

APRIL 8, 2018 SENY Assembly Minutes

10:05 a.m.: Meeting called to order (Jane E.)

Serenity Prayer & Preamble (English & Spanish)

Good morning, I'm a grateful alcoholic and my name's Jane E. Thank you, Suffolk, for hosting today's assembly!

Today's spiritual timekeeper is Nisaa. The bell goes on when you have 30 seconds left, and when your time is up. Today the officers and convention chair will not be timed. Should you ever need extra time, please let me know in advance for agenda planning purposes. Today our spiritual parliamentarian is Jeanne. We use a loose form of Robert's rules to conduct business. Please address your discussion to the chair. Regina will be our spiritual vote counter with me, and if you don't come to the mic, raise your hand and I'll come to you.

I will reorder the Agenda, the Convention Final report will be given in June, the Convention chair will give his report with the rest of the Committee reports, and the county reports and announcements will be given before lunch.

Will any new trusted servants come to mic and introduce yourselves, please? Reminder: there is absolutely no smoking permitted on school grounds.

Motion to Approve January 2018 Minutes: Seconded; No Corrections; Minutes Approved

Committee Reports

Agenda (Jeanne): Please take list of April and May calendar events, any changes/corrections, please email

Treatment (Kathy): Thanks to fellowship for donating used grapevines for distribution. Had a panel and table at Convention, gave pamphlets to people going into institutions and are cooperating with various Intergroups. We have a new Google Voice number for people coming out of institutions who want to contact us and are creating contact lists of volunteers; we are also getting requests from other areas, like Florida, showing need. Next meeting April 22nd at SENY

Accessibility (Nellie): Had a display and table at Convention, loads of volunteers and we helped a blind person, who had a great time. Was at Manhattan Share-A-Day; the District 601 Workshop was wonderful, had ASL translation. We're working on helping a person in Staten Island who needs ASL translation. Meet first Friday every month at Intergroup at 7 p.m.

Service Sponsorship (Sally): Thanks to workshop attendees, welcome to new GSRs and DCMs, anyone need service sponsor please see me

Corrections (Mike): Westchester has done great job connecting w/ prisons, Queens still looking for chair, trying to get meetings into Queensboro & LIC prisons. We've had about 20 persons volunteering for Bridging the Gap, next meeting May 13th.

Grapevine (Laura): Went to Convention and Manhattan Share-A-Day, will be at Brooklyn's as well and Nassau Birthday of AA breakfast. There's a 2018 challenge to the Areas to increase Grapevine and La Vida subscriptions, will try to make NY #1

CPC (Anthony), also for PI (Bianca): Hold combined meeting last Tuesday of every month at 7:15 p.m. at Intergroup. Was at SENY Convention and Ardsley High School health fair. Will be at Javits Center for American Psychiatric Association Convention; more information is in Link. Like to remember that service is not a stone around your neck but an anchor in the storm

Convention (Mike): Will have final report in June. Sold 300 banquets, 1150 registrations, so we were financially successful. Got all positive feedback. Asked Convention Chairs to stand for thanks. We will be at Marriot for 2 more years

Translation (Eddie): Thanks to people who participated in today's workshop, where we talked about contacting Hispanic Area & obtaining translation services. Will be at I am Responsible Workshop April 21st, after that full weekend for Cinco de Mayo -- Safety in AA Workshop for Spanish Women, will be at Hispanic Central Office in Spanish Harlem, and next day in Rockland (SB - Steppingstones) (and Orange (Joy of Service)

NYS Informational Workshop (Casey, 2019 Chair): If you need info or ride info for 2018 Workshop contact me at nysiw@aaseny.org

Past Delegate Report (Bill): Linda M. Past Delegate hosting general hospitality at GSC, interested please contact us, flyers, gives email, not funded so volunteering is at own expense

Links (Jane for Domi): Domi can't be hear but they are outside for distribution

Jane thanks Ad hoc Finance Committee and Linda M., Past Delegate

Alternate Delegate Report

Since last we met I attended, Reported at, Presented, Spoke at:

On March 8th, chaired the SENY Service Participation Meeting: reported on Delegate's Questionnaire, GSA Agenda, NERAASA and SENY Convention, and conducted a workshop on Confidentiality, Trust, Transparency. And Anonymity in SENT Service

March 9th-11th: Attended Northeast Regional Delegates Weekend, hosted by SENY and coordinated hospitality suite

March 15th, spoke at Grupo Nuevo Hispanico-facilitated Delegates Questionnaire discussion

March 16th, conducted 12 Traditions workshop at Queens County General Service Meeting

March 18th, made presentations at Distrito Afitron, hosted by District 614; later that day attended NYCPAA meeting

March 23rd-25th, attended Convention, facilitated "Theme Meeting," screened videos, helped out with Hospitality

Thanks to Mike and Chairs for great convention

Any questions?

