

December 2, 2019, SENY COMMITTEE MINUTES – Draft

Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m. – Jerry R., **Chair**
Serenity Prayer and AA Preamble, in English and Spanish.
A quorum was not reached.
No corrections to November minutes; Accepted as written

OFFICER'S REPORTS

DELEGATE'S REPORT: Jane E. (delegate@aaseny.org)

Opening, grateful to be here, especially in this weather.

My primary role is to go to the General Service Conference (GSC) prepared.

Unity does not mean that we all agree. It means when we disagree, we do so with tolerance and good manners.

All encouraged to pass on information up the triangle.

The theme of the 2020 IC is Love and Tolerance is our code.

The deadline for agenda items for the 70th (2020) GSC is December 15, 2019

The GSC is the reason we exist as an Area, if there was no GSC we would not be here in the Bronx together on Monday nights, and I would miss you.

Please read my Link article.

The Grapevine published an article I wrote in its December issue.

Information on GSO's call for shared experience in working with the elder community, Alcoholics Anonymous World Service Inc. Linked In Page, call for stories to update "AA for the Older Alcoholic", and the Northeast Regional Trustee's Board meeting report. These, including the anonymized version of our NERT's report and a link to aa.org (where Box 459 and much more can be found) are on "From the Delegate" page for easy reference.

On November 9, 2019 I had the post November General Service Board Weekend call with the Chair of the Trustees Committee on International Convention/Regional Forums (I serve as the Conference Committee Chair). Reported on same. Q and A.

I encourage anyone here who has a budget to attend our Treasurer's Budget meeting this Saturday at 11am at the SENY Office.

Our current guidelines suggest 7-8 month of expenses as our prudent reserve, AA as a whole use one year's expenses as a prudent reserve. This Committee decides to maintain it as is or change it. I'm asking that you think about it. It is my duty to ask. If you want to increase it, you know what to do. If you want it to remain the same, no action is needed.

Review of Conference Process, and evolution of a proposed agenda item inspired robust questions and answers. Information and references given.

At the General Service Conference, there is no applause for conscience shared on agenda times, Applause for a presentation or report is done, but applause for a point of view is not. Robust discussion. Thank you for my life.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT: Tom B. (altdelegate@aaseny.org)

Good evening / Buena Noches – I have the privilege of serving as your alt delegate.

I took on a new job in AA recently – to write an article for the revised pamphlet "AA for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late". I submitted my article to GSO this past weekend for their consideration. I left copies of GSO's memorandum on

the table for you; perhaps you'll want to submit an article, too. Why did I say it's my job? It's not in my SENY Handbook job description. It's my job because I am Responsible.

I've reflected quite a bit over the past three months about our recent Assemblies and Committee Meetings. 4 weeks ago, right here, I challenged all of us to support our GSRs and be servant leaders, to act "in a spirit of fellowship, respect and love". I left copies of Dr. Bob's Grapevine Editorial "On Cultivating Tolerance" out at the November Assembly, as I did again tonight. And yet I came away from that last Assembly saddened and disheartened – NOT because of the result of the vote, but because of the disunity, the anger, the judgment, and the lines drawn in the *discussion* of the motion.

We all have the luxury of being able to reach out to trusted advisors in SENY – those who live in and relish and honor the 36 spiritual principles of AA. So, in my pain, I reached out to one of these cherished friends, and do you know what he told me? He told me to do my job. Wow. Talk about cutting through all the b/s. But really, it was exactly what I needed to hear, an elegant 3-word summary of the Serenity Prayer. Do my job.

My job as Alternate Delegate is basically two-fold: 1) to support and back up our Delegate, and 2) to do anything and everything I can to support Area 49. That's what's in writing. The unwritten part is even more daunting: to be loving, patient, encouraging, to act (as it says in Concept IX) with "tolerance, responsibility, flexibility and vision". All of us up here have a job to do; so do all of you. Sometimes we'll do it well; sometimes we'll screw it up; hopefully, we'll learn from all of it.

