

AREA 49 COMMITTEE MINUTES (DEC. 4, 2017)

7:32 pm Meeting called to Order by Jane E. [Chair]

Serenity Prayer and Preamble [English & Spanish]

Quorum established; Housekeeping [Voting, Time]

Scott M. is Parliamentarian; Andy is Timekeeper

November 7, 2017 Minutes reviewed; two corrections: the Registrar's Report is added, and Treatment changed words to "for Bridging the Gap"

MINUTES APPROVED as corrected

DCMC REPORTS

Nassau (Regina): Starting their year-long Concepts series again (beginning w/ I and II) on 1/15/18, John W. [Delegate], at Nassau Intergroup

Suffolk (Tom): On 1/27/18 First Legacy Workshop, Jim S. Alt-Delegate wrote a Link Article, our 21st Annual Spiritual Breakfast [1200 attendees expected] is upcoming

Orange (Sherry): 5/6/18 is our Spiritual Breakfast, thanks to Mel & Brooklyn for great Spiritual Breakfast

Putnam (Rob): New Year's Eve Alkathon

Staten Island (Jerry): Traditions Workshop 12/16 at St. Patricks, Xmas Marathon and NY Eves Marathon, at St. Olivet's, Assembly at P.S. 48, 1050 Targee Street (Grassmere stop on SIR)

Brooklyn (Mel): New Book Club Meeting on AA Comes of Age, every 4th Sunday, at 3 or 3:30, bus to next Assembly at 7:30, next county meeting 12/16

Rockland (Ray): Alkathon Christmas Eve and Day, starting 6 p.m., even hours

Westchester (Emma): NY Eve Dinner/Dance, Bronxville/Yonkers, leading into NY Day Alkathon, sponsored by Westchester GSA and Howard's Group

Bronx/Upper Manhattan (Pablo): Joy of Workshop Saturday 12/9, panels on safety in AA and AA: Solution for all Generations [General Service theme), Westchester Methodist Church

Sullivan County (William): Committee Meeting in November, nominated Secretary and DCMC, next meeting 12/16/17 at Lake Sheldrake

No other Reports made

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AL-Anon (Jamie): pleased/honored to have served as Chair, Discovery Convention had over 85 alcoholics July 14-16, 2017, Renaissance Hotel West Harrison, all 5 boroughs, huge Spanish presence, able to procure add'l Spanish [thanks, Manny] and Spanish community strongly represented, 15 AA

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workshops (7 Spanish), thanks to Eddie (Translation); recommend that this commitment be made a 2-year commitment

Literature (Brendan): Attended Assembly, set up displays at Assembly & other events, will attend upcoming events

Grapevine / La Vida: Attended the 11/26/17 Hispanic Convention, thanks to all for translation, will attend La Vida Workshop as Panelist, Church of Holy Name, 96th/Amsterdam NYC, on 12/10/17

Treatment (Kathy): Met on 11/19/17, collecting used Grapevines for meetings going into facilities, one county took some for meetings, please donate them thru County chair, next meeting is 12/17/17, hope to have all counties and Hispanic county treatment chairs there

Service (Sally): Hosting DCM orientation, turned into a DCM support group, very great time to share, DCMs very important as you are our vote, pass it around that this is important

Accessibility (Nellie): Continue to have meetings at Ocean View Far Rockaway, asking DCMCs for volunteers at SENY Assembly, save the date 4/31/17 for Assembly Special Needs workshop, at Trinity Lutheran on 9th/Ave B, Lower East Side, will out out save-the-date flyer

Convention (Mike): Flyers have been distributed to all DCMCs, have more and will bring more, website fixed, next meeting 12/17/17. thanks Domi to getting it into link, next meeting 12/17/17 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

CPC (Anthony): SENY PI/CPC meeting last Tues. every month at Intergroup, this Sat. 12/2/17 I did a 2-class presentation for 50 social workers, on 12/13/17 I will be at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry doing a youth information table, will attend American Psychiatric Meeting the week of 5/5-9/18, plus GLBT expo, any county or groups needs tabling please let me know

Link (Domi): Made amends for aggressive editing by committee member. Link has Convention form, doing a 50th Anniversary of Link for March Convention; running out of Links even though we are printing usual number, not sure if it's a time issue or a print run issue; Links articles are edited for minor things, grammar, punctuation, AA terminology, will make sure it stays as so; have box of Links for Rockland Intergroup

Translation (Eddie): Thanks from Ramon and others for support of Hispanic Convention, apologize for technical difficulties, could not bring equipment today, apologize, 1 event - Grapevine La Vida coming up this Sunday

