

JUNE 3, 2019, SENY COMMITTEE MINUTES - APPROVED

Chair (Jerry R.): Meeting called to order 7:32 pm
Serenity Prayer & Preamble, in English & Spanish
Spiritual Parliamentarian is Scott M.; Spiritual Timekeeper is Andy V.; Mike O. is acting
Recording Secretary
No corrections to April Minutes, Accepted

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Delegate (Jane E.)

I will report on the 69th General Service Conference (GSC) at the June 15, 2019, Assembly. The day before the Conference started, I presented “The Transgender Alcoholic in AA” at the Remote Communities Meeting. I plan to send out the “Remote Communicator” (which has all the presentations in it) to SENY Committee members when I receive it in Spanish, right now I only have the English. Information on the 202 International Convention is currently on www.aa.org

Observations from the GSC: when a question is asked, a Conference Committee Chair always answers: "thank you for question." The Conference operates on trust. The Chairs of the General Service Conference itself invite minority opinion, but do not ask the Body if anyone's vote has changed after hearing the minority opinion. It is up to a person whose opinion changed to go to the mic and say so. There is no clapping after votes. A floor action is not someone coming to the mic with a motion. A floor action is written out and submitted to the Conference Secretary, who submits to the Chair, and only when the Chair states that “floor actions may be made at this time”, the requestor may go to the mic and state the submitted motion.

I received 334 questionnaire responses. Thank you! You've made me an informed delegate. Next year we will have a shorter time to respond because the GSC will return to its regular month of April, it was very late this year.

Thanks to our Webchair, please see the “from the Delegate” page <http://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate> on <http://www.aaseny.org/> I recommend reading the Communications Audit, which is posted currently along with “How the Conference Operates” and “On Trust”. This page will be updated often, and my GSC report and Power Point will be up after the Assembly June 15.

Thanks to everyone who attended NERF and volunteered with special thanks to our Alternate Delegate for his service to the Host Contact and Region. Francis G. from area 30 Eastern Mass formerly of SENY is our newly elected Northeast Regional Trustee (NERT).

If there is a motion you want to make, for example, a Conference Agenda Item to be sent to the Board for consideration for the 70th GSC, please let our SENY Chair know at least four weeks in advance.

The New York State Informational Workshop will be hosted by us, August 2-4 at Graymoor Spiritual Center. The next time we will host it is 2022. All 4 Areas will be using the website www.nyisw.org for the next five years at least, to ensure continuity, with the web or technology chair of each area consulting with one another. The funds to start the website were taken from the SENY Special events Account, and the other three areas are reimbursing that account (\$500- for 5 years, \$125 each area). It will be up to the future trusted servants to continue it. Please register soon because this will surely fill up. \$195 for all meals and double occupancy lodging for the whole weekend. At NYSIW we will have Spanish translation onsite. The website is also in English and Spanish.

In 2022 HMB will host NERAASA at the Sagamore; HMB was the only bidder for 2022 NERAASA.

Q&A discussed the 2020 International. The Delegate will clarify at Assembly. One issue is whether SENY should get a hospitality room. In answer to questions, the Literature Committee recommended that there be a 5th Edition Big Book but no action was taken, with the caveat that when a 5th Edition is created that it be inclusive. A recommendation is stronger than a consideration: the latter does not require a vote, while the former does, the 5th Edition did not have support of 2/3 of the Conference required to become an Advisory Action. The floor action to remove "Alcoholism at Large" from Grapevine. Was declined to be heard.

This year it costs GSO \$8.06 for each member, this year on August 8th there's a grassroots movement for each member to contribute \$8.06.

Alt-Delegate (Tom B.)

