

**SENY Assembly Meeting Minutes - Approved**  
**Saturday, April 4, 2020**  
**(via Zoom)**

**Assembly Opening & Welcome by Jerry R. (Area 49 Chair)**

Serenity Prayer in English and Spanish

Preamble in English and Spanish

**Housekeeping: Mike D., Tech Chair** – Translation is available for this assembly. Participants are muted until they raise hand and are called on. Participants can only chat with hosts. Rename yourself to first name, service position, and home group. Turn off your video if you would like to protect your personal anonymity. Speakers will have a two to three-minute time limit. Disruptions will be removed from meeting. If it is necessary to shut down meeting, sign back on in ten minutes, we will be back up. Chat with, or email, me if you are having tech issues. We will be doing 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition using Venmo. Jo Ann will have more information on that.

**DCMC REPORTS**

**Nassau – Annabel B.:** ([dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org](mailto:dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org)) Will be conducting virtual GSR meeting on April 20. Had to cancel Treasurer's Workshop in March, new date is May 18<sup>th</sup>. In the process of postponing the Unity Breakfast, new date TBD. North Shore cluster will be meeting remotely, info on website. Nassau County Intergroup newsletter is now live online, night book is now also daybook, is virtual, and is functioning seamlessly.

**Manhattan - Mike O.:** ([dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org](mailto:dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org)) I've been communicating with trusted servants, passing on communications from the Area as well as encouragement and information about the Delegate's Questionnaire. Manhattan is purchasing a Zoom subscription and the April 21, 2020 County Meeting will be via Zoom; Tom B., our alt-Delegate, will be presenting on Tradition 11. Manhattan County is planning a series of six one-hour Traditions workshops, tentatively beginning Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and continuing each weekend day for three weeks. I've been able to attend a few District meetings via Zoom; am so happy and impressed with our County's trusted servants. Share-a-Day is postponed until the fall. For the time being the County will take over responsibility for District 601's monthly Concepts Meeting.

**Suffolk – Chris D.:** ([dcmc@aasuffolks-ny.org](mailto:dcmc@aasuffolks-ny.org)) Planning virtual county meeting.

**Rockland – Bob C.:** ([dcmc@aarockland.org](mailto:dcmc@aarockland.org)) Meeting April 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual breakfast has been postponed for a future date. We are collecting data on accessibilities.

**Queens: Malini:** April Share-A-Day has been postponed for a later date. Spiritual Breakfast still going on for Halloween, at Immaculate Conception. County assembly is scheduled for the end of the month.

**Westchester – Rich S.:** ([dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org](mailto:dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org)) Grapevine writing workshop cancelled. Later events (hopefully) will be as scheduled; BBQ and picnic on August 29<sup>th</sup>, Share-a-Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Putman – John, Alt. DCMC:** [putnamcountyyaa.org](http://putnamcountyyaa.org) for list of live meetings. Considering having May 16<sup>th</sup> Joy of Service on-line. Putnam county Unity breakfast scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup>, as planned.

**Brooklyn – Colleen V.:** ([dcmc@brooklynaa.org](mailto:dcmc@brooklynaa.org)): Virtual Share-a-Day will take place in June. County meeting via Zoom April 15<sup>th</sup>. Intergroup Zoom meeting, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-1:00.

**Hispanic – Reina R.:** ([distroshispanos@aacdhse49.org](mailto:distroshispanos@aacdhse49.org)) Events for this year have been cancelled. Share A Day in June and SENY convention in November have been cancelled. April assembly has been cancelled. Received e-mail from Delegate about using Zoom for meetings. We have a Spanish meeting at 8:00 and Wednesday at 7:00. Majority of meetings are closed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Acc./Special Needs – Sally B.:** ([access@aaseny.org](mailto:access@aaseny.org)) Accessibilities chairs have been reaching out to their communities and helping them get onto meetings. Hoping that Rockland workshop in July can still move forward.

