

January 6, 2020 - SENY COMMITTEE MINUTES – Approved

CHAIR: (Jerry R.) Meeting called to order at 7:36 p.m.
Serenity Prayer and AA Preamble, in English and Spanish.
Quorum established; and Housekeeping (explanation of voting)
Spiritual Parliamentarian: John W, Spiritual Timekeeper: Liz, Microphone: Chris D.

Correction to December minutes: Nassau County Unity Breakfast tickets are \$33.00, not \$32.00.
Minutes accepted as corrected.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

DELEGATE'S REPORT (Jane E):

Board Weekend January 31- February 3, I will attend as the Conference Committee Chair on International Conventions/Regional Forums (IC/RF). Info on Conference Dashboard obtained, read and passed on to Alternate Delegate; Delegate's Day of Sharing March 7. Reported on any trusted servant's responsibility when reimbursed to attend an AA event.

Welcome to year two of Panel 69! Concept IX review and noted that Bill W. wrote that with Leadership we shall have a continuous problem. Concept IX tells me how to do my job and segues into the next part of my report. I'm very pleased with the Leadership of the General Service Board (GSB).

I'm so excited! The GSB has revised its Strategic Plan with great attention to the items that I think about all the time; things like how we will meet our worldwide public responsibility in the digital age, our primary purpose, reaching out the hand of A.A., timely and transparent communications, and sound financial planning. This last has been on my mind a lot. In order to carry the message and do the things like translate our Book into other languages we do need some money, and since we've never been fully self-supporting through our own contributions, and rely on literature sales to make up the shortfall, and literature sales have been steadily declining for some years, how will we sustain our life saving work?

The GSB Strategic Plan was revised, and I'm thrilled, it covers the topics I'm concerned about. If you would like a copy of it, please email me and I will send it to you. Not digitally fluent? Write to the SENY PO Box to me and I will mail you a copy. Accessibilities. I serve on the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities as well as IC/RF.

Some of the information I received from the General Service Office (GSO) since our last SENY Committee meeting is:

- 1) The Communications Staff assignment will now transition to the new Communication Services Department and will be responsible for development, implementation and analytics for the A.A. website, YouTube channel and the Meeting Guide app, as well as various communications, digital media projects and initiatives
- 2) From GSO: "We are happy to announce the next phase of our NetSuite deployment: My Portal. Let me say right off, it is still a work-in-progress, but our teams are "on it" and have made great strides to take us this far. Upon its completion, My Portal will offer Area Registrars direct access into the NetSuite System, providing up-to-date information and reports on- demand. Ultimately, Registrars will be able to make Fellowship Changes directly in NetSuite which will greatly speed up all our work." Our Registrar has more details.
- 3) Regarding recurrent contributions: sustaining online contributions from AA members and groups are a major source of support for services GSO provides to members worldwide. With the new system, all who have recurrent contributions will need to re-enter in the new system, and If any change is needed, there are handouts here regarding contacts, like if you need to update your info, including credit card. Remember that \$1-contributed online is equal to \$1.20 mailed in.

At the last GSB weekend, the Grapevine Board determined to change the cover name on Grapevine magazine back to Grapevine and include the words "International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous".

Grapevine (GV) is in the red. One perspective could be that the members are saying through the power of the purse that GV is no longer needed. Frankly that would break my heart because I simply love the Grapevine. The only way the GV can survive is through subscriptions and other purchases. A Grapevine subscription or book is a welcome anniversary gift. Our Grapevine Chair can tell you about how to purchase subscriptions anonymously, for example for those in prison. Thanks, Sherry!

The Service Manual is being updated and redesigned. Our current manual is the 2018-2020 version. When I rotate on, I will have a newly formatted and revised service manual to study!

There are handouts of a Service Material piece (SMF F-111) here on how to conduct a sharing session, sent to NERDs (Northeast regional Delegates) from our NERT (Northeast Regional Trustee prior to our Conference call which included the rotating on Panel 68s. I love that, rotate on, not rotate out.

