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FINAL VERSION APPROVAL SENY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

SENY REUNIÓN DEL COMITÉ DE ORDEN DEL DÍA

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, 2158 WATSON
AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10472-5402

MONDAY, January 4, 2016 (7:30-9:30 PM)

ACTION ITEMS:

LINK Articles: Send LINK articles for Feb issue to link@aaseny.org as soon as possible.

(7:00pm) New DCM Orientation – Kevin Mch- (Nueva Orientación DCM)

Meeting called to order @ 7:32pm

- *Serenity Prayer Rick W., Chair*
- *Daily Reflection (Reflexión Diaria) – Michelle, Westchester*
- *Preamble – Jenny, Suffolk / Preambulo – Fernando, Westchester*
- *SENY Statement of Purpose (Declaración de Propósito SENY) – Rick W., Chair*

General Housekeeping –

- o Voting clarifications for quorum – we have a quorum
- o Roberts Rules of order and 2/3 unanimity
- Concept IX was reviewed

Approval of Minutes from Previous Committee Meeting (*Aprobación del Acta de la reunión anterior del Comité*) • *Motion made and seconded o Discussion about difference between “postponing” and “tabling” a motion. Request to amend minutes from previous meeting to reflect tabling not postponing.*

• Yes= 34 No= 0 Abs = 2

Motion Carries

Introductions (Presentaciones)

- *New DCM's and DCMC's (Nueva de DCM y DCMC)*
- *Upcoming events distributed by Agenda Chair. Visit www.aaseny.org for more details about events.*
- *Thank you service chefs and Kevin Mch. for setup*
- *Past Delegates & Guests (Los Delegados y Huéspedes Anteriores)*

Officer Reports (Informes Oficial)

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

- NERAASA 2016 Registration is filling up and hotel is filling up.
- Conference Inventory reports are being distributed. Please take them tonight along with your LINK's.
- Annual letter for Conference fee \$1600. Request will be made later for \$3200 to cover delegates fee as well as a donation for needy areas.
- Preliminary Conference Agenda has come out. Nothing to glaring at this time. More information will be given when the final agenda comes out by the middle of February. Delegates Day of Sharing may or may not happen depending on what the extent of the agenda is.
- Attending Rockland County, to discuss issues with possible Traditions violations regarding AA For Troops. It is NOT affiliated with SENY at all. Will try to rectify the situation as soon as possible.

Questions:

- Have we ever not had a delegate's questionnaire? It is the Delegates Day of Sharing under discussion. It seems the only item is a Big Book Item that could be discussed without a Day of Sharing.

- Concerned about AA For Troops? More information is needed right now and we need to proceed with caution.
- Has AA For Troops been contacted? Not sure, only can go by phone conversations with Delegate from NJ and Rockland County Group affected.
- Can you put out a letter regarding the AA for Troops so that we can distribute to others? I won't put it out until I have more information on Weds. I am only advising people to be cautious.
- Conference item about the Big Book? "Consider development of a plain language version of Alcoholics Anonymous". Without background information, we need more details what they mean.

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

- Chaired Service Participation Meeting and did a spot check inventory to see what is going well and what can be done better. Discussed 7th tradition and self-support. Discussed Concept IX and Traditions IX and leadership roles
- Reminder, DCMC's, attending the Service Participation is part of your commitment.
- Manhattan County General Service meeting
- Attended Asamblea

Thank you again for the privilege to serve.

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

- **New Area Appointments:**
 - Website Chair: Jon O., Manhattan
 - LINK Layout & Design: Domi E., Suffolk/Manhattan
 - Ad Hoc Publications Review Committee: Linda McG., Brooklyn
 - Ad Hoc Publications Review Committee: Joseph M., Manhattan
- **February Assembly Committee Table Displays:**
 - At our February 2016 Assembly in the Bronx, we will be bringing back the Committee Trade Show like we did at the February 2015 Assembly that was well received. I would like to suggest that all standing committees be prepared to be in attendance and bring information about your committee to display and talk with GSR's and DCM's in attendance at that Assembly. We will provide a table top for every SENY committee. If you have questions about this, please reach out to me ASAP so you can be prepared for this Assembly.
- **Mid Year Re-Committment:**
 - **Meeting/Assembly Attendance:** It was suggested to me that I share the following information from the A.A. Service Manual with everyone as a gentle reminder of our commitment to the Area. (From the A.A. Service Manual - Chapter Four - "The Area Assembly & Activities")

Inactive Service Workers

How does the area deal with area officers and committee chairs who have been absent from two or more assemblies? While the area assembly needs to establish its own practices or guidelines, it is generally suggested that a service worker be asked to resign if he or she is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position.

