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**SENY ASSEMBLY MEETING
MINUTES**
*SENY REUNIÓN DEL ASAMBLEA DE ORDEN
DEL DÍA*

**SUNDAY, February 8, 2015
(9:15am-3:15 PM)**

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Treasurer and Area Chair:** Financial workshop will take place at the next Assembly
2. **Treasurer:** Add two columns to 2015 budget - one for the 2014 forecasted budget and one for the 2014 actuals for next Assembly
3. **CPC Chair:** Will use the money allocated in the CPC budget line to attend "NERAASA 2015"
4. **Agenda:** send all SENY and county events to Kathy at agenda@aaseny.org

(9:15am) Service Workshops (Talleres de Servicio)

Meeting called to order @ 11:00 am

- Serenity Prayer Rick W., Chair
- Daily Reflection (*Reflexión Diaria*) – Jeff G., GSR, Rainbow Room, Manhattan
- Preamble - Felipe T., GSR, GSR Oakland Gardens Queens / Preambulo - Juan A., DCM, Hispanic District (Suffolk)
- SENY Statement of Purpose (*Declaración de Propósito SENY*) Joe S., DCM, District 404, Brooklyn

General Housekeeping –

- o GSR's DCM's and DCMC's vote
- o Roberts Rules of order and 2/3 unanimity

Introductions (*Presentaciones*)

- New GSR's, DCM's and DCMC's (*Nueva de GSR, DCM y DCMC*)

Approval of Minutes from Previous Assembly Meeting (*Aprobación del Acta de la reunión anterior del Comité*)

- Motion made and seconded
- Yes = 144 No = 0 Abs = 7
- Motion passed

Upcoming Events (Próximos Eventos)

- o NERAASA (February 20-22, 2015, Somerset, NJ) - The purpose of NERAASA is for Area committee members of North East Region to discuss issues and concerns about AA as a whole as well as pertinent to the North East Region in particular
- o 47th Area 49 SENY Convention (March 20-22, 2015, Tarrytown, NY)
- o Delegate's Day of Sharing (March 28, 2015, PS 40, Manhattan, NY)
- o Pre-Conference Assembly (April 11, 2015, TBD - Rockland County)

Officer Reports (*Informes Oficial*)

Delegate: Jim W., delegate@aaseny.org 718-829-7287

1. Read excerpt from GSO regarding 65th General Service Conference Welcome

2. Each person here today please bring one other person to the April Assembly so your voice can be heard and an informed group conscience can be reached. Delegates day of sharing is March 28 at which time the delegate will present background information about topics in the delegate's questionnaire.
3. Our delegate has been appointed to Trustees Committee which means time will be spent reviewing resumes of trustees as well as trustee applicants.
4. If Area is interested in hosting the Local Forum in 2016, information must be submitted by GSO by April 2015. A local forum is an opportunity for GSO to come to you to explain what they do and what is taking place at the GSO. If interested, please speak to Jim. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Northeast Regional Forum in June.
5. Additional information of report can be found in *The Link*
6. Delegate's questionnaire will be generated after the Conference Agenda Items are given to the Delegate. Sometime in the beginning of March.

Alternate Delegate: John W., altdelegate@aaseny.org 646-413-3830

1. I've attend all three of the NYCYPAA meetings that have occurred since this rotation began.
2. I attended the January Asamblea in Mount Vernon and was joined by Sally the DCMC for Westchester and her alternate Emma. I am looking forward to next Sunday's Asamblea in Haverstraw in Rockland County.
3. We had our first Service Participation meeting on January 22, with 8 DCMCs and 5 alternate-DCMCs in attendance. The meeting is an opportunity DCMCs to share experience and best practices on topics related to increasing participation in their respective counties.
4. I've been conducting about one group inventory a week and have another one this evening.
5. I also want to congratulate the Bronx/UM, for the wonderful celebration of 70 years of AA in Bronx. It was a wonderfully inspiring day of speakers and an awesome archives presentation.
6. My goal for the coming rotation is to be visible and available. Please let me know how I may be of service.

