

SENY Assembly Meeting Minutes - Approved
Saturday, February 9, 2019
(Hosted by Staten Island General Service)

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Jerry R., Chair

Housekeeping

Terry F., Spiritual Parliamentarian, Brian C., Vote-Counter, Andy V., Timekeeper
Serenity Prayer & Preamble (English and Spanish)

Motion to approve Minutes from November 18, 2018 SENY Assembly passed unanimously.

Introduction of 2019/2020 SENY Committee Chairs

Accessibility/Special Needs: Sally B.

Agenda: Malini M.

Archives: Hank G.

Convention: Nisaa A.

Corrections: Eddie D.

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CPC: Laura G.

Grapevine/La Vina: Sherry A.

Intergroup Liaison: Mel R.

The Link Editor: Jim S.

Literature: Chris P.

Office Manager: **Vacant**

PI: Mike D.

Recording Secretary: Regina T.

Treatment: **Vacant**

Translation: **Vacant**

Website: Ray W.

Introduction of Ad Hoc Committee Chairs

KC: NYSIW

Service Sponsorship: Richie N.

Al-Anon Liaison: Charlie B.

Postal Mailings Coordinator: Saadi H.

E-Mail Update: Gerry B.

Handbook Editor: Mike O.

Introduction of New GSR's, DCM's, DCMC's, and other County Trusted Servants

Motion to approve Minutes from November 4, 2018 SENY Assembly passed unanimously.

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate - Jane E. (delegate@aaseny.org)

SENY is Area 49

What's a Panel?

Bill and Bob knew they wouldn't live forever. So, at the first international convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1950, the idea of the General Service Structure was presented. The idea was well received and the first GSC was held in 1951, the second in 1952. Half the delegates rotated in on the first, or odd year, and the other half in the second, or even year. It's just like our home groups when we take a commitment; we need someone to show us how to do it, and then we pass it on before we rotate out of the commitment. SENY always has an odd numbered Panel, this is the 69th (for 2019). I am a Panel 69 delegate, and I will serve for two years, at the 69th and 70th GSC.... you will always know what General Service Conference (GSC) it is by counting from 1950.

This year's General Service Conference theme is "Our Big Book- 80 years, 71 Languages." It is also our SENY Convention's theme.

I will be serving on not one, but two committees at the GSC. Treatment/Accessibilities (T/A) is the primary and International Conventions/ Regional Forums is the secondary. Please read more in my Link article.

At the 68th GSC (2018), the scope of the T/A committee was expanded: underserved, or remote communities are defined as communities difficult to reach because of **geography, language or culture**. Think how broad and inclusive that is! For example, the military is considered a remote community.

There are copies of the 68th GSC report here for you, and even a few of the 67th. These confidential reports are yours for the taking. Help me to be a better-informed delegate and take one to read.

The General Service Board Weekend every January is when the final agenda items are decided upon. There are 21 trustees, 14 Class B and 7 Class A. I remember it this way: Class B is for Boozer, the alcoholic trustees, and Class A are for amateur, the non-alcoholic trustees.

This year the board weekend started on Wednesday, January 26. About a week later, our Northeast Regional Trustee reported to all of us Northeast Regional Delegates. NERDs. Northeast Regional Delegates are called NERDs.

At our area inventory in November a member discouraged the use of the word "dark" to describe a group, district, or county. In the 68th GSC Report, look in the Area Highlights at Wyoming and you'll see their delegate describe a "silent district". I've started using the word "silent" and invite you to join me. After all, "silent" means "without a voice".

This year, for the first time, Conference Committees had a conference call with the chair of the trustee committee before the board weekend! On January 16 I was on the Treatment/Accessibilities Conference call with Class A Trustee (nonalcoholic) Nancy McCarthy, who started the call. She reminded us this new process is to practice Concept III: "As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the AA General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right Of Decision." We discussed if we thought a proposed agenda item should be a final agenda item, until I have all the background information, I do not have an informed conscience. Background information is absolutely crucial to have an informed conscience.

International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee did not have a conference call.

Since January 1st, I received and read hundreds of pages of information. I have not yet received the information for the final agenda items, though. This week, I submitted the Area Highlights for the 69th GSC, (you can read them in the next final report!) and completed three other documents required from delegates by GSO. I've also been asked to do a delegate's presentation at NERF (which stands for Northeast Regional Forum) and will start writing that tomorrow. My hope is to complete as much as I possibly can before I get the information required to create the Delegates questionnaire. That information will come this month. Once I get it, I will work around the clock to make the delegate's questionnaire and send the background information to the presenters for the Delegate's Day of Sharing (DDOS) on March 16th in the Bronx. Flyers are on the table, please spread them wherever you go. The presentations will be done by AA members I've

appointed, not by me. We're having one presentation in Spanish this year; English translation will be provided. I guarantee a good time at the DDOS.