I am available for: Group Inventories, Group Sharing Sessions and showing of AA videos

Chair's Report (Jane E.)

I'm a grateful alcoholic and my name's Jane E. What a trip...chairs a SENY Assembly in Suffolk where I drank. I didn't just drink here, I drank wherever I was. Now I stay sober wherever I am. Thank you for my sobriety.

Today your group gets heard, through you, the GSR, link between your group and AA as a whole! The Pre-conference Assembly is a big deal. John, we will be with you in Spirit when you go to the GSC.

My first Assembly was in Suffolk. By the next one, my group had decided to allow me to serve as Alternate GSR. Suffolk didn't have a bus in 1989, and my DCM picked me up and we talked all the way to the Assembly in a distant county. I told him that the GSR worked Saturdays (there were no Sunday Assemblies then) and I worked Friday nights when Suffolk holds their county and district meetings, so we had them all covered. John W. (another John W.) told me that both the primary and alternate should go to all things together, but if that can't happen, then this would work so my group gets the information they need and has a voice at all levels. Then he said the magic words: "you really have the more important commitment, Jane... at Assemblies, your group's voice is heard to the whole of AA." John explained that although he always went to Assemblies, he didn't speak for my group, his job was to represent the district, and the DCMC didn't represent my group, that his job was to represent the county, and since the final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world service should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship, then it was critical that my group, who I represent at Assemblies, should be heard.

He didn't call it the first concept...he was teaching it to me.

News: the technology Communication services (or, TCS) committee discussed a proposed A.A. World Service/G.S.O. app and reviewed a report from the Additional Channels of Communication with the Fellowship Subcommittee. It was agreed that A.A. World Service staff will look into questions of licensing regarding the current "Meeting Guide" app and develop an RFP.

Did y'all have a good time at the SENY Convention? I sure did! Thank you, Mike and the convention committee, and each of you who came.

The flyers for the NYSIW workshop are here. It's in Utica July 27-29 and there will be Spanish translation. We worked with HMB the host Area, and offered to provide two translators and equipment, but asked that they provide transportation reimbursement, food and lodging for the translators. HMB agreed. I'm thrilled. Thank you, Eddie and the translation Committee!

SENY will host the 2019 NYSIW and it seems far away, but these events take time to plan. I'm excited that KC, DCM of 602 graciously accepted the role of 2019 NYSIW Chair. If anyone is taking the train to Utica, KC is the ride from the train liaison to HMB, so reach out to him at nysiw@aaseny.org if you need a ride from the Utica station this July.

I'm available to speak at Tradition, Concept and AA meetings and workshops, and facilitate Group and County inventories.

Are there any questions?

Treasurer (Michelle G.):

2 Financial Reports outside room, February report approved by Committee but also needs to be approved by Assembly. March was not ready for Committee because month closed Saturday March 30th, 2 days before Committee

Motion to Accept February Report as written, Seconded, Approved

In March we were charged a \$20 fee due to a bank error regarding a money order, money will be refunded. Was remiss in getting March report for translation but brought taxes to accountant who had a few questions about special events account. Empire State Convention of Young People in AA made a \$852 donation

Motion to Accept March Report as written, Seconded, Approved

Registrar (Fred M. by Ray)

Hey everybody. As I write this, I am on an airplane, and as you hear this, I am either in Kyoto or Tokyo. It's the first time I've travelled outside of the US! I don't count the time I ate at a restaurant on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls when I was a kid. I'm hoping to make it to the English-speaking young people's meeting in Tokyo, and I've been asked to speak at a meeting! Then it's off to Hong Kong – hoping I can make a meeting or two there as well. My girlfriend and I are taking advantage of her cousin's Tokyo apartment before her cousin moves back to the US.

It felt appropriate to ask Ray to read this tonight because he is officially the first person trained to help me work on the shared database system itself. When I return I'll be onboarding others who have expressed interest as well. This was the last piece of my work that hadn't yet been turned into a collaboration, so this is definitely a milestone in democratizing the knowledge of our system as much as possible.

