was a huge success; we secured volunteers on-site, including someone who is considering joining the committee. We had three volunteers and five interpreters who covered all the big meetings.
- We will be participating at Manhattan Share-A-Day.
- On April 21, Ramon L., DCMC for the Hispanic Districts, will be at the Suffolk County General Service Meeting.

Literature (Derrick H. — literature@aaseny.org)

- Sales are brisk. Got cleaned out at the Convention, but will have fresh new batch of Literature at next week's Assembly.
- He will be speaking at District 620 and other meetings on the new service piece, "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" (SMF-209). A lot of topics are being discussed — not just sexual harassment and stalking — but cyber-bullying, racism, aggression against Trans members, and atheists, agnostics and freethinkers. It's a privilege to be talking about this service piece, sharing it and having healthy, robust, functional conversations on the topic. So if your district wants him to come out and speak about this service piece, please contact him.

Spanish Share-A-Day (Pedro, Chair)

33rd Annual Share-A-Day hosted by the Hispanic Groups in the Area will be held on June 11, 2017: 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Everyone is welcome — there will be a room for meetings in English. Registration is \$10, includes banquet and dance. St. Luke's Church, 138th Street and Cypress Ave., Bronx, NY.

New Business

Presentation on NERF Transportation Options, by Vicky B., Alt. DCMC, Manhattan

- A few Manhattan GSRs requested information on SENY bus to NERF, and in following up, Vicky learned that this was not in place, but needed to be voted on by the SENY Committee.
- First, booking a charter bus for June needs to be done a year in advance (busy time of year. In the past, GSRs have been charged, in advance, a non-refundable fee).
- Because charters were not an option, Vicky's research included public transportation buses and passenger vans, including associated fees and liability information.
- When reaching out to DCMCs she only got about four positive responses.
- Does SENY want to provide a bus, and if so what are we willing to contribute to offset the cost to members who wish to use it?

Discussion followed, addressing importance of NERF for trusted servants, questions about the need for SENY to provide transportation, and clarification of the proposed motion.

MOTION for SENY to provide a bus for NERF 2017.

YES: 3 NO: 31 Abstentions: 10

Motion does not pass.

MOTION that SENY provide a stipend of up to \$100 for public transportation with receipts and registration and hotel reservation for anyone who wants to go to NERF 2017.

Discussion followed, addressing questions and concerns about public vs. private transportation, and who would be eligible for the stipend.

YES: 8 NO: 18 Abstentions: 8

Minority opinion expressed concern that members, especially from Hispanic Districts, would be unable to attend NERF because of lack of support from SENY.

Motion does not pass.

MOTION to reimburse any driver or any member who took transportation by any means to get to NERF 2017 up to \$100, provided that they can prove they were at the event with receipts.

YES: 16 NO: 7 Abstentions: 7

Motion passes.

MOTION to close.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. by Jane E., Area Chair with A.A.'s Declaration of Unity.

Thank you for participating and for your service!