Chair: Rick W., chair@aaseny.org 917-698-0722

1. Since being elected, I hit the ground running with making Area Chair and Committee member appointments. There are still a few outstanding appointments that need to be made, specifically, a Translation Chair, which I am working with Alfredo, the new DCMC for the Hispanic Districts and Rafael (our previous Chair) to get this taken care of.
2. As part of my job description, I worked with all incoming Standing and Ad Hoc Committee chairs to help them develop their committee goals for 2015. I will be asking the Chairs to report to the Committee at each Area Committee meeting where they are against the completion of their goals. The main reason we walked through this process was to help them develop a "roadmap" (if you will) of what they hope to accomplish with their committees in 2015. Thanks to each Chair for working with me to develop your goals.
3. As your Area Chair, I have sent several items for consideration to various Area Ad Hoc Committees and ask them to bring back their recommendations to the body. They are:
 - a. To the **Ad Hoc Finance Committee:**
 - i. Clarification on Budget Line Item "80045 Service Workshops"
 - b. To the **Ad Hoc Publications Review Committee:**
 - i. Clarification on Area Voting Procedures
 - ii. SENY Definition of Service Workshop
4. Since January 1st, I have attended:
 - a. 01/10 Website Committee meeting
 - b. 01/10 "70 Years of AA in the Bronx"
 - c. 01/31 Intergroup Liaison Committee meeting

d. 02/07 SENY Convention Committee Walk Thru

I am currently planning to attend:

e. 02/17 Manhattan County GSM

f. 02/25 SENY A/SN Committee Meeting

g. 03/18 Brooklyn County GSM

h. 05/3 NYCPAA Monthly Meeting

5. Finally, I am making myself available to do Group, District or County inventories if anyone is looking for a facilitator to get those done.

Treasurer: Manny A., treasurer@aaseny.org 917-406-4783

1. Financials for Jan 2015 and budget for 2015 were distributed.

Motion to accept January 2015 Financials and seconded followed by a explanation of report Clarifications made about reading report and about balances.

Yes = 109 No = 6 Abs = 9

Motion passes

Minority Opinion: How can we approve before we vote on the budget? How can we approve when we don't have December 2014 financial statement yet?

We can approve and amend numbers later.

Motion to revoke: Y = 31 No = 88

Motion failed, no new vote

2. Budget for 2015 was distributed

Discussion:

Motion to accept Budget made and seconded.

We need prior year information to approve this information.

Why was the budget not voted on at the committee meeting?

Any conversation about the budget after we approved the January financials is a moot point.

Response made regarding the old budget, numbers for old budget were read out.

The vote for the January financials was just for information about what took place as far as expenses and income for January.

Request for a lesson on what these financials mean. The workshop planned for the end of the year will take place at the next assembly instead.

Budget lines from 2014 actual were read to be able to compare with new budget.

Motion rescinded and new motion made to postpone approval until final numbers from 2014 are reported.

Yes= 20 No=93

Motion failed

Motion to accept budget and second

Yes = 107 No = 8 Abstentions = 8

Minority opinion:

We can make a more informed decision if we postpone.

We are not reflecting the new rent increase in the new budget.

Motion to reconsider: Yes = 30 No = 87

Original motion passes budget is accepted.

Registrar: Laura C., registrar@aaseny.org 347-882-1830 (Amanda filled in for Laura C. who was out of the country - Thank you Amanda - Rick W., provided Registrar report in her absence that was given to him by Laura C.)

The next SENY mailing will be March 14, Saturday at NY intergroup on 7th Ave from 10am until 1pm. Please join us. Our last mailing was only English. Please note that in order to send a Spanish version of the questionnaire, I will need to receive it by Monday March 9.

Lunch

GSR University

The primary purpose of GSR University is to provide an open forum for Area 49 GSR's to discuss the health and welfare of their home group. Having the opportunity to share with other GRS's (being "Guardians of the Traditions") in Area 49 about a variety of topics regarding keeping their home group as healthy as possible for the newcomer is the main objective. Each GSR University will bring two topics for discussion at our Assemblies that we hope will encourage GSR's to take the discussions we have back to their home group, and have that same discussion at their next business meeting. Ultimately, GSR University is about arming GSR's with additional information that they may receive from their service sponsors, to help THEM encourage their groups to uphold and honor each of A.A's Twelve Traditions.

Session 1: "Does My Group Put Individual Interest Above the Welfare of the Group?"

Tradition 12: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Discussion/Open Forum Question for GSR's: "Do you have any examples of how YOUR group put the welfare of individuals above the welfare of the group and what happened as a result of that decision?"