I also owe Ray a thank-you, as well as Nisaa and the rest of the shared database team that could make it, for running the sign-in process today. Also shout-out to Saadi for covering the April Committee sign-in process, as well as responding to the voicemails & texts while I'm away.

I'm fully caught up on my core responsibilities following the busy season of NERAASA and prepping for Delegate's Day of Sharing. Beyond that, I've been responding to requests for support from other Areas – I need to actually count them up, but about 10 Areas are at some point in the process of adopting either all or some of our system.

At the Registrar roundtable at NERAASA, it was a familiar chorus of struggles with FNV. For me, it was the third year in a row I've been hearing it, but those with more experience confirmed everyone has struggled since it launched about ten years ago. In the past, GSO used to offer some kind of screen sharing introduction, but that's been discontinued. Now the primary resource is the manual, which is almost 200 pages. In response to the need expressed yet again at NERAASA, I've been taking a break from SENY projects to help my peers:

1. For Registrars who've emailed in problems they're having with FNV, I've created tutorial videos.
2. I created a form that any Area Registrar can fill out with a help request, and then a few of us who are ready to assist get notified.
3. I set up a bimonthly video conference that all the Area Registrars of the US & Canada are invited to. It's a chance for people to ask questions about FNV, and then those of us who are more experienced with technology can share our screen and do demos. The first one was a success, and I've asked another Area Registrar to organize the next one so that it won't be dependent on me.
4. Finally, I've worked with the northeast Registrars to submit a collective request to GSO to make a very do-able update to FNV that would save at least hundreds, and more likely thousands, of volunteer hours across the US & Canada, year over year. Fingers crossed that they take it seriously now that it is coming from an entire region instead of just me.

When I get back from overseas, I'll be returning my focus to closing out the open SENY-specific projects. Hope this report finds all of you well. I'll be back to reporting in person for the May Committee meeting. Genki de, or all the best!

County Reports

Westchester (Emma) grateful for Convention being in Westchester. We're doing a book drive this year for hospitals and treatment facilities. Will host June 2nd Post-Conference Assembly Hyland Middle School. Looking forward to workshops with Hispanic community

Queens (Joanne): Hosting Safety in AA Workshop 7 p.m. May 19th in Ozone Park, info on website will have flyers soon; Queens Spiritual Breakfast will be October 7th in Douglaston

Brooklyn (Mel): Kudos to Mike & Committee for successful Convention. Spiritual Breakfast in December, June 23rd will be Share-A-Day. Bus to Convention was a success and we will have County Inventory on June 20th. Will have LISTS event in September, next meeting April 16th

Nassau (Jeanne): Next Meeting April 16th at Nassau Intergroup. April 21st Sponsorship Workshop in Seacliff, our Concepts Series continues with V and VI at Intergroup; June 3rd will be Unity Breakfast, tickets available

Manhattan (Scott): Share-A-Day was yesterday, thanks to District 601, will have April 21st Workshop on Accessibility at Trinity on Lower East Side, 9-12; District 601 also has monthly Concepts meeting

Orange (Sherry): May 6th Joy of Service Workshop at Campbell Hall, Speakers from all Counties and Zerida from Area 5; have flyers for this free event; County Breakfast on April 29th

Suffolk (Tom): May 27th will have AA Birthday Brunch in Riverhead, tickets are \$20. Like to make sure than everyone knows that Suffolk always has bus to Area assemblies; suggest to GSR's that after they rotate out they consider service further down the triangle

Staten Island (Jerry): Thanks to DCM's for help with Convention; County Meeting tonight, Group Officers Workshop April 14th 9-3 at St. Pat's, thanks to Andy (Alt-DCMC); Staten Island takes summer off but will have Share-An-Evening in September and our 17th annual Breakfast on November 25th

Rockland (Ray): May 6th Spiritual Breakfast, can take day of AA with Orange's afternoon workshop

Sullivan (John): Hello to Orange, working on November Assembly, congratulations to William D. who is celebrating 25 years

Hispanic (Ramon): Thanks to fellowship on behalf of Hispanic County for participation and wonderful experience at Share-A-Day; we have small groups with increasing numbers; Hispanic Share-A-Day will be on AA's birthday, June 10th; we have flyers

Chair (Jane) notes that Sunday Assemblies, which started 7-8 years ago, increased Hispanic participation

Long Island Round-Up (Patty, Chair): LBGT AA Convention on Fire Island May 11th-14th; Workshops, Drag Show and Dance

Seventh Tradition is \$429

Delegate's Report (John W.)

