

# SENY Assembly Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 8, 2017

(9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.)

[Hosted by Rockland County General Service]

(9:00 a.m.) Service Workshops

**Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.**

**Serenity Prayer and Preamble** (in English, Jane E./en español, Evelyn R.)

## General Housekeeping

Voting clarifications; business is conducted with modified Roberts Rules; today's Parliamentarian is Terry F., Panel 53 Past Delegate; Spiritual Time Keeper (Mitch) will limit Standing Committee reports (and comments from the mic) to two minutes.

**Motion** to approve Minutes from February 11, 2017 SENY Assembly passed.

## Officer Reports

**Delegate** (John W. — [delegate@aaseny.org](mailto:delegate@aaseny.org))

Panel 67, Delegate on Literature and Archives Committees

2016 Budget vs. 2016 Actual Results from General Service

- General Service Office: At last year's Conference, the proposed budget for 2016 was reviewed and reported that G.S.O. expected a slight loss from operations of approximately \$27,000. There were no actions of the 66th General Service Conference that required revisions to the budget. Instead, the very positive news for the year 2016 is that G.S.O. had net income from operations of \$1,453,218, a net improvement of \$1,480,000. This was due in large part to a significant and gratifying increase in Seventh Tradition contributions received from the Fellowship, which were \$835,000 greater than anticipated in the budget. In addition, operating expenses were \$707,255 less than budget. Additionally, gross sales of publishing activities for 2016 were \$13,413,929, approximately \$293,521 (2.1%) less than budget.
- A.A. Grapevine: The 2016 Grapevine budget anticipated a net loss of \$146,063. The actual results were significantly better, a net profit of \$164,539. For the year, gross profit from all publishing activities was approximately \$200,000 better than budget. Expenses for the year were approximately \$113,000 less than budget as well.
- Reserve Fund: On December 31, 2016, the Reserve Fund balance represented approximately 10.3 months of operating expenses, compared to a budget of 9.6 months.
- Recurring Contribution: The recurring contribution function is an underutilized gem of A.A. Remember that individual members can set up an account to automatically charge their credit card either monthly, quarterly or annually. The individual has the option to designate to his or her Group if desired or simply designate the contribution for G.S.O. This function has been a secret because at the end of 2016 there were just 542 members actively using this function. Perhaps the word is getting out because as of April 5, 2017, the number has increased to 617 active users. Spread the word!
- 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 step work by GSO and less expensive Big Books for the newcomer.

- I will have more details at the June assembly. And as a reminder, the final conference report contains the audited financials for the organization.
- Grapevine: The Grapevine has an issue on AA and the Armed Services coming up later this year. If you have experience, strength, and hope to share on the subject, please submit your article by April 30.

### SENY Convention

- 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. In keeping with Concept Three, I want to report to you on my process and what I decided.
- It was clear that while the new hotel was well-received and provided some significant advantages financially, in the end, it simply came down to size and capacity. The success of the 2017 convention (1,126 registrants) overwhelmed the Renaissance and the spaces for the big meetings could not accommodate all who wanted to attend.
- I was able to negotiate a very favorable contract with the Westchester Marriott for 2018: \$129/night rooms, banquet of \$70, and most importantly a room block of 550 room nights with a 15% attrition rate (meaning we are not penalized until we fall below 467 rooms). I signed that contract with the Westchester Marriott and let the Renaissance know of my decision.

### NERF 2017 — Mars, PA

NERF will be held the 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.” It’s often referred to as the General Service Office’s roadshow — an opportunity to hear directly from the staff and Board. SENY will be hosting NERF in 2019.

Questions clarified that: we have a one year contract with Marriott; the \$3000 annual limit for contributions to GSO is for individuals only; A.A. does not accept matching donations from corporations, but you can deduct A.A. contributions on your taxes; we will need to consider options and make decisions about SENY Convention venue for 2019 onward.

### 67th General Service Conference

- I want to talk a little bit about my conference preparation process. While a lot of the focus is on me as your delegate, my focus is on you, our area. Concept One states the final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in with the collective conscience of the whole Fellowship. In Concept Two, you delegate that responsibility and authority to your Delegate and to the Conference.
- So to serve you, we were able to get the questionnaire out earlier this year — in English and in Spanish, electronically and by mail — and we were able to give you all five full weeks between the Delegate’s Day of Sharing and today. To do that I had a lot of help: Fred, webchair Chris N, and Eddie and Rosa doing translation. With THE Brooklyn County as hosts, and all the presenters’ efforts, you helped enrich the assembled’s understanding of the agenda items. And we had all the presentations posted later that day. I’ve heard terrific feedback on the presentations and more than half of the 200 or so questionnaires I’ve gotten back so far used the online form which was new this year. I also met with the DCMCs and their alternates at the Service Participation meeting to ensure they had a full understanding of the items on the questionnaire and the opportunity to ask me any questions on the process.