We have had several trusted servants who have missed more than the suggested ideals above and instead of talking to each of you directly about it, I am would like to leave it up to you to either re-commit to attendance or reach out to me and let me know if you need to step down. Honestly, it's a respect thing and if we are not doing our jobs, someone else has to do it or it's just not getting done - neither of which is a good situation. *We trust our trusted servants.*

- **Standing Committee Meetings on Website:**
 - Please make sure you sending your committee meeting information to our Agenda Chair, Kathy B., at agenda@aaseny.org so she can load them into our website. Also, if you are

meeting at the SENY Offices, please make sure you are requesting meeting space through our Office Manager, Kevin Mc.H., at office@aaseny.org.

- **What Can I Do To Help?:**

- If there is anything I can do to help you be successful in your position, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am happy to help you if you are finding any part of your position challenging. Just let me know - I am always here for you. Let's have a great 2016 as we finish out this rotation.

- **SENY/NYIG Cooperation:**

- I have met with Chris D at NYIG to begin conversations about a meeting that we are scheduling to bring together both sets of trusted servants who are doing Treatment, Corrections, CPC & PI work. The goal of this meeting is to review the work that each of our teams are doing to see if there is a way we can streamline the work that each committee is doing in both organizations to try and eliminate any un-needed overlap. I want to thank SENY Delegate, Denise B. for the suggestion to review the work being done between the two groups. Chris and I both feel confident once we get all of the players together, we will be able to identify ways in which we can continue to work well together in meeting the needs of the still suffering alcoholic as well as the needs of our community.

Questions:

- Can we fix the google of SENY? We will look into it
- Are we working with the other Intergroup in Area 49 not just NYIG? Not yet, but we are working on that. Great suggestion.
- Clarification about Ad Hoc Publications committee
- Area Inventory? Officers will be meeting on Sunday 1/10 to prioritize Inventory, then it will be brought back to the committee.

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

1. Dec financials were distributed. Closing out year will not happen until near end of February. Question regarding Online Contributions fees: It is for the months of Oct, Nov and Dec. Fee is 2.9%+.30 per transaction. Contributions were not separated out that way though. About \$700 came from online. This is still relatively new process, it is an easier way of doing the contributions. Since this is a preliminary report, no vote needed yet.
2. SENY 2016 Budget was distributed and reviewed. Clarifications regarding some line items that may need to be adjusted.
Motion to accept. Seconded.
Y = 36 N = 1 Abs = 5
Minority Opinion: Materials for CPC is being increased from \$1000 to \$2600. That is a mistake and will be adjusted.
Motion Carries.
3. 7th Tradition passed - \$ 137

Registrar: Fred M., registrar@aaseny.org 917-291-0374

1. I've finalized the restructuring of our database and the standardization of the data. I learned from last month where I may have been too heavy on the technical details, I'm going to cut to why it matters:
 - It now takes less time and less tech savviness to make updates to the Area database, and there's much less room for human error. The work of whoever serves as Registrar will be less tedious and more impactful going forward.
 - Now it's possible to systematically surface bad data and address it all at once, which I did a number of times. For example, I pulled up all the groups that had two GSRs or Alternate GSRs listed, and using a mail merge I was able to email everyone affected all at once in a personalized way.

Hey {First Name},

You're listed in the Area database as the {Position} for the {Group}, but {Full name of other person} is also listed as the {Position}. Could you confirm which is correct? Thanks so much and happy new year!

So with relatively little effort, I was able to contact hundreds of people to help clean-up the database. I received a huge number of replies, almost half of the people I contacted got back to me within a day or two. And it often didn't stop at whatever question I asked them - very often it resulted in a continued exchange resolving other data issues.

- The changes to the database have also made it possible to develop better support for DCMs trying to keep their groups' info up-to-date. By the February Assembly, I'm hoping I will have something available for DCMs to try, if they want to.

So that's why the database changes are important. A few other updates worth sharing:

- It has been challenging to get access to FNV, GSO's database. I've been asking for access since shortly after the Nov. 7 Assembly, and I only received access this morning, so I can provide more info about that next meeting.
- I am tentatively planning to do the mailing of the draft Nov. minutes and SENY Convention flyer on Saturday, January 16, exactly three weeks before the February 6th Assembly. I was told by my predecessor that the idea was to time the arrival of the mail to about a week before the Assembly to serve as a reminder to attend.
- I want to remind everyone that you now have the option of signing up for email, snail mail, or both from the Area. Both is a new option. If you want to make that change, just indicate it next to your entry in the sign-in book.
- I'm hoping to have a workshop at an upcoming Assembly for DCMCs and Registrars, and if your county doesn't have a Registrar then your Secretary. I'll be presenting on the possibility of counties tapping into or even sharing the Area's database, of course at their discretion, and I'm very interested to see what you guys think. I really hope you can make it.

