

AREA 49 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 2/5/2018

7:30 Meeting called to order by Jane [Chair]

Serenity Prayer and Preamble [English & Spanish]

Quorum established; Housekeeping [Voting, Time]

Parliamentarian is Tom Vote Counter is Mel and Timekeeper is Mike

December 4, 2017 minutes reviewed and accepted as written

MINUTES APPROVED

Introduction of new trusted servants

DCMC REPORTS:

Orange (Sherry)- Spiritual Breakfast 4/29 in Middletown tickets are \$20

Save the date for May 6 for Joy of Service Workshop

Manhattan (Scott)- Delegate's Day of Sharing 3/3/18. Manhattan SAD "A Bridge to Life"

4/7 at Parkwest HS 9am-5pm make checks payable to Manhattan Share A Day to contribute sad@aaseny.org

Westchester (Emma) - SENY Convention 3/23-3/25 in Tarrytown. Westchester will be hosting the kickoff meeting. Greeters and hospitality volunteers are welcomed.

Suffolk (Tom)- Sunday March 4th is the 21st Annual Suffolk County Spiritual Breakfast Wading River. Tickets are available

Nassau(Regina)- Corrections workshop "Inside Job" 3/10 at Nassau Intergroup Office 11:30-1pm.

Second Concepts workshop 3 and 4 on 3/19th 7pm-830 Nassau Intergroup Unity Breakfast is June 3 Long Island Marriott

Staten Island (Jerry)- This Sunday is General Service meeting

4/14 Group Officers Workshop

New website www.statenislandaa.org

Share A Day may be switched to Share An Evening in the fall

Queens (Saadi) - Sponsorship workshop 3/10 from 7pm-10pm "Sponsorship Game" and Traditions 7, 8 and 9 in /south Ozone Park

Brooklyn (Mel)-SAD 6/23

LISTS 9/22

Joy of Service Workshop 10/27

Spiritual Breakfast 12/2

County Inventory 6/20

Thank you Sally for coming to our General Service meeting and presenting

OFFICERS REPORTS:

DELEGATE'S REPORT: (John W.)

Attending the General Service Board weekend was an extraordinary opportunity, leaving me inspired and humbled to be included. It's an honor and privilege, but also a real joy to serve.

There was an orientation all day on Friday with the other 13 delegates invited. One of the delegate chairs was not able to attend due to health reasons and her alternate chair got just three days' notice that he would be coming in her place.

There were board committee meetings all day Saturday and half of Sunday. I attended the Trustee's Conference committee, Public Information, Finance, and Archives, as an observer, and I participated as a guest of the Trustees Literature committee.

There was a dinner on Saturday night with three trustees speaking, and there was a "1728 meeting" on Sunday chaired by a Class A with two non-trustee directors speaking on 10th Tradition and 3rd Concept. The idea is to help Class A trustees better understand our 36 principles.

Monday the board met and ratified the work of the weekend.

Some take-a-ways:

- Group services assignment is point of contact for revisions/suggestions to "service material" produced by AAWS.
- ACMs bring significant subject matter expertise to Trustees Committees.
- Archives book! Looks really cool.
- Suggestion about the talks being recorded for distribution. Great idea, impractical in practice. Poor sound quality and considerable repetition. Other challenges of trying to publish Bill's letters used in "As Bill Sees It".
- Two minute clip of Bill & Lois and Bob & Ann to be released.
- "If you have nothing to say, please don't find a way to say it."

Good news from the board treasurer. I sat in on the Trustees' Finance & Budget committee meeting. There was a record number of contributions last year - \$8.4 million! Contributions were up, literature sales were up, and overall expenses were down. Contributions from SENY were also up – 39.48% groups in 2016 to 41.59% in 2017. While still unaudited, that resulted in the fellowship getting closer and closer to being fully self-supporting with 7th Tradition contributions covering approximately 85% of services provided to the Fellowship. The balance comes for literature sales, and since they were up, again, unaudited numbers show a surplus of about \$1.7 million. \$1.4

million of that will go into the reserve fund, bringing that to approximately enough to cover 10 months of operating expenses.