I invite you to bring your group members to the DDOS, all AAs are welcome! Everyone, please bring flyers to groups. I realize now how much easier it would have been on me as a GSR had another group member come with me to the DDOS to help inform my group about the questions. You can lure them with breakfast and lunch (that's true for all Assemblies).

Alcoholics love to clap. But I'm practicing not clapping to be a better delegate at the GSC. We learned from our last delegate that when something looks like it's going to pass, and we clap because that's what we want to happen, and then there's more discussion, and we gain an informed conscience, maybe we should have just held off in the first place until we heard more, for unity. If you see me sitting on my hands, please encourage me to keep doing that so I'm a better delegate at the GSC. For unity.

The 7th Tradition states that we are fully self-supporting through our own contributions.

We have never been fully self-supporting through our own contributions...

The shortfalls have always been supplied by our literature sales, that's why you see the literature prices fluctuate.

Only AA members may contribute online at aa.org. Many members make recurring monthly contributions, for as little as \$5- a month, and up to \$5000- per year. There is no limit on what a group can contribute to AA. These recurring individual member contributions have raised our level of self-support to 82.3%. Hopefully someday we will be 100% self-supporting.

Albin has accepted the appointment of Grapevine Publisher effective 2/16.

NERF – save the date! We're hosting the Northeast Regional Forum 5/29-6/2 in Tarrytown NY. This event is put on by the General Service Office (GSO) and there is no registration fee. I call it the GSO Road show. There will be opportunities to volunteer for Hospitality and greeting when we get closer, registration starts 4/1.

Please read my Link article.

Please come to the DDOS and bring your friends!

I'd like to close with a thought included in my remote communities reading: "Let's remember we must always look at our efforts in light of two questions: does it help the drunk and does it build unity?"

Any questions?

Introduction of Past Delegates: Linda McG., Susan F., Bill C., Terry F.

Treasurer - Joanne M.:(treasurer@aaseny.org)

January through December 2018 Year-End Financial Report.

Motion is made and seconded to accept the 2018 Financials – Motion carries

Presentation of 2019 SENY Budget Proposal

Discussion clarified specific line items

Q & A

Motion is made and seconded to accept the 2019 SENY Budget – Motion carries

Presentation of January 2019 Financial Report

Motion is made and seconded to accept the 2019 Financials – Motion carries

Convention Chair – Nissa A. (convention@aaseny.org)

As of February 8th, 227 pre-registrations. Of that 227, 136 banquets. The hotel needs an advance count of meal choices so please preregister if you plan to attend the banquet. Meal choices are beef, chicken, fish, vegetarian (gluten free and vegan). Registration is \$20, registration + banquet is \$90. As of February 2nd, 373 room nights. We are contractually obligated for 467, can use up to 550. If you book at Expedia, Priceline, etc., or if you use your Marriott rewards, we will not get credit for the room nights. There will be a gender-neutral restroom easily accessible from the convention area. The Convention Program goes to print Feb 16th. The program will be posted to the website by Feb 16th.

Q: is there any group transportation? A: Brooklyn will have a bus, \$25/ticket. Flyer available

Alternate Delegate – Tom B. (altdelegate@aaseny.org)

Welcome to all new and returning trusted servants, and everyone who does service.

Delegate's Day of Sharing: March 16th – the ultimate chance for your group to have an informed opinion. SENY

Convention: See many parts of the bigger picture of what supports your group.

Suggested reading: AA World Service Handbook (new this year), The Advisory Actions, all the way back to 1951, The General Conference Report from 2018.

Alt Delegate responsibilities: found on page 15 of the red SENY Handbook. Stated simply:

Assistant: back up our Delegate. Should Jane be unable to serve, the Alt Delegate would step in.

Liaison: to the Hispanic district and to YPAA's.

Support: to DCMC's, Chair the ad hoc Service Participation Meeting. Steward: of Area inventory.

Available: for group and county inventories, and meetings and workshops on traditions and concepts.

Chair – Jerry R. (chair@aaseny.org)

New PSA film "Changes" that illustrates how drinking can take over a person's life and how AA can turn it around, January 2019.