- The SENY handbook states the my job is to attend the General Service Conference prepared! To remind you all, the background material is 1,277 pages long, and I get hundreds more pages that are confidential to my committees.
- So I am reading and re-reading all my committee material, as well as reviewing all the other committees' material. Some of what I get to see that's confidential are the completed draft revisions to some of the pamphlets such as "AA for Woman" 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 also 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. Panel 66 delegates share their experience, strength, and hope with the Panel 67 delegates.
- I look forward to hearing from many of you today. It helps to inform my understanding of our area as I prepare for the General Service Conference and for that I am most grateful!

Following the Delegate's report, about 25 GSRs took the opportunity to share with the Assembly how their groups voted on the questionnaire.

### **Introductions of Past Delegates and New Trusted Servants**

Past Delegates present: Terry F., Panel 53; Susan F., Panel 61; Linda M., Panel 63; Richard S., Panel 59; Denise B., Panel 43; John W., Panel 57.

### **Alternate Delegate** (Manny A. — [altdelegate@aaseny.org](mailto:altdelegate@aaseny.org))

- Hispanic Districts' Asambleas Liaison: He has been attending Asambleas; they are doing great work. Discussed the Delegate's Questionnaire, Corrections, Treatment and Special Needs.
- NYCYPAA Liaison: He attends NYCYPAA meetings regularly — our future is in good hands. They are doing a great job carrying the message. Unity Boat Party will be held July 1, tickets \$30.
- Service Participation Liaison: all DCMs and DCMCs invited. Service participation workshop to be held on May 20 (Suffolk County hosting) will focus on GSC themes.

### **Treasurer** (Manny for Michelle G. — [treasurer@aaseny.org](mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org))

- Presentation of January, February and March financials.

**MOTION:** to accept the January-March financials.

Motion carries:      YES - 78      NO - 0      Abstentions - 4

### **Registrar** (Fred M. — [registrar@aaseny.org](mailto:registrar@aaseny.org))

- After motion to list local Intergroups in the directory instead of group contacts failed, he has been doing what he can to carry out the group conscience. He spent about 40-50 hours in March cleaning up FNV. He also added 700 groups and 500 associated contacts into our database.
- People can now see whether or not they're opted into the Directory in the sign-in sheets.
- He reached out to DCMs and DCMCs to help with GSO's annual clean-up initiative for the next printing of the Eastern Regional Directory. Updates are due by May 12, 2017.
- 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 automatically 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. This will hopefully help get GSRs to get to assemblies and improve participation.

Questions addressed individual issues with group listings in the Regional Directory, and Registrar's commitment to improve the accuracy of our Area's information in the 2017-2018 Directory.

**Treasurer** (Vicky B., Alt. DCMC, Manhattan, for Michelle G. — [treasurer@aaseny.org](mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org))

NERF Reimbursement for travel in lieu of bus:

- The quotes received for a bus to NERF would have totaled over \$5000. At the April 3rd Committee Meeting it was voted that SENY would reimburse up to \$100 for travel expenses to NERF to individuals attending. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who ordinarily would not be able attend for financial reasons. We are hoping this reimbursement for Travel Expenses will encourage greater attendance to this event.
- Please be mindful, the reimbursement is to cover travel expenses only. Be reasonable when considering exactly what institutes a "Travel Expense". This is a special circumstance which has never previously been handled in this way. This is not meant to set precedence on how travel to NERF may be handled in the future.
- This motion was made in the spirit of love and service. We are always looking for ways in which to bring people into service. We can't expect people to get bit by the service bug if they aren't there to feel the energy and the vigor doing service can bring.
- Please check with your groups, districts and counties FIRST to see if they offer reimbursement for this event before contemplating reimbursement from SENY. Your understanding and actions can help to make it possible for all to join in the fun.
- Reimbursements can only be dispersed *once travel has been completed* (after the event) *and must be submitted along with proof of attendance*. Individuals considering using SENY funds for travel reimbursement, please give your contact information as soon as possible to Vicky B., the "Transportation Captain" for the event, at [alt-dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org](mailto:alt-dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org).