Good evening / Buena Noches – I have the joy to serve all of you as your Alt-Delegate. As many of you here know, this immediate past weekend was the 2019 Northeast Regional Forum, hosted by SENY in Tarrytown, Westchester County. Many of you here were at NERF this past weekend, and I trust that you found it informative, welcoming, and refreshingly honest. At those times I was able to be in the Ball Room, I was blown away once again by what our trusted servants at the bottom of the service triangle do, and who and what they are. Some fast facts for you:

First off: we had 439 registered attendees, of which 190 were at a Regional Forum for the first time. That means that about 43% were “newcomers”, and the remarks I heard on Sunday, both at the mic and from individual conversations, were overwhelmingly enthusiastic and positive – two comments I heard often were “I had no idea what our contribution to GSO does” and “when and where is the next one – I’ll be there!” Secondly, along with almost all of SENY’s geographic counties, our Hispanic District was represented in strength all three days – gracias y felicidades, companeros y companeras!

Finally, not everyone was still around for the closing remarks of Michele Grinberg, our General Service Board Chairperson Sunday morning. I’d like to share several notes (not quotes) with you that I made yesterday while listening to her:

The unofficial 2019 Conference theme for her was “be loving;

Ultimately, the *spiritual* nature of our program is what legitimizes us in the eyes of both the world, and the newcomer;
Anonymity breaches can best be countered by education – as an example, by giving someone a copy of AA Comes of Age.

Additionally, Ms. Grinberg was kind enough to send me the last section of her remarks. This is verbatim:

In processing everything I heard this weekend; I did come away with some questions to consider: (A) what more can each of us do to communicate that AA is welcoming to all? (B) how do we communicate better with each other (C) do we need to do something about a contemporary English translation of our program of recovery and (D) how can we encourage more folks of all ages and backgrounds into our wonderful service structure? As Bill W wrote:

“Honesty with ourselves and others gets us sober, but it is tolerance that keeps us that way.” See you in Detroit, if not before! Gratefully, Michele

A final note: I said something up front about “At those times I was able to be in the Ball Room”. Most of my time over the past three days was spent doing this and that behind the scenes. I want to thank all of you who volunteered and helped make the event a success, from the bottom of my heart. But I also want to tell each of you here about an incredible resource we have in SENY: our DCMCs. Our immediate past Delegate John W. used to call our Service Participation meetings the “DCMC Support Group”. This weekend, I figured out who was supporting whom. I thank you who serve at that level, and I will be forever grateful for the way you held my head above water for the whole weekend.

I am available to facilitate Group and County Inventories, meetings or workshops on Traditions or Concepts. 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 be of service to each and every one of you! Preguntas?

Chair (Jerry R.)

Presents on Concept 6. Apologizes to Spanish-speaking members; our Recording Secretary is delayed in Florida and I made copies of agenda in English but did not make Spanish copies. Thanks to Spanish County for great assembly. And, we are still seeking an Office Manager and Translation Chair. New literature, "Our Great Responsibility," is available for purchase.

Next Assembly will be on 9/14 at Orange County Community College. 7/19-21 will be Al-Anon Discovery. And, info on 2020 Convention available on line.

Treasurer (Joanne M.)

We had quite a few expenses. We paid the accountant and our liability insurance, plus the hospitality room for NERAASA cost us \$1,107, which based on experience at Convention is a good rate. The budget also shows an expense of \$2,650 for the ice cream social, but that's

because the hotel required payment up front for the ice cream, subject to our selling a sufficient amount, and since we made our quota, the hotel will refund the \$2,650.

Tom B. clarified that, with regard to hospitality, because of spirit of rotation we did not realize that the Area not only staffs but funds hospitality. We will note that going forward.

Motion to Accept Treasurer's Report, Seconded, Motion Passed

Registrar:

AirTable workshop this Friday 6/22 for Manhattan County, 6/22. Only DCMs have access to AirTable. Can set up similar for other Counties, can do web meetings, but when you attend, advisable to bring laptop. I will get together with Ray and see what can be streamlined, what's working, what's not. Any feedback please send this month. The Hispanic District. needs registrar. Spoke w. GSO, their new website and system ("FNB") is being updated. Will be undertaking projects to clean up our database, if you are interested in service, please contact me. Lastly, getting strange requests, probably phishing, so please be careful.