This handout is in English on one side and Spanish on the other, as are the DDoS fliers and the Forum Handout. Please review the Forum Handout. It has come to my attention that more information is needed by the Body regarding Forums, and since we just had one, this is a good time to review and read this one-page flyer. There will be an ask on the Delegate's Questionnaire (DQ) about Forums. How to encourage interest in Forums is a standing agenda item for the IC/RF Conference Committee. I'm handing out this information for you to share with the GSRs ahead of the Delegate's Day of Sharing.

Acknowledgement letters from the Conference Coordinator for the item we submitted for a podcast, and another submitted by the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums submitted by the Conference Committee Chair (me) to discuss the methods of closing the Big Meetings at the IC were received. Information shared about the IC/RF ask for an agenda item.

These two and the proposed agenda item from the TRANSCEND group in Brooklyn about the Preamble is on the list of proposed agenda items, this last has already been assigned to the Grapevine Conference Committee.

There is still time to register for NERAASA, The NERAASA Committee Chair has asked me to remind SENY members that if you want to serve on a panel, please check the box on the registration form to serve the entire Northeast Regional (Maine to Maryland). Several members have done so! Our Corrections Chair and members of the Hispanic Distrito will be serving the entire Northeast Region by providing Spanish language at the Registration desk! NERAASA online registration closes February 6.

An AA member in our Area approached our Treasurer with questions about the amount reimbursed for travel, currently at 40 cents per mile plus tolls. This has been reviewed multiple times in the past ten years, the most recent being in December of 2016 by the Ad Hoc Finance Committee and SENY Committee. Our treasurer has reached out to our accountant. I have obtained information about travel reimbursement rates from the last survey conducted in the US and Canada with info on what the different Areas reimburse, reached out and discussed with our Northeast Regional Trustee (who happens to be a CPA), reviewed service material, and contacted a Tax Attorney who is reviewing it for us, she is working pro bono (this is not a break of the Seventh Tradition as she is an AA member). I'm sharing the information with my fellow Officers as I gather it. Things in AA tend to come up again and again. Right now, we are gathering information.

Question from a member: Will you send the info to me when you get it?

Answer from the delegate: The information will be shared with this entire SENY Committee when we have it.

Enthusiastic encouragement given to read Box 459.

I'm reminded that we are advised by Bill W. to choose our leaders with care and that I'm in a room full of future officers; members of the SENY Committee (listed in the By Laws of our SENY Handbook) are eligible to stand for Office at the September elections. I encourage all to review the job descriptions in the SENY Handbook and the Service Manual, observe strong leadership qualities, one of which is regular attendance at these SENY Committee meetings and Assemblies, and of course, Concept IX.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT (Tom B):

Good evening / Buena Noches... I have the privilege and the joy of serving as your alternate delegate.

Jane just told you about the General Service Board's Strategic Plan. I've read it through several times, and its 9 pages have quite a bit packed into them. This is an elegant, thoughtfully-written document, and I strongly recommend that you take a careful look at it. Thank you, Madame Delegate, for making it available to all of us in SENY!

In the Introduction, it lays out three major challenges facing our Fellowship today. It also talks about a fourth challenge, but I'll come back to that shortly. Next, it states the "Mission, Vision, [and] Action Statement of the General Service

Board". I love a simple mission statement: "Our mission is to serve the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous". In this section, you will also recognize phrases coming straight out of the Concepts in our AA Service Manual.

The "three major challenges" facing Alcoholics Anonymous today in this document (listed as Key Strategic Priorities) include 1) Reaching out the hand of AA, 2) Improving Relations and Communications, and 3) Fiscal Planning. Each of these three sections is broken down into Goals, as well as the supporting Processes needed to achieve these goals. I can assure you that, as you read through these, you will find issues that are near and dear to your heart – NONE of us are unaffected by these challenges.