**Archives – Hank G.:** ([archives@aaseny.org](mailto:archives@aaseny.org)) Workshop scheduled for May 2nd in the Bronx will be held virtually, from 10:00-12:00. Flyer will be on website.

**Treatment Facilities – Ed M.:** ([tf@aaseny.org](mailto:tf@aaseny.org)) Treatment Facilities is active. Three Bridging the Gap requests from Area 48 in early March have been answered. There are usually four Bridging the Gap Meetings monthly in our Area. There were none in March. I am trying to encourage continuity of meetings and am hopeful for more activity this month. The Bridging the Gap Program at NYIG serves six of our counties in Area 49. At this time, they do not physically meet discharged clients, but refer them to online meetings. No requests this month. I am not aware of any Intergroup in our area that is still sponsoring physical meetings in Treatment Facilities at this time. Some institutions have allowed their inpatient clients to join our online meetings.

Our Suffolk County Bridging the Gap Committee is calling sober houses to inform them on how to access online meetings and to inform them how to direct their discharged clients. New York Intergroup is doing the same. The New York Intergroup CTFC Committee is sponsoring dedicated Zoom Meetings into institutions on Staten Island. There is also an AA meeting in Brooklyn Zooming a meeting into a hospital for the clients. Queens County has also received a request from an institution for a dedicated Zoom Meeting, which we are following up on.

**Corrections – Eddie D.:** ([corrections@aaseny.org](mailto:corrections@aaseny.org)): Facilities where we bring meetings have been closed. Our committee did not meet as scheduled last month, trying to organize a Zoom meeting. Also want to make sure correspondence work is going forward. In contact with Scotty from NYIG CTFC. Sent request to facilities in area for Zoom meetings.

**NYIG, CTFC – Scotty:** Sent form letter to correctional facilities in NYC area asking about establishing meetings through Zoom, etc.

**CPC – Laura G.:** ([cpc@aaseny.org](mailto:cpc@aaseny.org)) no report

**Grapevine – Sherri A.:** ([grapevine@aaseny.org](mailto:grapevine@aaseny.org)) As of March 20, 2020 the General Service Office of AAWS and Grapevine has been closed as deemed non-essential. GSO and Grapevine have established new “telework” procedures.

Grapevine and LaVina are giving free access to most of their 2020 issues. Audio will be available and a link to the Grapevine You Tube channel. [www.aagrapevine.org/we-are-here-to-help](http://www.aagrapevine.org/we-are-here-to-help), [youtube.com/aagrapevine](https://youtube.com/aagrapevine).

**April Grapevine:** Home Group, **March/April LaVina:** Being New in AA

2020 Carry the Message Project continues: [aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message](http://aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message)

**Agenda - Jeannette K.:** ([agenda@aaseny.org](mailto:agenda@aaseny.org)) please utilize calendar. Please email me if you have any changes. Name of event, start and end time, venue (Zoom info with PW), organizer (county) special notations (name sometimes), flyers (please limit because they may be viewed on phone).

**Int’l Convention Co-Chair, Melissa:** Convention has been cancelled.

**Handbook Editor – Mike O.:** ([handbookeditor@aaseny.org](mailto:handbookeditor@aaseny.org)) I have incorporated all changes to date in the Handbook and plan on circulating a final draft to the Officers, Chairs, and DCMCs next week for their comments and edits.

**Link Editor – Jim S.:** ([link@aaseny.org](mailto:link@aaseny.org)) no report – We did not produce a current newsletter but I believe that we should produce a digital form. I will adhere to LINK submission deadlines that were posted in previous LINKS. For the May 4th committee meeting next deadline will be April 16th for articles to be submitted in digital form. For the June 1st assembly deadline will be May 17th for that publication (in digital form, I assume).

**Service Sponsorship, Richie N.:** ([servicesponsorship@aaseny.org](mailto:servicesponsorship@aaseny.org)) if you are new and have any questions or concerns, please contact me via e-mail or phone at 631-645-0669.