Agenda (Jeannie): Every has been updated and have a print version, if you have not extended recurring meetings through January I will do that, but please let me know if they have been changed so we can extend correctly. [Richie, Office Manager, clarified that we cannot put new dates for SENY office reservation into system until January, but in the meantime contact and he'll take care of it]

Archives (Richard): Ordered a Hazleton copy of printer's manuscript of Big Book as archives artifact (disclaimer: not conference approved), which will be on display at next Assembly; oral histories of are delegates (Terry, Susan F., John W., Cookie) suspended until January

Corrections (Mike D.) 2 Women's Prisons need backup chair, you can email me or see Jane for contact #; Fred's email got 15 responses, still building list of persons who want to start meetings in Manhattan prisons

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No other reports made

During Q&A pointed out that minutes have not been updated since April, request that draft minutes be distributed earlier, but that draft minutes are not posted on web site until approved by body. Service sponsorship is an *ad hoc* committee; does not have own budget and is financed under Chair's budget. *Ad hoc* means that a committee does not have its own budget line and exists for an indefinite time, unlike standing committee. Special is not defined. Discussion of changing names in handbook, but *ad hoc* committees, regardless of title, do not vote.

Parliamentarian **ruled** that a motion to change names can be considered under New Business

DELEGATE'S REPORT (John W.)

Denis O'Brien, who many knew and who did great service, has passed. He Chaired hospitality for delegate's spouses / significant others during G.S.C., and I've heard from many current and former delegates from across the U.S. and Canada of their fond memories.

It was great seeing so many of you over the weekend at the LISTS event and the Brooklyn breakfast. I want to give a shout-out to our DCMCs from across the area. I've seen how you're showing up to support each other's events and I think it's really wonderful. On Monday, November 27, I was alerted that the GSB withdrew its legal pursuit of the printer's copy of the manuscript of the Big Book. I received a letter from Greg Tobin the following day explaining that it was "no longer in our best interests to pursue this litigation, despite the uniqueness of the document and A.A.W.S.'s clear ownership right. The time and expense of engaging in protracted litigation has become too significant a distraction from A.A.W.S.'s and the General Service Board's responsibility as the organized service structure of our Fellowship, whose primary purpose is assisting recovering alcoholics."

There was a link in the email update that went out over the weekend to the legal motion. Please consult that for more details. I don't have any additional information at this time.

I want to flag two things in the current issue of Box 459: there's an article on "passing the basket digitally", that is a story about groups using technology to collect support. One of the groups mentioned is my home group, the Ninth Avenue Group. The article is *Safeguarding Anonymity in the Digital Age*. If you didn't get a copy in your email today, it's easy to subscribe at AA.org.

I've been in touch with some of my fellow delegates to start working on our NERAASA bid for 2021. And speaking of NERAASA, I hope you've all made your hotel reservations for this February, as the host hotel is sold out. I'm happy to take any questions.

During Q&A clarified that John received a letter from Greg T., Manager, GSO, explaining that A.A.W.S. has decided that "it is no longer in our best interests to pursue this litigation, despite the uniqueness of the document and A.A.W.S.'s clear ownership right. The time and expense of engaging in protracted litigation has become too significant a distraction from A.A.W.S.'s and the General Service Board's responsibility as the organized service structure of our Fellowship, whose primary purpose is assisting recovering alcoholics." Delegate does not have much new information otherwise, but the initial Board vote was 20-0 to litigate; a new board vote has now decided to withdraw the lawsuit. John has heard from persons on both sides of the issue; John referred fellowship to Concept VI and Board's broad authority as trusted servants to act in fellowship's interests.

Article in Box 459 on electronic donations; value of putting actual cash into basket versus reality of modern world; some meetings have members who do not use cash. Manny A. [Alt. Delegate] recalled

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being at a meeting of young people where he was only person w/ cash and that we are a fellowship of at least 5 generations (as per theme of G.S.C.)

Regarding accessibility, we should be accessible at various events, depending on event, including American Sign Language, but entities are autonomous; issue of cost is factor; one practice is to announce ahead of time that services are available on request.

As clarified by Registrar [Fred], as discussed at national tech workshop GSO had for many years bespoke databases for each desk, which has proved profoundly unmanageable, and is adopting a new tool to retire old databases; will probably make things marginally better for SENY

ALTERNATIVE DELEGATE REPORT [Manny A.]