- Not many people active in group, don't be discouraged, more can be done with one or two people active sometimes than with lots of people active. Your input is important at group and beyond.
- Situation where a family member of a trusted servant had stolen the group's money. Group now the person's home might not be a safe place for the treasury. Group went through the traditions to search for answers and found a way to put the group first.
- Beginners meeting, minimum requirement to lead meeting, at times, group conscience overrode the minimum because they felt someone needed the commitment for sobriety. Group suffered when someone stopped showing up, group conscience to return to the minimum and adhere to it.
- Someone with mental illness in group wanting to be part, but some people no longer wanted to take person around to other meetings. Best of intentions of group might not help the individual, but the group needs to survive.
- Rotation and minimum requirement needed to be adhered to stronger and then gather another group conscience.
- Related to Tradition 1 common welfare first. Someone wanted to celebrate who had not been coming. Person celebrated and then did not come back again. Need to stick to group conscience.
- Needed to leave group when group started carrying mess instead of message. Result was chronic relapses.

Session 2: "Does My Group Do A Good Job Upholding the Group Conscience?"

Tradition 2: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority-a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Discussion/Open Forum Question for GSR's: "Do you have any examples of how YOUR group did or did not do a good job of upholding the group conscience?"

- Group conscience not to text but it is disregarded. Chair does not say anything to the individual. Also, group conscience to restrict discussion to alcohol, but it is not being adhered to and is not being addressed by chair.
- Celebrant Chair for anniversary commitment and someone else had cake commitment. Someone took both commitments. When that person asked someone to take over the commitment, others are saying it needs to be same person now. Group conscience needs to be revisited.

- Committee formed to revise the qualifications for commitments, became too cumbersome though so they became ignored until ultimately the group conscience was revisited and revised to make it more attractive for new comers.
- Closing prayer was discussed and some members ended up not coming back to meeting because of it. Created a division, not really all opinions were heard.
- A women's meeting had issue addressing members that are transgender. Group Conscience said all AA members would be allowed, even though it is a women's meeting. Minority opinion ended up following group conscience even though it went against personal opinion.
- Needed to have a group conscience to keep a group conscience archivist. Everything written down in one place.
- Group Conscience regarding children disturbing the meeting. Added parents were responsible and would have to remove child, someone took it personally though. It needed to be revisited and other people offered to help.
- Closing Prayer discussion took three months, Group Conscience was added to convey the decision of what to close with, but if an incoming speaker closed with a different prayer, they would not be stopped.
- Group Conscience to read signs and slogans posted in order to preserve meeting space.

Standing Committee Reports (Informes del Comité Permanente)

1. **Agenda Chair-** Kathy – Please send all the SENY county or district events by contacting Kathy at agenda@aaseny.org
Be sure to include name, date, start time, location address and contact address. Attach flier. Also will share with LINK and website. Printouts of Feb/March events are available. We do not post group anniversary or personal recovery events.
2. **SENY Convention** - Jane - As of today, 307 room nights booked: I asked the hotel to open up some more nights at the special Convention rate of \$128 per night for single, double, triple or quad, for Thursday and Sunday which were filled up (in case people want to make it a long weekend). So if you tried and could not get a room for those nights, they are there now. And when we run out again, contact me and I will get more opened. Although we want no cancellations, and we have no opinion on the Hotel's corporate policy, their policy has changed to a 24 hour room cancellation notice. Please let everyone know that hotel room cancellations hurt the Convention; two of the major ways are that 1) another AA member may not be able to get a room, and 2) We may not meet our Convention commitment, incur additional charges, and not be self-supporting. To answer some questions: the Hospitality Room will accept donations of baked goods and fresh fruit. Please, snack food only, for example, no sandwiches or heroes, etc. If you have an AA event that you would like to let members know about by having a flyer in the Registration Packet, our Convention Registration Chair, Jim S., will be happy to accommodate. Make 1200 copies and bring them to the SENY Committee meeting March 2nd, which is the deadline. Please, give Jim a heads up at registration@convention.aaseny.org and be sure to have the flyers contained in a box, or other secure packaging. Registrations: 112 Banquets: 69. Please pre-register for the Convention and Banquet. Thank you for the opportunity to have this commitment. I am having a *good time*. And that's nothing compared to the fun I will have at the Convention. Did I mention the DJ? Karaoke? "Moments with Bill?" If you have never been, this is your year! The SENY Convention is always a blast. Any questions? Thank you- Jane E. convention@aaseny.org (631) 880-2135
3. **NYSIW Chair:** Amanda - The New York State Informational Workshop is an educational sharing forum for the purpose of carrying the A.A. message through our General Services Committees. We meet annually with the four General Service Areas in New York State, to share our experiences with the most effective ways to do our 12th Step Work. This event is open to all who wish to learn about carrying the A.A. message, through their Home Groups, Districts, and Area General Service Committees. If you serve on a Committee, or would like to, this event will be of great interest to you! The contract has been looked over by our delegate