Old Business

None

New Business

Motion by Richard S. (DCMC-Westchester): To reimburse the Treasurer and Registrar for their expenses in attending NERAASA, NERF, and NYSIW in the same manner as the Delegate and Alt-Delegate, **Seconded**.

Q&A clarified that the purpose of Motion was to treat Registrar and Treasurer equally with other elected officers and covers hotels and transportation. Meals are not ordinarily reimbursed, although meals are occasionally reimbursed if necessary for business. At NYSIW meals are included because it's a working weekend. Groups and other autonomous entities have different policies. GSO, we are reimbursed for 2 meals and get a stipend. It's a matter of trust under Concept 9. The body discussed the merits of spending 7th Tradition monies: the value of preparing future trusted servants v. spending monies on other matters. Some trusted servants cannot afford to go, and we need to remember our servants are spending the weekends away from family and friends in service. SENY already has a special events line which allows Chairs and Treasurer and Registrar who are not reimbursed to attend any events up to \$500 to attend 1 event during rotation. But the Budget Guidelines are subject to will of this Bod and can be revised by it. More precisely, would be revised in response to this Body. Would cost about \$2,000 more each (for events, registration, transportation, hotels, the bare minimum, and NERD and other "delegate-only" events would not be included), and we have it in budget. Would need to revise Budget and Guidelines as appropriate

Friendly Motion to send matter to Ad Hoc Finance Committee. Clarified that Committee has been addressing this since early 2017, with no action, and the Committee can decide.

Motion to add \$2,000 to Budget for Treasurer and Registrar to attend events. Q&A clarified that this would affect budgeting forward, and that there might be legal issues with earmarking funds. Not Seconded.

Friendly Motion Withdrawn.

Motion Reread. Voting rules reiterated. **Motion Passed** (Minority Opinion solicited, not offered).

Committee Reports

PI (Mike D): Co-Chaired Preconference workshop; Good responses answered questions about groups working within service structure. Connected interested member with Doctor's program. Coordinated with NY I/G. Speakers set for June 8th at Bushwick Leaders for Academic Excellence in Brooklyn. Laura, Joe, and I tabled at Saint Francis College Annual Health Expo April 24 Brooklyn; good time, good discussion. Two Added Events: Interchurch Health Fair, October 23rd, 2019, 10 to 2 PM, at Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, Manhattan, and Orange County Share-A-Day, August 10th,

In Queens Antonio tabled "Unions against Addiction" 6-1 Cunningham Park Queens 9 to 5 10 Unions participated. Keith, Manhattan PI Chair, is meeting w/ GSR's, will be at Manhattan Share-A-Day, and is moving forward with Big Books for Library. In Westchester is Rick involved with Safety Workshop. Joe L., Brooklyn PI Chair, tabled at St Francis Health Fair. Ann, past Nassau PI Chair, dropped pamphlets to Doctors and Long Island Rail Road, sent Letters of Introduction to parole officers

Grapevine (Laura): New Book, Take Me To Your Sponsor, best laughs of recent years from GV, for \$11.50. June 2019 GV, "Letting Go of Resentments," and May/June 2019 La Vina, "Our Big Book 80 Years." Please submit stories to Grapevine (www.aagrapevine.org/contribute) for Spiritual Awakening (Step 2) by 7/20/19, Getting Through Tough Times in Sobriety by 8/20/10. Language of the Heart is available as MP3 download or on CD. La Vina has stories on Character Defects. AA Grapevine is seeking 1 non-trustee Director.

We had committee meeting on April 7th and are discussing a bilingual workshop with District 618 and the Hispanic District. I attended the May 11th Sponsorship Workshop, NERF, and the June 2nd Nassau Unity Breakfast.