So I'll continue to do my job as best I can, and leave all the rest of you to do yours. Three final thoughts: (A) From Dr. Bob: "Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance." (B) The Declaration of Unity: "This we owe to AA's future, to place our common welfare first, to keep our fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come." (C) "I am responsible."

Thank you for allowing me to serve and support all of you.

CHAIR: Jerry R. (chair@aaseny.org)

Reading of Concept VII.

The new contact for reserving room and time at the SENY Office is:

Inmarie Garcia- 718-532-2927- M-F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m . or igarcia@bocnet.org

Suggestions were made by the body about the time allotted for parts of the agenda and for voting procedures at assemblies/committee meetings.

TREASURER: JoAnn M. (treasurer@aaseny.org)

Convention report: showed that \$835.00 was received for scholarships. Twenty-nine scholarships were given (\$580.00) leaving a balance of \$255.00. The \$255.00 should have gone back into the original seed money, so \$255.00 will be transferred back into convention account. It will show on the December report. Convention balance for December will be \$3,255.00.

YTD Actual Contributions does not include Saturday's deposit, which is pending (about \$3,000.00).

As of today our assemblies came to \$19,423.36. This will be raised as the cost of renting space is going up. There will be a recommendation to raise it to \$4,000 per, for a total of \$24,000.

REGISTRAR: Mike D. (registrar@aaseny.org)

On line meeting with DCM's on how to use Airtable has been moved to December 19th and will be recorded for anyone that misses it. Next week I will be e-mailing anyone that has signed up. I will be at the Service Participation meeting on December 12th to go over the GSR on-boarding with the DCMC's. I am actively working on reconciling GSO's database with SENY. Also, the Spanish district still needs a registrar.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion to contribute \$100.00 to NERD hospitality Room – *This motion has been withdrawn.*

2020 SENY Convention Chair: Richie N. (convention@aaseny.org)

You will be able to register online in about two days. Convention room rate is \$134.00, registration is \$20.00. There will be a check box to sponsor a scholarship. Next meeting is December 15th at the SENY office, 11 a.m. Program meeting is at 9:00 a.m. There is parking on premises. We will have flyers at the next committee meeting.

7th TRADITION REPORT: \$106.00

NEW BUSINESS:

Chris D.: Suffolk: (dcmc@aasuffolkgs-ny.org) Suffolk County General Service is in support of this motion. We would like to make a motion for SENY's support on items to be placed on the agenda for the 2020 General Service Conference. The motion is regarding the pamphlets "Is AA for Me" and "Is AA for You". We would like the General Service Conference to consider eliminating the pamphlet "Is AA For You" and update the pamphlet "Is AA For Me", along with the illustrations and the pictures. *This was not voted on because we did not have a quorum.*

Mike: Finance Chair: The Ad-Hoc Finance Committee was asked to take a look at the possibility of paying for Spanish interpretation at assemblies, committee meetings, and DDOS. We have been having difficulty getting volunteers. This involves access to, and the ability to understand and participate in, SENY business, by the Spanish speaking community. Hiring of outside interpreters would cost about \$65/hour. We held a meeting with a representative group of Hispanic community members and asked if we were walking down the right path. A committee member attended an asamblea where the issue was discussed and received warmly. We looked at the October Grapevine and considered Tradition III, Concept IV, as well as bearing in mind that the Spanish community participates in the 7th tradition in our area. We spoke with the SENY treasurer, and investigated New York state law, or policy. There are four or five different paths that we could choose to provide this. We are not here to recommend any of them. We felt that \$300/assembly, \$150/committee meeting, and \$300/DDOS, for an interpreter, would be fair. These are "not to exceed" numbers.