**LUNCH**

**Chair** (Jane E. — [chair@aaseny.org](mailto:chair@aaseny.org))

Hi! I'm a grateful alcoholic, my name is Jane E\*\*\*\*. Thanks for allowing me to serve as Area 49 Chair. Isn't April a good time to NOT have a hangover? The birds sing and I no longer curse them.

- The Northeast Regional Forum (or NERF, aka the GSO road show) is June 2-4 in Mars, Pennsylvania this year. The SENY Committee determined 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.
- Email Vicky (the 2017 NERF transportation captain) to get on the list of people to be reimbursed before the event starts.
- Go to NERF, come back and share what you've learned at your group and also to any AA who'll listen. Complete the Reimbursement form Vicky will give/send you and email/give with receipts to our Treasurer, Michelle after your return.
- I've learned a lot and had fun at every NERF I've attended and encourage you to visit [aa.org](http://aa.org) and register and go.

- I got my issue of Box 459...did you see our SENY Convention listed?! Box 459 is published quarterly and mailed to all GSRs at their postal address registered with GSO. The theme for the 2020 International Convention is in there, it will be: "Love and tolerance is our code."
- Your Chair (me) received a solicitation from a company which claims to be "a new technology platform specifically built for small to medium sized nonprofits. We help organizations save time and money by automating your fundraising interactions." I responded by emailing back: "Hi Joan, It sounds like your company helps other nonprofits, but it has no use for us. We are fully self-supporting through our own members' contributions, and engage in no fundraising whatsoever. Please remove us from further solicitations. If you'd like to know more, I invite you to visit [www.aaseny.org](http://www.aaseny.org) or [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) We maintain adherence to our Seventh Tradition, which speaks to these matters. Thanks for reaching out...Jane" Joan very politely emailed me back and we've not heard from them again. I did forward my response to GSO and other Area chairs because if we're getting it, so will others, and someone else might want to know how we handled it.
- Since our February Assembly, I've been privileged to visit the Staten Island, Sullivan, Suffolk and Queens General Service Meetings, the Asamblea, the SENY Convention planning, walk through and wrap-up meetings, a Suffolk Tradition 2 meeting, the SENY Intergroup Liaison Committee meeting, The Nassau County General Service Concepts meeting, participated in the CPC/PI meeting (this was my first teleconference meeting — I can now really see the value), the Suffolk Unity Breakfast, NERAASA, and the SENY Convention!
- My take home messages from NERAASA are in my LINK article, and my take home message from the SENY Convention was: I had fun! I love fun.
- I am available for Tradition and Concept meetings, and Group Inventories.

## **Seventh Tradition — \$328**

### **SENY Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Al-Anon Liaison** (David for Jamie S. — [alanonliaison@aaseny.org](mailto:alanonliaison@aaseny.org))

- Please save the date for Al-Anon Convention: July 14-16, 2017, *Discovery 2017*. Encouraging early online registration. They will have 15 A.A. meetings, in English and Spanish. They are looking for volunteers. More information at [www.al-anonny.org](http://www.al-anonny.org).

#### **Literature** (Derrick H. — [literature@aaseny.org](mailto:literature@aaseny.org))

- Will be visiting District 602 in Manhattan on May 10 to speak on new service literature on Safety (SM209). He will be bringing Literature to Rockland County Spiritual Breakfast.
- If your District or County would like him to attend upcoming events, please get in touch.
- Sales are brisk; cleaned out at the Convention, replenishing as needed.

#### **SENY Convention** (Janice M. — [convention@aaseny.org](mailto:convention@aaseny.org))

- Convention was a success; committees and volunteers did a great job. April 29 will be the final meeting of the Planning Committee. We sold out banquets and met convention contract for hotel nights. About one-third of attendees (1126 this year) filled out surveys. Over two-thirds of respondents gave the Convention an "excellent" or "very good" rating. Sixty-two percent of respondents had issues with the hotel, mainly that it wasn't large enough. But that's history and we can start looking forward to next year.

#### **Accessibilities/Special Needs** (Nellie P. — [asn@aaseny.org](mailto:asn@aaseny.org))

- DCMCs please appoint and send representatives to A/SN meetings.
- The Committee now meets the first Friday of the month @7:00 pm at NY Intergroup Office.

**Westchester** (Emma M., DCMC)

- Hosting the Bill W. Dinner Dance, November 4, 2017. Next Planning meeting will be Sunday, May 7, 2 p.m. at NY Intergroup. Lots of opportunities for service, including speaker selection and graphics people. Robin F. is chairing the committee. Information: [www.nyintergroup.org](http://www.nyintergroup.org).

