

# SENY Assembly Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 11, 2017

(9:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.)

[Hosted by Nassau County General Service]

(9:15 a.m.) Service Workshops

**Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m.**

**Prayer and Preamble (in English/en español)**

- Serenity Prayer (Regina T, DCMC, Nassau County/Ramon L, DCMC, Hispanic District)
- A.A. Preamble (Jane E, SENY Chair/Ramon L)

## **Introductions of Past Delegates**

Linda McG, Panel 63; John W, Panel 57; Cookie, Panel 49; Bill C, Panel 55. Our Past Delegates are wonderful resources who are happy to serve; don't hesitate to use them.

**Motion** to approve Minutes from November 12, 2016 SENY Assembly passed unanimously.

## **General Housekeeping**

No smoking or vaping anywhere on premises; use of modified Roberts Rules; Spiritual Time Keeper (Mitch) will limit Standing Committee reports to two minutes; voting clarifications.

## **Officer Reports**

**Delegate** (John W. — [delegate@aaseny.org](mailto:delegate@aaseny.org))

- His primary committee assignment at the General Service Conference will be Literature. He was also randomly selected to have a secondary committee, which will be Archives.
- The Trustees have finalized the Conference agenda, and John expects to review the background and have the questionnaire completed and mailed no later than February 21.
- **DDoS will be Saturday, March 4. This will give groups a full month to discuss the questionnaire BEFORE THE RETURN DEADLINE, THE APRIL 8 SENY ASSEMBLY.**

## **Some highlights from the Board meeting:**

- New service material from AAWS: "Safety in AA: Our Common Welfare," available at aa.org under "Service Material from the G.S.O." Service material may be copied and distributed in unlimited quantities. Spanish translation should be available in March.
- With the publication of the Rarotongan language Big Book (Rarotongan is a dialect of Maori spoken in the Cook Islands in the South Pacific), **Alcoholics Anonymous is now available in 70 languages.**
- A new Grapevine book titled *Making Amends* is in production for 2017. Books such as this serve the Fellowship by providing additional resources for personal recovery.

## **Finance and Budget:**

- AAWS ended 2016 with an income of \$1,464,625 (versus budgeted loss of \$26,690). Contributions totaled \$7,934,869 (\$834,869 more than budgeted and \$780,724 greater than 2015). Much of that is due to personal contributions on AA.org. PLEASE GIVE MONTHLY!
- AAGV's 2016 income was \$144,070 (compared to budgeted loss of \$146,063). Total circulation for Grapevine (print, online, and app) increased slightly to 77,429 (1,819 better than budgeted and 230 better than 2015).
- About two weeks after the SENY Convention, Delegate will decide (in keeping with Concept Three, and in consultation with SENY Chair and Convention Chair) whether or not to hold the next two SENY Conventions at the Renaissance Westchester Hotel.
- NERAASA is coming up quickly — February 24-26 in Framingham, MA. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn and share with other trusted servants from across the Northeast.

Questions clarified the following:

- that we currently have a one-time opt-out clause in SENY's contract with the Renaissance Westchester Hotel.
- Delegate's Questionnaire will be discussed at NERAASA.
- Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) will be held June 2-4, 2017 in Mars, PA.

**Alternate Delegate** (Manny A. — [altdelegate@aaseny.org](mailto:altdelegate@aaseny.org))

- NYCYPAA Liaison: attended NYCYPAA meetings and conducted inventory on January 15. They are doing a great job carrying the message. NYCYPAA is planning a paintball outing in March, and a Camping Trip this summer. Details soon.
- Service Participation Liaison: Met January 12. Discussed upcoming workshops, the first to be held in May (Suffolk County hosting) will focus on GSC themes.
- Hispanic District Liaison: He's becoming proficient in Spanish(!) Sandra V. is our new Hispanic District Liaison to the SENY Convention. We also have a new SENY Link/En Lace Translation Chair. Alternate Delegate was able to get NERAASA information translated into Spanish and posted to NERAASA and SENY websites.
- He has spoken at several groups, done group inventories and facilitated workshops, and will attend many upcoming events.
- He is happy to be of service, so if you have questions his number is in the *Link*. If you would like him to attend an event, please let him know ASAP — his calendar fills up quickly).