REPORTS:

Literature: Chris P. (literature@aaseny.org) If you would like literature at your events in the new year, please ask. I am unavailable the rest of December. AA's who are deaf can access AA's program of recovery in an updated American Sign Language translation of Alcoholics Anonymous. The book, "Alcoholics Anonymous" is now available in an updated, abridged translation into American Sign Language. This is now available to the deaf community, the hard-of-hearing community, and the hearing community as well. There is an updated ASL video of the book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions". This can be ordered through the AA website (aa.org) or by phone at 212-870-3400. For more information please contact the Accessibilities and Remote Communities Desk at the General Service Office at access@aa.org or by phone at 212-870-3344.

Melissa: Chair, **International Convention Hospitality Room:** July 2-5, 2020, Detroit, Michigan. Hospitality room will be at the Westin Book Cadillac. Will be attending budget meeting and asking for \$2,500.00.

Looking for volunteers. Text Melissa at 631-278-2764 with day of preference, early, midday, later.

Agenda: Malini M.: (agenda@aaseny.org) If you have an event please e-mail agenda@aaseny.org, name of event, date, location, a graphic, and county hosting. If you already have 2020 dates e-mail me right away because I am adding them to the calendar, even if you don't have a flyer.

Intergroup: Malini – SENY Intergroup meeting is on December 8, 1-2:30, in Queens, at St. Mary's Gate of Heaven Church. Inviting all DCMC's and DCM's. Info on SENY website.

Grapevine: Jeanette (for Sherry) grapevine@aaseny.org – December issues of Grapevine and LaVina feature stories of AA Remote Communities and How Members Stay Sober Through the Holidays. Upcoming stories for LaVina: Traditions, for Grapevine: Prison Issue. Free shipping until December 31st. Subscriptions are buy one, get one ½ off. Visit the Grapevine YouTube channel at aagrapevine.org

Archives: Hank: (archives@aaseny.org) Upgrading SENY history book. I have estimates for the cost. I also will be contacting DCMC's to get someone in their counties to put together a few paragraphs for updating the history of the last ten years. Upgrading SENY history website. Planned a sorting day, February 15th, 11-5, in this room. Need help. Workshop May 2, 11-5, in this room. More info on that in January

Treatment: Ed: (ti@aaseny.org) Workshop Saturday, January 25, 12-2:30, SENY office. Districts 605/608 in Manhattan sponsored a Corrections / Treatment Workshop. I also attended the opening night of the Spanish Convention and learned what is like to have a meeting translated to me. It gave me a new appreciation for how hard our Spanish speaking members work to get sober. This past month I have attended four BTG Meetings, a Queens district meeting, Manhattan County meeting and assisted in a group inventory. I also attended a Nassau Archives presentation that was very impressive, and learned about the need to document what is happening as it happens. Our SENY BTG Committees in Suffolk, Nassau, and Queens are working with other service entities to make it all happen. CPC and PI committees will be working with our Treatment Facility committee to make presentations at facilities. Communication, a buzzword these days, is how this is accomplished. And I believe our improved communications with other committees and inter groups will bear fruit.

Suffolk: Chris (dcmc@aasuffolks-ny.org) Unity Breakfast, March 1st, \$32 at The Eastwind. Tickets are available on line and you can reserve a table.

Nassau: Marty (dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org) Grapevine/La Vina workshop January 26, Baldwin. Unity breakfast June 7th, L.I. Marriott, \$33.00, tickets available December 16th. Hosting February 9th assembly at Nassau Community College

Manhattan: Mike (dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org) Share-A-Day May 30th, flyer will be on-line, holding election for alternate DCMC in January.

Queens: Frank (dcmc@qcgisa.org) hosting Intergroup Liaison meeting December 8th. Every other event for 2020 is on the website.

Meeting adjourned 9:42 p.m.

Closed with the Declaration of Unity

Next Committee Meeting: January 6, 2020 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Church of the Holy Family, Mechler Hall, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx.

Next Assembly: February 9th, 2020, Nassau Community College, 1 Education Drive, Garden City, NY 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.