Archives (Hank): Met in April, continuing work on oral history and possible workshop at upcoming Assembly, will be at NYSIW displaying SENY history, planning on updating SENY History book, GSO has new guidelines on archives, attending national AA Archives workshop in Detroit in September

Accessibility (Sally B.): Counties are active in Accessibility Commitments: Our last meeting was on Tuesday, May 14. Rockland County has an active Accessibilities Committee meets regularly and is looking into doing service in Nursing homes/assisted living, Sr., Centers, and facilitating

Child Friendly Meetings and working to have a better web presence. While other counties may not have as much committee support, their work is equally as impactful. Nassau has developed the Sober Rollers – an enhanced 12-Step Contact List of AA members AAs who can return a call from an Accessibility needs AA member in distress but can also arrange at least two or three members of Sober Rollers to visit and maybe bring Literature or a meeting to the homebound caller. Also, in Nassau is - We Speak Your Language AA's from Groups who speak languages other than English; available to phone AA's. Brooklyn has a regularly scheduled homebound meeting that continues to be consistently active due to the follow-through of the Accessibilities Chair. Other counties have Potential commitments at a rehab. Manhattan Chairs have had successfully followed up on accessibility assignments from General Service. All of our Chairs are having tables at Share-A-Days. We are aiming to have we have Spanish literature and Braille books on display at all of our tables/events. I attended all three days of NERF with an open ear for ways to improve the accessibilities initiatives throughout Area 49.

Agenda Chair (Laney): Please email the name of your event, location, time, plus a graphic (JPEG ideal, but TIF, whatever), and please nudge me after a week. The calendar is current as of 5/29. One request for anyone who speaks to Spanish who can help with translation.

Service Sponsorship (Richie): Grapevine in Spanish, have and am getting more copies of handbooks in both languages.

Al-Anon (Charlie): Amends for not producing reports for last few months, been busy, getting English and Spanish speakers and topics for July 19th Discovery Conference in West Harrison, Hispanic community in Queens very helpful.

Webchair (Ray): all links on website have been redacted, working w/ Regina on minutes, will be a few months. Considering whether to restructure how we use technology, will be reaching out to officers and other members.

Motion to fund Webchair to attend National AA Technology Workshop, Seconded, Motion Working w/ Regina on minutes, by Acclamation

DCM 302 (Powell): Was voted out of home Group business meeting, been told they can't do this, but Group has befriended church caretaker who has threatened arrest

Literature (Chris): Will be attending multiple events over summer. Our Great Responsibility is available, have sold 50 copies (8 Spanish, 42 English) today, do not have French version yet, we have a link to a mini-catalog showing revised and new literature

County and Spanish Reports:

Hispanic County (Reyna): Share-A-Day this Sunday in Middletown, NY, \$10; Spanish SENY Convention will be in November, registration is \$15, at Hilton. Theme is "From Darkness to the Light."

Manhattan (Vicki): Share-a-Day June 22th, Rent Workshop on June 26th.

Queens (Frank): LISTS on July 14th, Spiritual Breakfast on October 20th.

Nassau (Marty, Alt): May 20 was Bridging the Gap, as mentioned LISTS is upcoming, had our spiritual breakfast yesterday, Districts 208, 209, 211 doing GV workshop in September, and looking at dates in 2020 for GV workshop w/ Spanish County

Putnam (Jimmy): Unity Breakfast on October 20th, on a personal note home group "Plug in Jug" will have 43rd Anniversary on June 14th

Suffolk (Michele, Alt): June 23 will 4th Annual Birthday Brunch in Riverhead

Westchester (Rich): Thanks to everyone for work on NERF, Spiritual BBQ on Sat. August 24th in Ardsley, lots of activities

Orange (Patrick, Alt): Spiritual Breakfast June 30th, finalizing details on September Assembly

Treatment (by Jerry, Chair): Continuing to get Bridging the Gap Requests, all Counties do not have Bridging the Gap reps, makes service harder, anticipate being at Share-A-Days and LISTS.

Link (by Jerry, Chair): September Link cut-off is August 14th, please submit articles of under 350 words.

Intergroup (by Jerry, Chair): June 23rd is next meeting, great time at NERF

7th Tradition is \$199.

9:55: Meeting Closed with Responsibility Statement