**Treasurer** (Michelle G. — [treasurer@aaseny.org](mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org))

- Review of 2016 Financials

**MOTION** is made and seconded to accept the 2016 Final Financials.

YES - 131    NO - 0    Abstentions - 3    **Motion carries.**

- Presentation of 2017 SENY Budget
- Discussion clarified specific line items and definitions.

**MOTION** is made and seconded to accept the proposed 2017 SENY Budget.

YES - 133    NO - 0    Abstentions - 6    **Motion carries.**

- Presentation of January 2017 Financials

**MOTION** is made and seconded to accept the January 2017 Financials.

YES - 136    NO - 0    Abstentions - 5    **Motion carries.**

**Registrar** (Fred M. — [registrar@aaseny.org](mailto:registrar@aaseny.org))

- Elected SENY Panel 67 Registrar after completing the term of previous Registrar.
- Last year, he invited counties to use the Area database as their own, creating a shared database. Eleven of 13 counties have opted in. This simplifies registration for new GSRs.
- Now facilitating "virtual meet-ups" so county trusted servants managing our shared database can work directly with one another, building unity laterally in addition to vertically (upside-down triangle).
- For DCMs, he has provided Views upon request, so they can see always-up-to-date information about the GSRs and groups in their districts.
- Thanks to the database, Registrar has been able to provide participation analytics. Latest update: 37% participation at our January Area Committee meeting.
- In 2017, the database system will be categorized as a Communication expense instead of coming from the Registrar's budget. At the Area Committee Meeting in March, Registrar will request that the expense of the shared database be approved. If expense is approved, he will move forward with an initiative to send an automated welcome email/letter to GSRs, so they know when and where district, county, and Area meetings are being held.
- Presented on Views at Manhattan General Service at invitation of DCMC. Next workshop will be at the April SENY Assembly.

- DCMs and DCMCs, please email [registrar@aaseny.org](mailto:registrar@aaseny.org) to take advantage of Views. You don't have to be computer savvy!!! He will help you to meet your district's needs.
- Please submit any registration updates through [aaseny.org/update-form](http://aaseny.org/update-form).

Concern was raised that some DCMs would not be able to navigate the database, and some might be discouraged from doing service at this level. Question: Why should Manhattan DCMs be involved in registration, when Manhattan has a Registrar?

- Registrar is hoping "to bring those people along and do everything we can to support them" — not to exclude anyone from participation — and not abandon the technology which is so helpful to many. He repeats that he is available to help any DCMs interested in getting up-to-date information about their districts, whether digital or printed.

Registrar responded to technical questions from DCMs who were already engaged in using the database as a tool to support communication in their districts.

#### **Chair** (Jane E. — [chair@aaseny.org](mailto:chair@aaseny.org))

- Based on feedback from the November Assembly, she has reached out to a few trusted servants who are well versed in Parliamentary Procedure (aka Robert's Rules) to call on when there is a question.
- Appointed two members to the Ad Hoc Finance Committee, and they are working on items that were brought to the Chair's attention.
- If your commitment involves use of the SENY tax free ID number, it is ONLY to be used for purchasing items for SENY, nothing else.
- The Archives Ad Hoc Committee has a new member, Susan F, Past Delegate.
- Meeting with the Ad Hoc Publications Chair for progress report on SENY Handbook update.
- Recent events attended: SENY Officers and Committee Chair meetings, the Service Participation Meeting, the Brooklyn General Service Meeting, and the Asamblea.
- Will be attending NERAASA, and cannot wait for the SENY CON!
- She recently spoke at a Freethinkers meeting on Tradition Two. There she learned that after delisting Freethinker and Agnostic Groups from their directory, and claiming that they are a religious organization, the Greater Toronto Area Intergroup was delisted from AAWS.
- GSO reported that the PI Committee received reports from its subcommittee, which is exploring a plan for Implementation of a Google-for-Non-Profits account and considering a plan to implement a Twitter account.