On 11/11/17 I attended the Assembly. 11/17/17 attended the Hispanic District 314's Anniversary where I spoke on Safety in AA along with Nisaa, who made an excellent presentation on the same topic. On 11/19/17 attended the Hispanic Districts Asamblea where I reported/gave an update on the 2108 Convention, 2018 NERAASA, our Delegate's bid to host the 2021 NERAASA, the motion for SENY to Support District Brooklyn District 4—the God Word pamphlet, and an update on the Original BB transcript. Later that day went to Manhattan and attended the NYCYPAA Committee Meeting & facilitate their yearly elections. 11/22/17 made a presentation on Safety in AA at Grupo Alfa Omega in Queens. 11/25-26/17, attended XXXVII Hispanic Convention of A. A. Marriott Hotel, Melville NY where I made a presentation on Love & Tolerance. On 11/26/17 went from the Hispanic Convention to the Staten Island Spiritual Breakfast to make a presentation on Love & Tolerance and later returned to the Hispanic Convention in Melville Long Island to make a presentation at 3pm.

On 12/2/17 I went to the LISTS workshop in Queens, and then Brooklyn for followed by a drive into Brooklyn County Cluster 401,403 & 411 viewing and discussion of the DVD "Bill Discusses the Traditions." On 12/3/17 attended Brooklyn County Spiritual Breakfast. If anyone would like a full copy of my report, please email your request, altdelegate@aaseny.org. Am available for Group Inventories, Sharing Sessions, and showing of AA videos.

CHAIR'S REPORT [Jane E.]

The Intergroup Liaison Chair has withdrawn his edit to attend the National Intergroup Conference every rotation. The Treatment Facilities Chair has removed her request regarding funding every rotation for that Conference. Their job description edits have been revised and are on the handout. We will continue to encourage people to go to events, we just don't want to make it a job requirement.

This evening, there are five job descriptions for your approval, one at a time. Archives is the last job description that needs editing, I'll work with the Archives Chair. There's a handout that outlines the changes approved in 2012 that'll be incorporated. We will have the archives job description for you to see and approve soon.

Regarding making the Handbook simpler, and not reproducing the service manual, I've listened to a bunch of views, and there have been 3 people who think that everything should be kept. Everyone else wants it simplified and think it should be used as an adjunct to the service manual. So, if we have a motion to streamline this evening, and it passes, I'll work on it. You must all be exhausted from working so hard on the job descriptions, I'm very grateful to you, and don't want to wear you out. Once I get consensus tonight, I think you trust me to bring back a finished product.

On the back of the job description there's a few examples of how the editing will be done if you agree to slimming down the book. Please feel free to give me feedback, I am available.

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David S. has resigned from the Publications *Ad Hoc* Committee, and Linda M. rotates off this year.

I'd like to thank the Publications *Ad Hoc* Committee for their service these past seven years, will discharge it, and the remaining two members will continue on as Link Editorial Board members.

The Office computer has been cleansed of viruses and malware and is now serviceable. Thank you Rockland Ray! Any questions?

TREASURER'S REPORT (Michelle)

Ask that body review reports; I've left the changes in budget in to show how it is changing over time, especially because people become active; ask that people hand in receipts before this Sunday budget meeting to better estimate 2018. We also would like to buy a new laptop to allow a fellowship member to assist Registrar, cost \$450-500. Ask that we approve changes.

During Q&A Parliamentarian **ruled** that questions should be directed to Chair and referred by Chair to proper Officer. Q&A clarified that budget is given out after voted on at first meeting, estimated on last 2 or 3 years of actual expenses. Would make sense to see where we started and ended up (running variance), which a month-to-month change does not show. SENY uses Quickbooks, which does not show that, but should be able to do it in Excel. Might be able to do so in footnotes.

MOTION to accept Treasurer's Report with amended budget; **seconded**

FOR, 45, OPPOSED, 0, ABSTENTIONS, 5: **MOTION PASSED**

REGISTRAR'S REPORT (Fred M.)

As of our November Assembly, there were 1,126 GSRs. 20% of those GSRs – that yellow bar – have attended an Assembly over the last five, a full year's worth. And of those 229 GSRs, 49% – the orange bar – have come back a second time. I want to continue to encourage every DCM and DCMC here to focus on these two cohorts – reach out to those GSRs who have never attended an Assembly, and reach out to those GSRs who have come once but haven't returned. If you're not sure how to identify which of your GSRs fall into those groups, come grab me afterward, and I'll also suggest some other people to talk to momentarily

The numbers haven't changed much since we started recording them in this format. Once more, we start by counting the number of groups with GSRs. And then we ask what percentage of those groups with GSRs had their GSR or Alternate attend at least one Assembly over the last five? As you can see it's been pretty steady at 20 to 21%. Next we ask: ok, of that 20%, how many attended a second Assembly over that same time period? It's about half. The only significant change was a 10% increase in returning GSRs at the June Assembly in Queens.