Among the main priorities at the January board meeting is finalizing the conference agenda. That was done and sent out to conference members this past Friday. I brought copies tonight. I counted 91 agenda items. From those, I'll choose items for the questionnaire. While I have a pretty good sense of what I'll pick, I'm waiting until I get the full background material on February 15 to finalize my choices.

That full set of background usually runs close to a 1,000 pages. It's supposed to be provided in an anonymity protected form this year. So, as an experiment, my goal is to post it to a section of the website that will be reachable from a link in the email that goes out with the questionnaire.

I'm hoping this engages members who want to further explore what's behind each agenda item. And I am very excited as we head into pre-conference season!

Any questions?

One last note, I want to acknowledge the passing of Cookie S., SENY's Panel 49 delegate and my service sponsor. She played a huge role in area service and I will miss her greatly. There will be a memorial service later in the spring.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT: (Manny A.)

On Jan 13 I attended the SENY Assembly on S. I.. On Jan 14 I attended the SENY Conv. Planning meeting. On the 20th of Jan. I attended the Queens County Share-A-Day and spoke briefly on Service beyond the group level.

On Jan 21 I made detailed, presents and updates on the upcoming NERAASA Assembly and the 2018 SENY Convention. I also gave the latest information on the lawsuit for the Original Printer's Copy of the Alcoholics Anonymous Manuscript. (The next appearance/court date is still set for February 21.)

I also gave a report on our Delegates time frame and the GSB meeting schedule regarding the GSC and the agenda for the Conference; including the target/turnaround dates for information dissemination.

I need a volunteer to speak at a Hispanic Districts A/SN Workshop on Saturday, February 24 @ 6pm – 9pm, 214 Warwick St, Bklyn., NY 11207
(Meeting Place of: Grupo La Salida)

Since the last we met I attended, Reported at, Presented, Spoke at:

- Jan 13 SENY Assembly , Staten Island,
- Jan 14 SENY Conv Planning Cmte mtg, Bronx, NY
- Jan 20 Queens County Share-A-Day *Springfield Gardens, NY*
- Jan 21 Hispanic Districts' Asamblea, Corona, NY
- Jan 21 NYCYPAA Meeting, Manh, NY
- Jan 28 SENY Committee Chairs meeting, Bronx, NY
- Feb 4 SENY Convention Planning Committee mtg, Tarrytown-White Plains, NY

On The Calendar/Mark Your Calendar:

- Feb 10 District 305 and 313 Play – Sponsorship Game @ 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 101-18 104th St., Queens, NY 11416
- Feb 12 Queens County GSR Workshop @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Queens Intergroup, 105-29 Metropolitan Ave., Queens, NY 11375
- Feb 18 Hispanic Districts' Asamblea @ 9:30 am - 3:00 pm, 74 East 17th St., Bklyn. NY
11226 (2nd FL)
- Feb 18 NYCYPAA meeting @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, NYU, East 10th Street-5th fl.
New York, NY 10003
- Feb 23-25 2018 NERAASA (North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service
Assembly): Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, CT. To register and make hotel reservations
online <https://www.neraasa2018.org>
- Mar 3 SENY Assembly – Delegates Day of Sharing @ 8:30 am - 3:15 pm
PS 41 – Greenwich Village School, 116 West 11th St., New York, NY 10011
- Mar 23-25 2018, SENY 2018 Convention Westchester Marriott:
Rooms \$ 129/Night, Registration \$ 20, Banquet \$ 70. More Information
www.aaseny.org. Michael C. (Convention Chair) @917.685.8677 or
www.convention@aaseny.org *If anyone would like a full copy of my report; please
email me your request at altdelegate@aaseny.org. I am available for: Group
Inventories, Group Sharing Sessions and showing of AA videos

TREASURER REPORT (Michelle G.)

Corrections made on the printing & registrar lines. They will be reflected next month.

Report Accepted Unanimously

Budget and spending guidelines clarifications for special events budget line. Section 6 and 7 states which event attendance is budgeted in a committee chairs budget and which qualify as special events to be approved by the committee on an individual basis limited to \$500. If this is going to be ongoing, and if expenditure for event is approved, it should be an increase in the budget line, if not, it must be approved each time.

Also, budget and spending guidelines clarification for service informational workshop spending budget line. We have \$1000 in that line currently. Discussion and clarification, this budget line is to be used for service workshops put on by SENY and as approved by the body. Still some confusion on whether amount is 250 or 500 per event.