and officers and is being signed for August 14-16 at Storm King School, as voted on in January at the SENY Committee Meeting. Registration will go live just before NERAASA. A flyer is about to be rolled out and SENY's web chair is working with me to build a website where we can collect online registration. Registration prices will be in the \$160-\$170 range for the weekend, \$20 for day registration with lunch, and \$35 for registration with lunch and dinner. Why go? To get information to make more informed decisions.

4. **CPC-** Preston – Looking to contact all county CPC Chairs. Please contact Preston at cpc@aaseny.org

Looking to develop a service workshop with PI Chair in Brooklyn later in the year.

Looking to contact lawyers about AA, not just doctors.

Looking to delineate difference between CPC and PI

Looking to hold a workshop: Speaking about AA to non-alcoholics (Open to all).

GSO has provided CPC/Pi with two tables at Jacob Javits Center convention the end of February.

5. **Website** – Fred – next meeting Sat 2/14 10 am SENY Office

Our previous email provider had a non-working spam filter, so SENY email addresses were getting flooded with junk mail. Many SENY Committee members expressed to me that it was urgent we adopt a new email provider. I've transitioned us to Google Apps for Non-Profits which was free and works very well.

I'm treating Google Apps as a stopgap measure. At our next Web Committee meeting - this Saturday, Feb. 14, at 10 am at the SENY office in the Bronx - I will be presenting several additional options for email providers to the Web Committee so a more permanent decision can be reached by group conscience.

The decision the Web Committee reaches though will only apply to the Area. It will be up to each county as an autonomous entity to decide what they will do - if anything - about email. If the Web Committee decides to stick with Google Apps, I will recommend that we make that available to the counties as one of their options.

I am also planning to present several proposals from web design/development companies for the creation of a new SENY website for the Web Committee to evaluate. The new website will be built on Wordpress and will also include a template tailored to fit the needs of the counties. Each county is entitled to a subdomain within our domain structure - queens.aaseny.org, for example.

Looking forward to having more to report after our second committee meeting. Contact Fred at web@aaseny.org

6. **Link Editor:** Masood - Thanks for submitting articles! Please send more! Send to link@aaseny.org Will reach out to grapevine for images.

7. **Treatment Facilities** – Meg - The Area 49 Treatment Facilities Committee had its first meeting in January. While it was sparsely attended, we were enthusiastic and had a very good discussion on what our committee is asked to do. In the coming months we will be reaching out to treatment facilities in our Area to create a database of contacts. We will also be developing relationships with the Intergroups serving South East New York, to make sure Area 49 is responsive to their Institution Committee needs. We need you! Or, someone just like you, who is looking for a service commitment in AA. DCMCs and DCMs, please invite me to your County/District meetings. I promise to be respectful of your time, I understand you have full agendas. I would just like to share what our committee does, and invite people to participate, or pass the word. I thank you in advance for the many, many invitations! I will be at the SENY Convention, and look forward to meeting you, and your sponsees and friends there.

Old Business (Asuntos Pendientes)

None

New Business (Asuntos Nuevos)

General Service contribution: We would like to make an additional donation to help defray costs for other areas that cannot afford the conference in the sum of \$3200.

Motion made and seconded:

Yes = 93 No = 0 Abstentions = 7

Motion passes

Clarification: Budget has it listed already.

Request to return to the line item being listed as Delegate Fee.

7th Tradition Report (*7th Informe Tradicion*)

\$422.05

Motion to Close

Meeting adjourned @ 3:13pm by Rick W., Area Chair *with A.A.'s Declaration of Unity (Declaración de A.A. de la Unidad Clausura)*

Thank You for Participating and for Your Service!

(Gracias por Participar y por Su Servicio!)

NEXT AREA 49 COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 2, 2015 – 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Church of the Holy Family, Mechler Hall
2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472-5402

NEXT AREA 49 ASSEMBLY

Saturday, April 11, 2015 – 9:15am – 3:15pm

[HOST: ROCKLAND]