#### **Introductions of newly elected Panel 67 GSRs, DCMs, DCMCs and other County-elected trusted servants.**

#### **SENY Standing Committee Reports**

##### **Agenda** (Jeanne C. — [agenda@aaseny.org](mailto:agenda@aaseny.org))

Please check the calendar on the SENY website for events. If your event is not listed, please email Jeanne, and she will post it on the SENY website and in the *Link*.

##### **SENY Convention** (Janice M. — [convention@aaseny.org](mailto:convention@aaseny.org))

Convention will be held on March 24-26, 2017 at Renaissance Westchester Hotel. Sign-up sheets are available to volunteer as greeters. Please bring registration forms and copies of the Convention program to your groups. Please encourage on-line registration, banquet tickets sales, and booking hotel rooms. We are still far short of the numbers guaranteed to the hotel. We need and appreciate your support.

**Accessibilities/Special Needs** (Nellie P. — [asn@aaseny.org](mailto:asn@aaseny.org))

- We meet the third Thursday of the month (except August) at NY Intergroup Office, 7:30 p.m.
- Those with special needs who register for the SENY Convention should specify what they will require on the registration form. Also asking that DCMCs designate someone to assist those with special needs at the Convention, and have them get in touch with Nellie.

**Link Editor** (Domi E. — [link@aaseny.org](mailto:link@aaseny.org))

- Reviewed deadlines for articles; requested articles from everyone, especially Standing Committee Chairs; also, be sure to send flyers of upcoming events to post in the *Link*.
- Requests feedback/ideas about improving distribution.

**Public Information** (Bianca C. — [pi@aaseny.org](mailto:pi@aaseny.org))

Explained what the PI Committee does. First committee meeting was on January 31. She is working closely with CPC Committee to put together joint panels and workshops. PI will have a table and panel at the SENY Convention. And MANY other upcoming events.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community** (Anthony B. — [cpc@aaseny.org](mailto:cpc@aaseny.org))

Absent, no report.

**Archives** (Richard S. — [archives@aaseny.org](mailto:archives@aaseny.org))

He is responsible for the preservation and the presentation of all the data we have. Archives will have a whole room at the SENY Convention.

**Corrections** (Mike D. — [corrections@aaseny.org](mailto:corrections@aaseny.org))

- First Committee meeting is Sunday, February 12, 10 am-12 pm, at the SENY office.
- He will be supporting the County Corrections Chairs. Westchester and Sullivan Counties still need to elect Corrections Chairs.
- He has received 10 pre-release requests and has forwarded them to the appropriate Areas.
- GSO reports about 100 men waiting to correspond with A.A.'s — Men, please grab a Correspondence Pamphlet and get yourself an A.A. pen pal!

**Website** (Chris N. — [web@aaseny.org](mailto:web@aaseny.org))

- Updating website, recently added SENY Convention registration to the website.
- If you have any issues with email, please contact Chris S. ([email@aaseny.org](mailto:email@aaseny.org)).
- Will have first committee meeting scheduled soon.

**Intergroup Liaison** (Steve K. — [intergroup@aaseny.org](mailto:intergroup@aaseny.org))

He will be attending the quarterly meeting of Intergroups on March 10, and the Intergroup meeting in Nassau on March 11.

**Grapevine/La Viña** (Laura G. — [grapevine@aaseny.org](mailto:grapevine@aaseny.org))

Has introduced herself to Grapevine staff at GSO, and contacted DCMCs for Grapevine Chairs within the counties. She needs volunteers to assist her at the SENY Convention.

**LUNCH**

**Translation** (Rosa for Eddie D. — [translation@aaseny.org](mailto:translation@aaseny.org))

Committee will be meeting soon, still looking for volunteers. Taking inventory of equipment, will need to purchase new earphones. Please send translation requests with as much lead time as possible — March is already booked.

**Recording Secretary** (Anne L. — [secretary@aaseny.org](mailto:secretary@aaseny.org))

Secretary requests that Committee Chairs and DCMCs send her written copies of their Assembly reports, including dates/times of upcoming meetings and events, as soon as possible, and preferably the day of the Assembly or SENY Committee Meeting.

**Literature** (Derrick H. — [literature@aaseny.org](mailto:literature@aaseny.org))

He brought lots of pamphlets and Literature catalogs, and encourages everyone to take advantage of free set of Guidelines offered in the catalog and to share what they learn with their home groups.