AREA CHAIR REPORT (Jane E.)

I'm sad about Cookie's passing. The whole area is affected by our loss, as well as by our recent losses of Denis and Boyce.

I'm reminded at this time of grieving to be gentle with myself and others. My hope is for SENY's healing, and that these losses serve to unite us.

I'll give an update on the Handbook under old business.

I reported on a fourth step inventory in the storage closet and after consultation with the treasurer, I will not be shredding any financials. We have an extra printer at the office, if any of the Counties have need of a printer, please reach out to me. There are two huge boxes in the closet that the archivist and I will bring to the archives storage unit, which makes space for a fireproof file cabinet for the preservation work group. Thanks to the Convention committee for their help in this inventory! We have a plethora of supplies that the convention can use this year.

I'm excited to announce that Archivist James will be mentoring Mary of Nassau and Digital Archivist Bill will be mentoring Cathy of Brooklyn into their respective roles, the new appointments will start on July 1, after a six-month transition time! James will report later. Thank you, James, Bill, Mary and Cathy!

"Accessibilities – serving all alcoholics" was the general sharing topic at the October Board meeting; barriers mentioned were social standing, creed, education, psychiatric and emotional status, country of birth, and caregiving duties. I learned from the report that docs emailed to a blind member should be in Word or PDF to enable use of screen reader technology. Online Intergroup has meetings in 12 languages and 5 formats and has answers to accessibility questions. One of the appointed committee member's first service role was as GSR for his home group, a meeting for alcoholics who are deaf. He's a hearing member. He joined the group to support an AA pal who's hearing impaired.

Are there any questions?

REGISTRAR (Fred M.)

The recent discussions we've had about getting a new laptop reminded me that I needed to decommission our old one. I looked all over my apartment and can't find it – it must have gotten accidentally tossed at some point. I want to be transparent about that mistake.

For some context, it hadn't been used since 2016 – it wasn't very usable to begin with but we were stuck with it until we switched to Airtable, and until we switched from third-party mailing software to the postal service's free tool. Regardless, I shouldn't have lost it and I'm sorry about that.

In case that understandably doesn't inspire confidence in my ability to take care of a new computer, I have two pieces of good news for you:

1. you can be sure I'd pay closer attention to something actually in use as opposed to collecting dust, and
2. I thought Richie made a great point at our last meeting that his role as Office Manager was a natural fit for running point on any equipment, so I've passed the baton to him and hoping he runs with it. I still think it will help us be more inclusive, and I know people who want to get involved and this would allow them to do so.

Here's what I've been working on:

A few other Areas have expressed interest in our shared database system. I've been sharing our experience and in some cases helping them set up a pilot.

It came to my attention that Staten Island General Service maintains their own meeting list. I'm in conversation with the person responsible for it and the person leading the launch of their new site about how we can support one another's work, and possibly folding it into the shared database system.

I've come into possession of sign-in sheets from 2013 and 2014. I'm rallying a bunch of people to come over my apartment one day to help me turn them into quantitative data. The biggest shortcoming of our current data is we have nothing from the past to compare it against – this hopefully will be a way to get a sense of how we're trending. If you or someone you know might be up for helping out with the data entry, let me know. The shared database system has always been about expanding participation, both people working in the database and everyone else that the database serves, whether it's a DCM using their View, or a new GSR getting a welcome email.

In the past, only the Registrar was familiar with our database. Now we have two rotations of trusted servants at the county level who also have a working knowledge of it.

There are still two pieces, however, as the Area Registrar I'm the only one involved. The first is updating FNV, GSO's database. Unfortunately if I collaborate with anyone on that, GSO will terminate my access.

The second though is working *on* the database. We have a lot of people now who know how to work *in* the database, which is the far more important of the two. But in the same spirit of distributing knowledge and working more collaboratively, I want to develop a team to work alongside me *on* the database.

We'd be setting up automation and working on various improvements together. Please put me in touch with anyone that you think might be excited about this.

At the last Assembly I got a ton of positive feedback about text message reminders for Assemblies, so I've started to make some progress.