I'm consumed with preparations for the General Service Conference which formally begins just two weeks from today. I continue to read and re-read the background material for my committees, and I occasionally take a break from that to read the background material from the other 11 committees.

But part of that means I get to see things in the pipeline before they are ready for publication. For example, there are three pamphlets in final draft stage that are likely to go before the Conference for approval: AA for the Woman and AA and the G/L Alcoholic, both updated, retitled with new stories; and Inside AA, understanding the fellowship and its services. As well as a draft of AA

for the Alcoholic with Mental Health Issues and those that sponsor them and a rewritten the Twelve Traditions Illustrated.

And being on the Archives Committee I got the final draft of the book based on Bill's talks at the GCS. It also includes a talk by Lois, and ones by Bernard Smith and Jack Norris, both past board chairman. And I learned some things! For example, I never knew for sure what the references in Tradition Three about the fellow who was a victim of another addiction more stigmatized than alcoholism. Bill goes into detail about that in his 1968 Conference talk!

I'm pleased to report that early response to the questionnaire has been strong. I've received about 150 responses so far and I'm expecting a surge with today's cut-off.

I had a call this past week with Rich Purtell, our NERT, and my fellow NERDs. It's mostly an opportunity for any last-minute questions. We met over the weekend of March 9-11, when SENY hosted the NERD reunion weekend. Last week I sent out the latest highlights from AAWS. Check in with your DCMC if you want a copy. Or if you have questions on it, please let me know.

I'm working with the Westchester Marriott of finalizing our bid for NERAASA 2021 which I will be presenting at the NE regional lunch at the Conference on Wednesday, April 25 for a vote. Three other areas expressed an intention to bid, so fingers-crossed! The Trustees' Committee on CPC/TA is seeking an appointed committee member with a background in the armed forces. Deadline for submitting is May 15. You can find more details at aa.org by clicking "what's new".

Express my regret for loss of two former delegates; Mike (Panel 37) and Cookie (Panel 49). Lastly, I want to remind you all that there is a memorial service for Cookie on Friday, April 20 starting at 7:15pm. It's at St. George's Church on East 16th Street, where Potpourri meets. Cookie played a huge part in my SENY service and I look forward to gathering to share remembrances.

SENY has helped Area 48 with translation, now helping Central NY Area 47; was contacted by Joe S., Area 47 Delegate, and for first time they will have translation services at their conference assembly; they asked for SENY's and will pay transport and breakage, and although not specifically covered in SENY guidelines I think loaning our equipment out is right thing to do. Please talk to me if you have any objections.

Any questions?

Q&A clarified that Concepts 1 and 2 in action are the GSRs going to the mic; your voice informs my voice. Cookie was my service sponsor, and I remember how I got back into service after 25 years, thought I knew everything but getting service sponsor changed everything for me.

Borrowing Jeanne's design, I had pins made up for Area 49 to celebrate Conference, please take and keep me in in mind

Questions?

Clarified that we will vote on NERAASA at GSC, so body should know informed by May. The pamphlet for sponsoring persons with mental issues is separate from sponsorship pamphlet because it specifically addresses persons with mental health issues, and have stories of person with mental issues and sponsoring persons with mental health issues, which the sponsorship pamphlet does not

Chair (Jane) clarified that there is no ask-it basket; removed from agenda because this is Pre-Conference Assembly and want to focus on questionnaire; there will also be no ask-it basket at Post-Conference Assembly

Delegate (John) clarified that he looked at about 90 items on GSC and chose the 8 he wanted feedback; for example, some items involved reviewing final drafts and there is nothing to weigh in on, while these are earlier in process and I wanted guidance from body. Also, since I chair the Literature Committee, I sought more feedback on literature because I know I will be discussing these in Committee; lastly, I try to find questions that engage the body. The first responsibility job is to come to the GSC prepared. Members can submit more than 1 questionnaire, but I can see if they did so, and if the answers are the same; plus, some is minority opinion, and my role is to come informed, not instructed

11:55 a.m.: Lunch

1:04 p.m. Resume

Delegate (John W.):

This is living the Concepts, especially 1 and 2; reads short form of 1 and 2. Invites GSRs and any member in attendance to give feedback. The GSRs and members in attendance give feedback to the Delegate

Chair (Jane E.): Thanks to Suffolk and our Delegate

Linda M., Past Delegate, wished John well from past Delegates and Members

Chair (Jane E.):

Responsibility Statement

2:17 p.m.: Assembly Closed