**PI – Mike D.:** ([pi@aaseny.org](mailto:pi@aaseny.org))

As you may have noticed there are many articles appearing nationally and locally on the effect of Covid-19 on AA. We have had members interviewing with the press with good intentions but not fluent in our traditions. Here are some suggestions for consideration by both membership and trusted servants. First a couple of General Points dealing with Public or Media:

Even when a member states that an opinion is his or hers, and not AA's, it might be seen by others as AA's opinion. It is usually better to give no opinion at all.

We do not engage in discussions on alcoholism and treatment methods, other agencies, organizations or medication and drugs. We just carry the recovery message of A. A.

If members are requested to interview we can consider passing the interview request down the triangle.

**For Members:** We engage in what is called Recovery Messaging. State we are recovered alcoholics. No last name, face, or AA affiliation. Stress positive aspects of recovery. Happy to be alive, reunited with family, employed, useful.

**For Trusted Servants:** [The A.A. Guidelines on Public Information](#) state:

*Requests for A.A. Presence on Radio, TV, Media: Such requests are carefully considered to assure that:*

*a.) Anonymity of members will be protected.*

*b.) A.A. cooperation will adhere to our primary purpose and Traditions.*

*Two suggestions seem to be essential for a good outcome:*

*1) Discuss the request with other A.A.s involved in service, seeking input from a wider group conscience*

*2) If the decision is to proceed with A.A. participation, use members with good experience in discussing our program with the public.*

The 1969 General Service Conference considered this matter and approved this resolution:

*“We will endeavor to avoid participation on radio and TV programs, unless:*

*a. We are given adequate time for preparation.*

*b. Our presence will serve an A.A. objective.*

*c. The primary discussion is appropriate for A.A. — not concerned with crime, sex, controversy or any other sensationalism.*

*d. We are satisfied that our anonymity is guaranteed.”*

**Good Information for members, use restraint. Recovery Messaging and trusted servants objective and preparation.**

Should you have any questions concerning any of this please consider our committee a resource and reach out.

**Delegate – Jane E.:** ([delegate@aaseny.org](mailto:delegate@aaseny.org))

Morning Session for GSRs to share their groups' conscience on agenda items during first ever SENY virtual Assembly

Delegate Jane welcomed all to this AA history making event, then screen shared navigation to, and information on,

“From the Delegate” page, clarification of the first agenda item's focus/background. <https://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate>

**Group's responses to the Delegate's Questionnaire and inform our Delegate**

**Delegate's report:**

We are making AA history! Although the International Convention (IC) is cancelled, we still have its theme to guide us: “Love and Tolerance is Our Code”.

Information given on topics which came up during morning session included screen sharing and navigation to resources:

- Anonymity practices by GSO (annual letter to media regarding our Traditions of Anonymity, what GSO does when misinformation is in the media about AA, receipt of anonymity breaks by members to [publicinfo@aa.org](mailto:publicinfo@aa.org)) . Info on when PI at GSO contacts a Delegate, and Delegates' practices in regarding if, and how to contact members with a gentle reminder about Traditions 11 and 12 to members who are subjects of anonymity breaks. See more: [https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/understanding-anonymity](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/understanding-anonymity)
- Information on Forums can be found here: [https://aa.org/pages/en\\_US/regional-and-local-forums](https://aa.org/pages/en_US/regional-and-local-forums)

- Online Intergroup was started in the 1990s: <https://www.aa-intergroup.org/>

On April 3, last night, Delegate attended General Service Board (GSB) meeting with other Conference Committee Chairs (14 Delegates), about the first ever virtual General Service Conference. Passed with substantial unanimity by the GSB last night:

“After lengthy and thoughtful discussion, the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference recommended to the General Service Board that the 70th Virtual General Service Conference be held later in May 2020, as a condensed one session Conference. The dates to be determined through a survey of all Conference members as to their availability and the feasibility of meeting those dates by the General Service Office.”

<https://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate>

More will be revealed about the first ever Virtual GSC, and other updates will be posted on the from the Delegate page, which has been updated almost daily for the past two weeks. The Delegate communicates via this page to SENY members, and respectfully asks members to check the page

Thanks rendered to our Web chair Ray and our entire Technology Committee led by our Technology and Communication’s Officer (TCO), Mike.