Lastly, my experience communicating with so many people about their info in the database left me with a very strong impression: the email and snail mail we send is a very significant touchpoint with our members. Many of these GSRs and their Alternates are not active in their position - these are some of the best opportunities to reach them. Judging from the nature of the replies I received, their willingness to participate is underestimated, and part of the problem is our ineffective communication. It was very encouraging, and I hope we have the courage to change the things we can to improve on this.

I also really need up-to-date information for DCMCs and DCMs as well as district maps. Very often GSRs don't know their district, and I would be able to connect them with their district & county if I could identify the district based on their group's meeting location and had confidence that I was providing them with up-to-date contact info. I want to be sure I'm not directing GSRs to a dead end or someone who is no longer in that position.

Also, I am working on getting the minutes translated for the mailing to the Hispanic Districts - I'll report more on that next time.

2. Questions: Purging the old names, we have encouraged some people to have more than one alt GSR in case the GSR and Alt GSR cannot make something. We should work on those precise identifications. Please consider putting on workshop in April instead of February so that it does not conflict with the usual workshop for the SENY Budget. That is a reasonable idea.

Old Business (Asuntos Pendientes)

E-mail Service Provider: The issue is the provider of SENY email. Suggestion to migrate to a different carrier since the concern is that we may be

Prior Motion: That we have an email provider that does not mine data.

Call to Question: End discussion and vote = 15 Continue discussion = 10

Needs to be 2/3 majority, so call to question fails.

Discussion:

- Suggestion that this be brought back with a time limit to the SENY Web committee to see if the web committee can resolve this issue.

- Revisit with a time line to the web committee. No matter what SENY chooses as their email provider, please leave counties with what they are happy with now.
- This should be right of decision. Why is this even here?
- The last two SENY Web committee meetings were cancelled, when will the next be held? The last Saturday in January and then probably the second Saturday of each month starting in February. This discussion has been brought here and has carried on so long because the tech savvy people are not uniform in belief that the email is violating traditions. Do you want to bring it back to committee? Not yet.
- Call to question: Y = 36 Continuing discussion = 1
- **Motion Withdrawn**

New Business (Asuntos Nuevos)

- Delegate requests area to contribute \$3200 to the 2016 General Service Conference with regards to the Delegates conference fee.

Y = 40 N = 0 Abs = 2

Motion carries

- New website no longer populates calendar can we look into getting that feature again? Yes will look into

Standing Committee Reports (Informes del Comité Permanente) (emailed)

1. **SENY Liaison to Intergroup** – Wrap up meeting was held on 12/13 hosted by Suffolk County. Well attended. Next meeting will be SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016 at NASSAU INTERGROUP OFFICE 361 Hempstead Turnpike West Hempstead, NY Time: 12 noon Intergroup chairs and office managers requested attendance. No workshops this year, but will have one in 2017.

2. **2016 SENY Convention:** Fliers are on the table and in the link. Please register and come to the convention! Please see me to volunteer or to hand in registration. If you reserve a room and need to cancel, please try to find someone else to take the room rather than cancel outright. Issue with the transferring of funds with the STRIKE account. Manny and Regina are working on fixing that we have 62 registrants and 37 banquets so far. Request to continue reporting that.

3. **Agenda Chair:** Upgrade to the WordPress app for the calendar. I can do custom intervals which works well. Requests that I did not put on the calendar because they are not General Service Events. Information about other Area Conventions also.

4. **Archivist:** When transformation to new web, archives went dark for a little while. The archives database is at www.senyhistory.org It will be a separate site.

County Reports

Westchester County –First ever Westchester GSA Spiritual Breakfast Saturday 1/23 9am \$15 a ticket. No tickets at the door. Westchester is hosting the BIG Meeting. Kick off planning committee will be on Sunday 1/24 2pm at NY Intergroup.

Suffolk County – Unity Breakfast March 6th \$25, 9am Wading River, NY “Road of Happy Destiny”

Motion to Close

Meeting adjourned 9:45 pm @ 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 7, 2016 – 7:30pm – 9:30pm

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

NEXT AREA 49 ASSEMBLY

Saturday, February 6, 2016 – 8:30am – 4:00pm

[HOST: BRONX COUNTY] Our Savior Lutheran School
1734 Williamsbridge Rd, Bronx, NY 10461