**Manhattan** (Rick, DCM) Manhattan Share-a-Day will be April 15 @ 525 W. 50th St., 9-5. There are lots of opportunities for service. More information at [SAAD@aaseny.org](mailto:SAAD@aaseny.org).

**Suffolk** (Tom B, DCMC) 20th Anniversary Unity Breakfast, March 5, 9am-12pm, \$28, theme is “beyond our wildest dreams.” Please see him for tickets.

**Queens** (JoAnn M, DCMC) County meeting will be on February 27. Queens will be hosting the June 17 SENY Assembly at Aviation High School.

**Nassau** (Regina T, DCMC) Concept Series Workshop continues, March 20, Alvin B. presenting. Unity Breakfast: Sunday, June 4. Contact Marty for tickets (details in the *Link*).

**Brooklyn** (Mel R, DCMC) County met in January, guest speakers were SENY Delegate and Chair. Next meeting will be February 15. Hosting DDoS on March 4, first planning meeting on February 18. Brooklyn is providing a day bus to SENY Convention on March 25 to provide transportation for those who would otherwise be unable to attend.

**Hispanic District** (Ramon L, DCMC) Working to strengthen relationship between the counties.

**Staten Island** (Jerry R, DCMC) County meeting February 12, SENY Chair will attend. A Group Officers Workshop is being planned for April.

**Rockland** (Ray W, DCMC) Rockland County Spiritual Breakfast will be held on April 30, \$30, Suffern Crowne Plaza. Please see him for tickets.

Dorothy, Alternate Chair, NY Intergroup Steering Committee, has speaker nomination forms available for the annual Big Meeting. The annual Corrections Workshop will be held on April 8. NY Intergroup is updating its meeting list. Please check to see that your home group’s information is accurate.

## **No Old Business.**

## **New Business**

**MOTION:** to approve \$3,200 to pay for John W.’s fee to attend General Service Conference and that of an Area Delegate who cannot attend.

John W. clarifies that this amount has already been approved in the 2017 Budget, and that this request is pro forma.

YES: 106      NO: 0      Abstentions: 7      **Motion carries.**

SENY Registrar, Fred M., gives a detailed presentation about the *Eastern United States A.A. Directory* — a Regional Directory published by A.A.W.S. — its past and current uses, and the process by which the SENY Registrar and DCMs update group information within this directory. He concludes that it is not a reliable resource for those trying to find a meeting in our Area, and it is a huge amount of work with very little benefit.

He suggests that to move forward responsibly, directing alcoholics who are trying to find a meeting to the appropriate Intergroup is far more sustainable, efficient and effective than updating the directory by listing individual group member’s phone numbers. He hopes to submit a suggestion that the appropriate

Conference committee review whether the directory still serves enough use to justify its expense, or if an alternative with a narrower scope is available. In the meantime, he invites discussion of his findings.

Chair calls for a motion.

**MOTION is made and seconded:** Direct GSO to list Area 49 Intergroups instead of individual group contacts in the Regional Directory.

Members acknowledged that the Registrar was making valid points, but that changes needed to be made at the General Service Conference level and not an Area level. Some members stated that the information in the directory is more valid and useful than the Registrar suggests, others cited their experience of finding outdated contacts or failure to find a meeting when using the phone numbers listed. Concern was expressed about members in remote areas.

**MOTION** fails. No minority opinion.

**MOTION is made and seconded:** By default, by updating GSR information with the SENY Registrar, GSR will be automatically listed as group contact in the Regional Directory.

Spirited discussion followed on practical issues related to the proposed change.

**MOTION** to postpone (until April Assembly) carries.

**Seventh Tradition:** \$380.32

**MOTION** to close. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. by Jane E., with A.A.'s Declaration of Unity.

**Thank you for participating and for your service!**

**NEXT AREA 49 COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday, March 6, 2017**  
**Church of the Holy Family**  
**2158 Watson Ave.**  
**Bronx, NY 10472**

**NEXT SENY ASSEMBLY**  
**Saturday, April 8, 2017**  
**Pearl River Middle School**  
**520 Gilbert Ave.**  
**Pearl River, NY 10965**