An Historic invitation by Cuba was extended to Alcoholics Anonymous, January 2019

Country to Country Sponsorship, December 2018

International Literature Fund, December 2018

Box 459 Winter, December 2018, interesting read.

G.S.O. will discontinue literature sales at the front desk, December 2018

Three Standing Committee Chair Positions are open: Office Manager, Translation, and Treatment.

New S.E.N.Y. Office – Main entrance is located at 1231 Lafayette Ave, Bronx N.Y. 10474, rear entrance is located at 890 Garrison Ave, Bronx N.Y. 10474, phone 718-665-1253. Located in the landmark Bank Note Building, conveniently located off the Bruckner Expressway in the Hunts Point Neighborhood of the Bronx, within walking distance of the #6 train at Longwood Station and the #2 and #5 train at the Intervale Station. By Bus - BX6 and BX19 to Hunts Point. By Car - 25 minutes from J.F.K. Airport, 23 minutes from Downtown Brooklyn, 17 minutes from Grand Central Terminal, 19 minutes from Times Square, 11 minutes from LaGuardia Airport, 10 minutes from Yankee Stadium, G.W. Bridge, and Throgs Neck Bridge. We have our own Office with computer hookup, mailbox, and there are three conference rooms for committee work. We have access to the Printer for copies. Four key cards have been given out today. Handicapped accessible, four bathrooms. Parking lot around the corner on Trinity Street, \$9 for the day.

Registrar – Mike D. (registrar@aaseny.org)

Welcome to SENY e-mail: You will receive it shortly if you have not received it yet.

I have trained the new county Admin's for Airtable. We still need a county admin for Nassau.

You should get new GSR kits by the time the next assembly comes around. If you want it digitally, reach out to

registrar@aaseny.org

GSO is updating their database and in the next couple of months will have a whole new system that will be much easier to navigate.

If you are a new DCM and you want a list of trusted servants in your district, e-mail registrar@aaseny.org and I will send you a link to that information.

12:00- 1:00 Lunch and Fellowship

New Business

SENY Standing Committee Reports

Agenda – Malini: (agenda@aaseny.org)

Send info on county or district news to agenda@aaseny.org.

Please send title of event, date of event, and time. Send as JPEG or PDF.

Grapevine/LaVina - Sherry A.: (grapevine@aaseny.org) Deadlines for submitting articles: African Americans in AA: February 10th, Getting Sober Young: March 10th, Accessibilities: What Helped You Get the AA Message: April 10th. LaVina upcoming story for May/June issue: Our Big Book, 80 Years. Come visit Grapevine table for writing guidelines, we have handouts in English and Spanish. If you are a county, district, or home group Grapevine Chair or rep, please give me your info. Grapevine celebrates 75 years this June. We have anniversary tool kits available in English and Spanish, \$49.95, less 5% for second one on same order. February issue: Old Timers – Please fill out questionnaire at aagrapevine.org/oldtimersq. Answers will be considered for future publications. Jan/Feb La Vina issue: AA and the Family. New books available: One Big Tent, AA and the Military. LaVina new book: Frente y Frente. Grapevine app is available \$1.99 per month with a year subscription. Receive Daily Quote in English or Spanish, visit aagrapevine.org

CPC - Laura G.: (cpc@aaseny.org) Received request from an insurance company for a CPC member to speak to their staff, however, that was cancelled. Received request from a Deacon in Queens to establish an AA meeting in church, this request was forwarded to the Queens CPC and DCM. Received request to start a meeting at a Women's center in Bronx/Upper Manhattan, this was forwarded to their CPC & DCM. I was asked to speak at a Doctor's program at Lenox Hill Hospital and I attended that on January 14th and 15th. We had our first CPC meeting on January 29th at NYIG. It was well attended.

PI - Mike O.: (pi@aaseny.org) Meeting Topics: Introduction of new rotation SENY county/district chairs, registration and CPC/PI kits, libraries and Big Book distribution, active districts and communication, service delineation of NYIG and SENY, SENY convention preparation, convention workshop will be "Speaking at Non-Alcoholic Meeting", we will have a table at the convention.

Archives – Hank: (archives@aaseny.org)

Held committee meeting January 7th, hoping for more attendance from county archives people. Missing Nassau, Westchester, Queens, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, and Hispanic. Please contact archives@aaseny.org. We will be in the Irvington Room at the convention. We will have two presentations: 10:15 Oral History/round table/questions session, 2:30 History of the Big Book. Counties can put displays up. Next SENY archives committee meeting is next Saturday at NYIG, 1:00-3:00.