Kick-off will consist of sending a text to every Assembly member with a phone number in the database, asking if they want to receive the reminders. They have to reply "yes" to be signed up. Anyone that doesn't reply will be marked "unknown", and we'll try to get a yes / no from them during the Area & county meeting sign-in process.

The functionality will be available to counties as well, so as I develop more experience with it, I'm going to put a mini-guide together to share.

The other idea that I raised at the last Assembly was a personalized, automated email check-in a few months prior to when someone is due to rotate out. It also received a ton of support, so I'm moving forward with that as well.

The last thing I want to cover is an idea related to Views. I'm looking for feedback, especially from DCMs & DCMCs.

Quick reminder: a View comes in the form of a single link that whenever you click it, it will give you up-to-the-second current information on the trusted servants and groups in the database for your district or county.

Up to this point, I've only provided Views upon request. That made sense when this was a new thing and you needed an early adopter mentality to benefit from it. Since then so many improvements have been made, so I think the majority of DCMs & DCMCs will find it helpful with or without that mentality.

Going forward, I'm planning to provide new DCMs & DCMCs with their View as part of the welcome process instead of upon request. I ran it by some of my county counterparts, and they agreed. If you have any opinions on this, particularly if you think it's a bad idea, please send me an email.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

2018 50th SENY CONVENTION (Michael C.)

As of yesterday Pre-reg = 194 Banquet = 124

Commitment for Banquet = 245 or 247

Hotel Nights = 383 Commitment = 550

Tasting was done yesterday. Choices will be Short Rib, Boneless Chicken and Salmon as well as a Cauliflower Steak for Vegetarian. Jerry has done a great job with the program. Questions: Marriott had an issue with the booking and stated it was sold out. We will address that with Marriott. If we have issues registering, whom should we contact? We can straighten that out with the convention treasurer.

convention@aaseny.org Any standing committee that want tables in the hall for display, please contact myself or Jerry.

ARCHIVIST REPORT (James)

Archivist is a 6 year term. Mary is taking the commitment and I commend her. We have tried to tinker with shorter terms, but it needs longer. The Ad Hoc Committee is now the Archives Advisory Group. We have a database. We will train the new people taking the commitment. The entry does become easier. We have thousands of documents not catalogued and that is where we are right now.

OLD BUSINESS

Handbook Update (Jane E., Area Chair):

After the December Committee meeting, in order to revise the handbook, I consulted with GSRs, DCMs DCMCs, standing committee chairs, ad hoc committee chairs, fellow officers, two former handbook editors, past delegates, the archivist, and the digital archivist. I considered the questions that GSRs have asked this rotation, and answers easily found in the handbook were sections I deemed appropriate to stay in the handbook rather than referring them to other books and pamphlets. After compilation, it was turfed for grammar, spelling, punctuation and tense consistency to a member who edits professionally. Thank you all!

The final draft of the panel 67 handbook will be available at aaseny.org/handbook on February 14, Valentine's Day, through the end of the month. Anyone uncomfortable or unable to go online can reach out to me and I'll make sure you get a copy. Please let me know before Valentine's Day so you can have ample time to review. Please review content, not format, and reach out to me with comments and questions by the end of this month. I am available.

After reviewing all the feedback, I'll be finalizing this edition of the handbook, hopefully in time for our next Committee meeting.

Please review content, not format, and give me feedback by February 28. There are copies of the old handbook here for you to take and compare with the online final draft. Please take one. Formatting will be done later, please ignore the formatting.

This is not the final edition of the handbook, it's simply the revised edition for 2018. God willing there will never be a final edition, that will only happen if we stop growing or, if Area 49 ceases to exist.

Are there any questions? None

NEW BUSINESS

Special events line funding requests for NERAASA: Grapevine, ASN, Recording Secretary, Corrections

Grapevine Chair:(Laura) I have never been to NERAASA and would like to go to learn more and attend for maximum of \$500.