One of the critical things I've had reinforced over my AA journey, and especially over the last few years – whether speaking about Steps, Traditions, Concepts, General Service, or anything else in our Program – is that we all need to be able to relate to the subject: how does it affect us, our sobriety, our service? As you know, we alcoholics can intellectualize and rationalize anything, but unless it travels that short distance from our head to our heart, it will probably sit on the shelf, unused and forgotten. With that in mind... I mentioned a fourth challenge a few minutes ago, and this is what I really want to talk about tonight.

I want to read the two sentences that make up this overriding aspect of General Service. "We realize that the General Service Board has but one part to play. The goals can only be achieved by the combined efforts of the GSB, the operating corporations, the General Service Conference *and the Fellowship.*"

Inclusivity is a big part of this Strategic Plan, and this last sentence is nothing if not inclusive. We all have our part to play. Here's a theory for you to ponder, which kept intruding on my thoughts each time I read through this: in our upside-down Service Triangle, the Service always runs upward to our Groups; *but Support is necessarily a two-way street.*

As I re-read this plan yet again on the train yesterday, I had one of those crazy Tom-analogies pop into my head. And I know how you all love my analogies! This one – bear with me – is about the flow of oxygen and carbon dioxide that sustains life on our planet. If you took biology you know that we animals expel carbon dioxide and the plant world uses it as photosynthesis and turns it into nourishment, expelling oxygen, so that we can breathe the oxygen, and on, and on, and on. It's pretty straight forward, by my standards.

In my opinion, there is also a cycle, a perfect path in General Service which is just as critical to life in our Fellowship. Support (in the form of Participation) runs down the triangle, from Members to Groups to Districts to Areas to the GSC and ultimately to the GSB; and Support (in the form of Service) runs back up the triangle in reverse order. This Committee, along with 92 others just like it, is in the middle of the triangle. Always remember: we exist to support the General Service Conference, as well as the Groups.

Our service structure does for AA what the individual member and the individual group cannot do for themselves. Please know that your participation in this process is important. Please remember that when the GSRs and the Groups are looking for leadership, they look to all of us in this room. And please, please remember the mission statement above applies to ALL of us: "Our mission is to serve the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous".

I am available to facilitate Group and County Inventories, meetings or workshops on Traditions or Concepts. I would love to simply come visit your group, and I thank the Hispanic District for inviting me several times over the holidays to do just that. And beyond being available, I am excited, delighted and honored to be of any service I can to SENY, and to AA as a whole. Thank you for allowing me to serve, support and participate with all of you. Questions / Preguntas?

CHAIR'S REPORT (Jerry R.)

Concept I. The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

New Committee Chairs as of 1/1/2020

Agenda Chair- Jeannette K., Staten Island

Ad Hoc Finance Chair - Dean J., Suffolk

Ad Hoc Finance Committee Member - Rich S. – This is a four year commitment

Upcoming Events:

Service Participation Meeting, January 16, SENY Office - 7 to 9.

SENY Assembly, Sunday, February 9, Nassau County, Nassau Community College, 1 Education Drive, Garden City, 8:15-3:15

SENY Archives Sorting Day, Feb 15, - Holy Family Church. 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx – 11:00-5:00

NERAASA, February 21-23, Area 43 - Radisson Hotel, 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH.

Delegate's Day of Sharing, March 7 - Cross Hill Academy, 160 Bolmer Ave, Yonkers 8:30 to 3:15

SENY Convention, March 27-29 - Westchester Marriott- 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown N.Y. 10591 Deadline for February Link submissions is 1/22/2020

I am available for Area and Group Inventories.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Joann M.)

November Treasurer's report: Motion to accept, seconded, motion passed

December Treasurer's report: Motion to accept, seconded, motion passed

7th Tradition: \$160.00

REGISTRAR'S REPORT: (Mike D.)

Duties of the Registrar were explained.

We are looking for a registrar for the Spanish district.

Links have been provided to the DCM's and the DCMC's, along with a training video on how to use these links. If you are a DCM and you haven't received a link to your view, please advise the Registrar.

Digital versions of the service manual, SENY handbook, and other GSO literature have been e-mailed to all GSR's. We are awaiting new group numbers. In the meantime, you can continue to use your existing group numbers. If you need a group number, you can look it up using the views that I sent out.