Link – Jim S: (link@aaseny.org) Get onto area e-mail notifications, check box to get area e-mail notifications for alerts about deadlines.

Link is published ten times a year. GSR'S, DCM'S, SENY officers, anyone, can submit articles, as long as they are service related, between 300-350 words. Submit to link@aaseny.org. Deadlines are on the back of the Link. Next deadline for submissions is February 17th.

Intergroup Liaison - Mel R: (intergroup@aaseny.org) Starting March 2nd, NYIG will be having a phone AA meeting called "AA on 7th Avenue", every Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Big meeting – First committee meeting February 23rd at the NYIG office, 2:00 p.m., hosted by The Bronx. There will be a planning committee of the 2019 Bill W. Dinner/Dance, hosted by Brooklyn, on March 20th at 2:00 at the NYIG office. For more information go to NYIG website.

Service Sponsorship – Richie N: (sponsorship@aaseny.org) Congratulations to everyone that came to the workshop this morning. Any questions please e-mail me. You may attend workshop more than once. Please get a service sponsor.

Accessibilities – Sally B: (asn@aaseny.org) – commitment is broad, reaches out to remote communities. Meeting at new SENY office (will confirm dates). Please e-mail me if you are interested in joining this committee.

Corrections – Eddie D.: (corrections@aaseny.org) – picked up mail yesterday. Will start reaching out to county correction chairs. Mike D., the previous chair, has been supportive. Need to get connected with Sullivan, Orange, and Long Island. Hispanic groups elected a corrections chair. If you are corrections, please reach out to me at corrections@aaseny.org. We will be meeting at SENY office March 2nd or 3rd.

COUNTY CHAIRS

Hispanic District – Reina R.: Looking for place for conference in May, hopefully an academy in Yonkers. Hispanic district meets second Saturday. Assembly every 3rd Sunday. Working on getting translation chair. Spanish SENY convention in November. Share-A-Day in June in Orange County.

Nassau – Annabel B.: LISTS planning committee February 19th, 7:30, Nassau Intergroup Office. SENY Film Festival “AA, A Message of Hope” showing “Bills Own Story” and “Hope”, a short, March 18th at 7:30 pm. Unity Breakfast – June 2nd, 9:00 – 12:00 – Long Island Marriott. Bridging the Gap workshop, May 20th, 7:30 p.m. Need registrar. Next GSR meeting is February 18th.

Suffolk – Chris D.: Unity Breakfast, March 3rd at Eastwind in Wading River – tickets \$32.00. Tickets available at aasuffolks-ny.org – tickets available up to March 2nd, 11:59 p.m.

Putnam – Jimmy Z.: Unity Breakfast - Graymoor – October 20th, tickets \$20.00

Brooklyn – Colleen V.: Share-A-Day, June 29th, St. Francis De Salles School for the Deaf. Post Conference Assembly at St. Francis De Salles, June 15th. Spiritual Breakfast, December 1st, at the Grand Plaza Hall.

DCM, District 405 Brooklyn – Charlene: AA historical book club, this year Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers – Old Park Slope Caton, every 4th Sunday of the month, next February 24th, 3:30 – 4:30.

Bronx – George D.: Hosting Delegates Day of Sharing, Lehman High School, March 16th, 8:00 – 3:15

Web – Ray: See me today if e-mail is an issue

E-mail Update – Gerry: Go to aaseny.org to sign up for e-mails if you have not received them. Working on Airtable. Did first technology workshop this morning. Will do workshop every assembly. Planning on setting up a system to offer help if you have a technology problem related to your service position.

Delegate – Jane: (answering a question): Delegate’s Day of Sharing has no workshops, registration starts at 8:00, breakfast is at 8:30, presentations start at 9:00, seven presentations, lunch in between. No business, all informational, Q&A.

Rockland – Bob C.: Spiritual Breakfast April 28th, Pearl River Hilton. Tickets \$24.00.

Sullivan – John B.: Two open houses, have three officer positions open, will have great speakers, cake and coffee, February 17th and March 17th – SUNY campus (address on aaseny.org)

Westchester – Rich S.: – committee chairs filled. Spiritual BBQ August 24th. Working on SAD for September or October, hoping to do Unity Breakfast in the spring.

Staten Island – Andy V.: thanked members for coming to assembly.

7th TRADITION: \$484.51

Motion to close. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 with AA’s Declaration of Unity.