ASN: (Nelly) I am not requesting funds for NERAASA

Recording Secretary (Read by Scott for Mike O.) : Although due to an unexpected business trip I am not able to attend tonight I am asking to go to NERAASA. Attending will increase my understanding of the issues important to AA and the Area Regional and

National level and will help enhance my abilities to serve at below the group level in the future. I have estimated the cost as NERAASA up to \$365

Corrections: (Mike D.): requesting \$20 for the registration for NERAASA

Motion to fund all three: Grapevine - \$500, Recording Secretary - \$365 and Corrections - \$20

Motion passes unanimously

Request for funding from the Area for a Hispanic Women's Workshop: DCMC Manhattan (Scott M)

Whereas an article being published in Box 459 titled One Voice, Many Voices cites certain obstacles to sobriety in the Latina community such as women finding themselves in all male meetings and not feeling safe sometimes and male dominated meetings women who are not allowed to chair or do service below the group level; whereas similar obstacles were accounted at the district 602 Safety in AA workshop; whereas proposed agenda items to create a pamphlet to address these and other issues facing Hispanic women in AA; whereas a combined effort from Manhattan county, Orange County and the translation committee along with the cooperation of the Chair for the Spanish Speaking Womens Workshop in California, Former Delegate from Connecticut and Editor of LaVina

"I make a motion that the SENY Committee make available \$500 to support a Hispanic Women's Workshop, scheduled for May 5th, 2018, to help better carry the A.A. message to this remote and otherwise underserved community within Southeast New York."

Motion read in Spanish and in English

Motion seconded

Discussion:

Is this workshop strictly for Women or is it open for all? The intent is that it will be in Spanish and the intent is to focus and bring information to women, but no one will be excluded from this event.

Inclusivity and accessibility is important and this might help reach out to a group that is under represented.

I attended district 602 on safety where this came up and heard from women who spoke about this issue. I support this motion.

I am wondering is this Manhattan County asking for this money? It is a combined effort with Orange, Manhattan and the translation committee. It will be happening independent of Manhattan County.

Clarification from treasurer regarding the availability of funds

We already have two service participation workshops already set up that are \$500 a piece, and I want to be clear about where is that money going to come from? Part of our treasurer's job is to find the money. **Do we have the money?** Yes we have the money

I have seen the lack of participation from this underserved population. I think this workshop would shed some light and help. My concern is: Where do we draw the line for other groups that are under represented?

I recall it was stated as a need at the a safety workshop and I recall the women speaking about this need to promote respect and inclusivity.

Motion Passes Unanimously

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ASN (Nelly) I want to honor the memory of Cookie because she was one of the people who began the SENY ASN Committee. Workshop 4/21 sponsored by District 601 in Manhattan.

Literature (Brendan) the Convention is coming up. If you are looking to place orders, please email me, there will be an order going out in the next week or two

Archives (Richard) I have completed two more oral histories. Archives will be at the at the convention. Feb 17th NY Intergroup

Grapevine (Laura) 12/10 attended the lavina workshop also the seny convention any volunteers to help at the table, please see me or text me.

Web (Chris) I know some people had issues with registering for the convention. Looking to change the platform for the calendar. Delegates questionnaire will be posted shortly

Service Sponsorship (Sally) I will continue doing GSR and DCM orientations. I went to Brooklyn and Staten Island anyone need anything email me sponsorship@aaseny.org

Corrections (Mike) Queensborough Prison in Long Island City is looking for a chairperson on Tuesday night at 6pm. If you know anyone, please email

corrections@aaseny.org GSO is looking into a new paperless prison opportunity to get the message out to inmates. An inmate in Sullivan County reached out to try and get meetings into that prison. We have 4 guys in the process of being cleared to bring meetings into NYC

CPC (Anthony) We work with PI and will hold combined meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at 87:15 at NY Intergroup. We met this week and I am happy to say Brooklyn had a new PI Chair and CPC Chair that attended. The NY Intergroup CPC Chair attended as well. I was contacted by the NY State EAP at Sing sing they are having an employee resource day on March 4 and we will be setting up a table for that. We have a few other things coming up in the coming year. If you would like a table at your Share A Day or breakfast, please let me know.

AGENDA (Jeanne) The SENY Calendar has been updated as of yesterday. If there are any corrections or if there is anything you would like to have posted on the calendar, please email me at www.agenda@aaseny.org

OFFICE (Richie) At the last Assembly the body made it clear the mono-directional microphones were not working well. I will be looking into another mike system. If you want to hold a meeting at the SENY office, please get in touch with me.

Seventh Tradition tonight \$141.75

Motion to close 9:24