2 more responses to Delegate’s questionnaire and Q&A

**Q.:** Int’l was cancelled, so it is my interpretation that the question about The Lord’s Prayer is not relevant.

**A.:** Things done at the GSC are done at the level of policy. The conference makes decisions that affect AA as a whole. So, we don’t have an International Convention, but we have a theme of “Love and Tolerance is our Code”, so this question will still be discussed as we do have the convention every five years.

**Q.:** What is meant by “plain language”?

**A.:** The questionnaire intended, on purpose, to get the whole fellowship talking about “can we find a common solution to make the message in the Big Book more accessible to more alcoholics”. Anyone in SENY that wants background information on this or any other agenda item, please email me at [delegate@aaseny.org](mailto:delegate@aaseny.org), and I will send it to you with the confidentiality disclosure.

**Q.:** Will the conference be open for members to attend?

**A.:** The GSC is a confidential conference. There are usually, approximately, 135 members.

**Alternate Delegate – Tom B.: ([altdelegate@aaseny.org](mailto:altdelegate@aaseny.org))**

Good afternoon... / Buenas Tardes... – I have the privilege and joy to serve all of you as your alternate delegate.

I want to thank every member who is taking part in this meeting, most especially the GSRs who have taken the time and effort to deliver their groups’ consciences on these items that affect the future of Alcoholics Anonymous – because the whole General Service structure exists to serve the groups, and your voices make that possible.

Well: here we are in the Flying Blind 2.0 period of A.A.’s growth! Some of us have moved into the suddenness of physical distancing and e-meetings with relative ease, while others are taking longer to adjust to this current reality. Even though, by nature, I tend to be one of the “taking longer” group, I agree whole-heartedly with our Delegate Jane: AA will come out of this stronger and better than ever.

Why do I believe this? One aspect is that we are honoring Bill W's vision and trust in the "colossus of modern communication"; even with SENY's first virtual Assembly, we are all doing our best to use this communication "unselfishly and well". Another aspect is that, the next time a similar disruption of our collective life occurs, we A.A. members will be able to deal with it more easily when it happens. And of course, our YPAAs are leaders in their own right in technology – perhaps this will allow us to work even more closely with one another.

But most of all, my belief resides in our Traditions. As long as we remember the spirit of unity in Tradition 1; as long as we remember that Tradition 4 is longer than its first five words, and that we need to balance "autonomy" with "A.A. as a whole"; and as long as we strive to "place principles before personalities" and honor the *spiritual foundation of anonymity* as stated in Tradition 12, we will be okay. In fact, we'll be better than okay – we'll be a stronger fellowship, we'll have a whole new toolbox, and we'll be sober.

I don't believe my Higher Power brought me this far just to drop me on my head, and I'll bet you don't, either. Recovery, Unity and Service – thank you all for helping to keep me sober today.

For now, anyway that I can serve, feel free to e-mail me at [altdelegate@aaseny.org](mailto:altdelegate@aaseny.org), or if you have a LINK copy sitting around, you can text me at my phone number. And, once we get past all this: I will be available to facilitate Group and County Inventories, to attend meetings or workshops on Traditions or Concepts. I would love to come visit your group. And beyond being available, I am excited, delighted, honored – and grateful – to be of any service I can to SENY, and to AA as a whole.

Please stay safe and healthy. And thank you for allowing me to serve each and every one of you!

**Chair – Jerry R.: ([chair@aaseny.org](mailto:chair@aaseny.org))**

**Concept of the Month- Concept 4 -** Throughout the Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation" taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

On Saturday, February 29, 2020, we moved our S.E.N.Y. storage to our new office at 1231 Lafayette Ave, Bronx N.Y. 10474 and moved all the S.E.N.Y. Archives to Cubesmart at 955 Bronx River Avenue, one mile from the new office. It is a much cleaner, safer, and easily accessible storage than the old one on 135 St. I would like to thank Hank, Terry, Lucas, Frank, and George and his friends that showed up to help us complete the move.