**Translation** (Eddie D. — [translation@aaseny.org](mailto:translation@aaseny.org))

- Convention was a huge success; we had two members and three volunteers to help provide interpretation over the three-day weekend.
- Still looking for volunteers in all the counties, so if you know someone in your group who speaks both English and Spanish and would like to get involved — even for just one event, please get in touch with Eddie.
- We will be participating at Manhattan Share-A-Day on April 15.
- On April 21, Ramon L., DCMC for the Hispanic Districts, will be at the Suffolk County General Service Meeting.

**Orange** (Sherry A., DCMC)

- They will be hosting September Assembly — date and venue TBA.
- Spiritual Breakfast will be on Sunday, May 7, tickets \$20.

**Brooklyn** (Audrey, DCM District 410)

They are having an Old Timers Meeting on Saturday, May 20.

**Staten Island** (Jerry R., DCMC)

- Tomorrow night, the county will discuss the possibility of meeting every other month, instead of monthly (as they have for 33 years). They will also discuss 2017 proposed budget and electing Chair for their Spiritual Breakfast.
- Group Officers Workshop, May 13.

**Grapevine/La Viña** (Michael, DCM 603 Manhattan for Laura G. — [grapevine@aaseny.org](mailto:grapevine@aaseny.org))

- First Committee Meeting will be held Saturday, May 20, 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the SENY office.
- Laura will also be at the Staten Island Group Officers Workshop on May 13, as well as Manhattan Share-A-Day, April 15.

**Suffolk** (Tom B., DCMC)

- Thanks to counties who came to support the Unity Breakfast — it was a huge success.
- Saturday, May 20 will be the Joy of Service workshop — he will get the venue and time posted to the website as soon as it's official.

**Manhattan** (Scott M., DCMC)

Manhattan Share-a-Day will be Saturday, April 15, 9-5. Theme will be “The Spiritual Angle.” Opportunities for service.

**Putnam** (Rob O., DCMC)

- They will be hosting the November Assembly; date and location TBA.
- Unity Breakfast will be October 15 at Graymoor. Tickets are \$20; hoping to get as many advance sales as possible, over 300 in attendance last year.

**Nassau** (Regina T., DCMC)

- Concept Series Workshop continues: Monday, May 15, 7-8:30 p.m., Concepts 5 & 6, Albin Z. presenting, on the SENY calendar.
- Unity Breakfast: Sunday, June 4 @ Long Island Marriott, Uniondale, NY. Tickets \$30.

**Brooklyn** (Mel R., DCMC)

- DDoS great turnout.
- Supported Suffolk Unity Breakfast, and looks forward to attending ALL of them.
- Spiritual Breakfast will be December 3 — “again, all those counties we’re supporting, I expect to see you guys!”
- Megan, DCM 412 reports as co-chair of Brooklyn Share-A-Day: June 24, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. More Information at [brooklynaa.org](http://brooklynaa.org). Planning meeting tomorrow at the Prospect Group.

**Rockland** (Ray, DCMC)

Rockland County Spiritual Breakfast will be held on April 30, \$30, Suffern Crowne Plaza. Please see him for tickets.

**Suffolk** (Jim, Alt-DCMC)

Hosting the second annual Birthday Brunch, celebrating the founding of A.A., Sunday June 11, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., tickets are \$20. Sold out last year, so see him for tickets.

**Agenda** (Jane E. for Jeanne C. — [agenda@aaseny.org](mailto:agenda@aaseny.org))

The calendar on the SENY website has been updated. If you have anything to be posted to the website, please email Jeanne.

**Archives** (Jane E. for Richard S. — [archives@aaseny.org](mailto:archives@aaseny.org))

First Archives Committee Meeting will be April 22nd, from 1-3 pm. at NY Intergroup Office. All SENY members are welcome.

**Old Business** withdrawn by the mover.

**No New Business.**

**MOTION** to close. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. by Jane E., with A.A.’s Declaration of Unity.

**Thank you for participating and for your service!**

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne L., Recording Secretary, Area 49, Panel 67

**NEXT SENY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday, May 1, 2017, 7:30 pm**  
**Church of the Holy Family**  
**2158 Watson Ave.**  
**Bronx, NY 10472**

**NEXT SENY ASSEMBLY**  
**Saturday, June 17, 2017, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Aviation High School**  
**45-30 36th Street**  
**Long Island City, NY 11101**