Since we're not seeing much change when looking at the Area as a whole, I thought it might be helpful to look at the district level. These are the districts that have the most attendance relative to their county's average. We are all dealing with the same participation challenge, including these districts – but since these districts are doing better than their county average, I thought it might be worthwhile to let you know who their DCMs are as potential resources. The spirit of this is not intended to elevate these folks – although I know you guys are working hard – it's intended to get us talking and sharing ideas

Ken and Ralph are from Suffolk. GERALYN and Ann are from Nassau. John, Power, and Saadi are from Queens. Cathy, Audrey, and Karl are from Brooklyn. KC is from Manhattan. Hernando and Arthur are from Westchester. And Flores is from the Hispanic Districts. If I just mentioned your name, please raise your hand so people know who you are. If you're a DCM, it might be worth saying hi, picking their brains, and sharing your ideas too

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I've been taking my own advice: I've been thinking about how we can improve and talking to others about it. Here are a few ideas. They're just ideas – I'm not presently working on them. Email and text message reminders – people who opt in could receive an email and/or a text message about the next Assembly. Right now DCMs + DCMCs have one view for Trusted Servants and one for Groups; I'm going to try to figure out a way to be able to have all the information be accessible in a single link

The goal of improving views, of course, is to give you guys better support in the work you're doing to engage your districts & counties. I'm working to bring Sullivan County + the Hispanic Districts into the shared database system. This is the only idea of this bunch that I'm already working on

The last idea came out of a few conversations. In most counties & districts, there are unfilled commitments. Most of the Area and county committees don't have much attendance or support. There is a ton of important service work we could be doing that we're not – for example, our Corrections Chair Mike is currently looking for people to bring meetings into prisons where there's no AA presence. At the same time that we're having trouble filling commitments, we are asking GSRs to go to several meetings per month: in many places, there's a monthly district meeting, a monthly county meeting, and an Area Assembly every other month on average.

I suspect we're asking GSRs to go to too many meetings, and we're spreading our volunteer resources too thin to the point where we're dropping the ball on critical 12th Step work. What I've wondered, along with several others: are we better off as an Area – in terms of helping the newcomer, and maximizing our participation in the Conference process – by having an extra layer in our structure? We're one of the only places that has it. Might we be better off if we retired either the county or district layer? It's a change that would come from the counties, and I think it would be a really valuable learning experience for all of us if a county gave it a shot, consolidating one layer or the other. The point of sharing this stuff isn't to advocate for these specific ideas. I'm trying to get everyone talking and thinking about what we might try. Surely that last idea is provocative enough to spark some conversation.

We've yet to reach even 10% participation at an Area Assembly, and there's so much service work that goes un-done. Given where we're at, I think our Responsibility Statement calls us to think big. I hope everyone here will do just that.

Before I forget, raise your hand if you've signed in tonight? To everyone who raised their hand, thank you very much! If you are a voting member of the Assembly and you have not yet signed in, please do so before you leave!

During discussion clarified that SENY has a 4-year old laptop that is outdated; purchase would help people who have been excluded by providing up-to-date equipment, would be immediate help.

MOTION to buy laptop out of 2017 budget; **seconded**. **Reserved** for New Business

During discussion clarified that laptop would be office equipment assigned by Richie, SENY Office Manager, to Fred now, but could be assigned to other officers. Concern was raised about purchasing it now, and not as part of 2018 budget. Discussion also clarified that there are SENY is housecleaning old financials (over 7 years), but only those that have not been digitalized; there may be undigitalized financials which may have to be preserved and Officers will address. Possibility of consolidating trusted servants and GSRs into one email/text group; some concern raised over consolidation.

OLD BUSINESS

SENY Handbook:

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MOTION “to streamline SENY Handbook and give our trusted servant the Chair the duty to bring this back to us;” **MOTION clarified** as including SENY Officer descriptions discussed at November Committee meeting; **seconded**

FOR, 47; OPPOSED, 0; ABSTENTIONS, 0

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION to TABLE Motion re: Laptop

Parliamentarian **clarified** that a motion to table takes it off the table at Chair’s discretion to revisit, a motion to postpone extends the time until next meeting

MOTION to TABLE; seconded; quorum confirmed

FOR, 22; OPPOSED, 0; ABSTENTIONS, 0

MOTION to TABLE passed

7th Tradition, \$143.50

9:44 **MOTION** to close, meeting closed