2020 SENY CONVENTION CHAIR: (Rich N.)

March 27-29, 2020, Westchester Marriott, 671 White Plains Road, White Plains. Theme: A Vision for You.

Register for hotel and/or convention on-line at www.aaseny.org/seny/convention, or using paper registration forms.

Registration forms are available in English and in Spanish. Meal choices: beef, chicken, fish, vegetarian. Rooms are \$134/per night + tax. According to our contract we must sell 550 room nights. To date we have 117 room nights reserved. If we do not sell the 550, there will be a significant fee. We will have our next convention planning meeting next Sunday, January 12th at the SENY office, 9:00 a.m. The program planning meeting will follow. Our treasurer and registration chair are working together to coordinate how many online and paper registrations there are. Please do not use on-line booking sites because we will not get credit for the rooms. Cutoff date to register is March 5th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Technology Update: Ray W., Web Chair

I presented about restructuring the way SENY handles technology. The registrar position is basically glorified data entry so the deal is to reposition that as a communications/technology officer who will have an overview of all the technology that SENY is handling (someone else would then take the role of doing the data entry, updating and handling the database) as well as creating a technology committee which would include the web chair, e-mail update editor, agenda, e-mail administrator (new position). The idea is to allow for better and more effective communication and use of technology.

Ad-Hoc Finance Committee Report: Kathy W., Ad-Hoc Finance Committee Member

2019 Chair, Mike H., reported to this committee last month on our requested research for costs for paid translation to service the Spanish community. As a result of that research, we recommended a budget line of \$3,000.00. This is to cover interpretation at SENY assemblies, SENY committee meetings, and SENY Delegate's Day of Sharing In 2020 only.

To follow up, the committee attended an officers meeting following the budget meeting and it was decided at that meeting that SENY should employ the services of a professional agency for the following reasons:

1. It relieves SENY from responsibility for employer reporting and liabilities to various state and federal agencies.
2. It allows SENY to contract interpretation with one call to an agency.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 PROPOSED BUDGET:

TREASURER: (Joann M.)

Highlighted budget lines that were raised or decreased.

Discussion ensued regarding raising line #80030, Assemblies, to \$4,000 per (currently at \$3,500 per).

Line will be raised to \$4,000/per.

Discussion ensued regarding line 90091, NERAASA stipend.

Delegate: The motion last year that passed at the assembly was to reimburse members that went to NERAASA up to \$100 each for transportation, specifically, one per car. Because this was a motion made at an assembly and approved by the entire body, it will have to be changed at an assembly.

Member: Didn't we say that we were going to make the budget amount \$2,400.00?

Budget cannot be approved because DCMC's asked to raise the budget line on assemblies.

Motion: Pass the budget as written with an amendment to line 80030 to increase it to \$24,000.00, seconded, approved.

Members agreed to contribute \$534.89 to GSO.

REPORTS:

SUFFOLK: (Michelle) – Unity Breakfast March 1st – tickets \$32.00 – East Wind – see Michelle or order on-line. Tables can be reserved.

ROCKLAND: (Bobby C.) – Spiritual Breakfast March 15th, Hilton Pearl River, \$25.00

BROOKLYN: (Colleen V.) – Concepts meeting every third Monday of the month.

ARCHIVES: (Hank G.) – Feb 15, - S.E.N.Y. Archives Sorting Day - Holy Family Church, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx - 11 to 5.

ORANGE: (Frank D.) – Spiritual Breakfast May 3rd, tickets are \$20.00

TREATMENT: (Ed M.)

We are having a workshop on Saturday January 25 from 12 noon til 2:30 at the SENY Office on Lafayette Ave in the Bronx. Translation will be provided.

Next Area Assembly: Sunday, February 9, 2020, 8:15 am – 3:15 pm, Nassau Community College, 1 Education Drive, Garden City, NY 11530

Next Committee Meeting: Monday, March 2, 2020, 7:30 – 9:30 pm
Church of the Holy Family, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472

Close with AA's Declaration of Unity - 9:55 pm