### **Upcoming Events**

Saturday, May 2, 2020 – Virtual Archives Workshop – contact Hank at [archives@aaseny.org](mailto:archives@aaseny.org) for more info.

Monday, May 4, 2020 - Area Committee Meeting- Possibly Virtual

Monday, June 1, 2020 - Area Committee Meeting- Possibly Virtual

Saturday, June 13, 2020 - Pre- Conference Assembly- Suffolk County or Virtual

July 31, 2020 to August 2, 2020 – NYSIW - Hosted by Area 50 - Daeman College, 4380 Main Street, Amherst N.Y. 14226 (To be Determined.)

**Treasurer – Jo Ann M.: ([treasurer@aaseny.org](mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org))** – Instructions for 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition: Shared screen of Venmo QR code. Go to [treasurer@aaseny.org](mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org) or @seny-area49 on Venmo. Also, another way to contribute is to go to [aaseny.org](http://aaseny.org), scroll down to "keep area self-supporting" and "contribute here".

### **Reconciliations:**

**February:** started off with \$65,807.36

Cleared checks and payments: \$9,699.36

Deposits and other credits cleared: \$16,269.88

Statement ending balance: \$72,377.88

Uncleared transactions: \$3,629.35

Register balance as of 2/29/20 \$68,748.53

**March:** started off with \$72,377.88  
Cleared checks and payments: \$20,581.32  
Deposits and other credits cleared: \$3,413.32  
Statement ending balance: \$55,209.96  
Uncleared transactions: \$5,427.26  
Register balance \$49,782.70  
Uncleared transactions after March 31<sup>st</sup>: \$3,900.54  
Register balance: \$53,683.00

**Prudent reserve** is \$127,000 (7.75 months)

**7<sup>th</sup> Tradition:** \$253.15 in Venmo contributions and \$20 through the SENY website.

**Tech Chair – Mike D.:** ([registrar@aaaseny.org](mailto:registrar@aaaseny.org)) First tech committee meeting was well attended, and successful. We will be meeting the first Thursday of every month. If anyone is interested in joining the tech committee, go to [aaaseny.org/tech](http://aaaseny.org/tech). There is a sign-up form. If you are good with Mail Chimp, Zoom, simple gmail, if you deal with websites, we would love to have you be part of the committee. Eventually we will have a support page on our website.

Groups can check to see if you are registered with the Area by going to [aaaseny.org](http://aaaseny.org). You will find your group number, as well as your new group number.

Zoom – security settings as they relate to our traditions – talk more about during workshop tomorrow. 1-3, ID 755-442-1557, PW 061566. Best way to preserve anonymity is to change settings once you are in the meeting.

I will support any committee chairs that want to have their meetings via Zoom. Email me at [registrar@aaaseny.org](mailto:registrar@aaaseny.org).

GSO is still struggling with new database. They have a new contractor to set it up so it is easier for registrars to get new people registered. There is still a delay in getting GSR kits to new reps.

**Convention 2020 – Rich N.:** ([convention@aaaseny.org](mailto:convention@aaaseny.org)) 52<sup>nd</sup> SENY convention committee meeting tomorrow morning. Will wrap up committees, compile it, and ship it on to the people that will be doing the next 52<sup>nd</sup> convention, next year. Registrations: \$23,320, refunds: \$23,260 refunded all but \$60 – they are Stripe accounts and will clear the bank Monday or Tuesday. Fourteen refund checks have not yet been cashed. Have laid out money for travel, etc. for committee members, supplies, etc. All registration supplies can be used next year.

**Closing:** AA's Declaration of Unity – Jerry R., Area 49 Chair

**Committee Meetings:**

Monday, May 4, 2020 and Monday, June 1, 2020 – details to be determined

**SENY Post Conference Assembly:**

Saturday, June 13, 2020, 8:30 – 3:15 p.m. – details to be determined