

SENY Assembly Meeting Minutes - Approved
Saturday, June 15, 2019
(Hosted by Brooklyn County)

Assembly opening & Welcome by Jerry R. (Area 49 Chair)

Serenity Prayer, Housekeeping

Approval of Minutes from May 4, 2019 Assembly

Motion to accept, seconded, minutes approved.

POST CONFERENCE REPORT:

Delegate – Jane Ehrich, Area 49, Southeastern New York, Treatment and Accessibilities, International Conventions, Regional Forums Conference Committee Chair

The Delegate shared what she saw, heard, and felt at the 69th General Service Conference and reported the following:

The 69th General Service Conference (GSC) was held May 19-25, 2019 at the Crown Plaza Times Square, New York. The first GSC was in 1951. You'll always know what GSC it is by counting from 1950. The well-being of AA as a whole was handed over to the GSC at the 1955 International Convention.

Saturday:

Attended Remote Communities Meeting – held every year before the conference, not an official committee.

Attended 1728 Meeting (12x12x12=1728) (for conference members only).

Buddies – There are 93 Areas in the United States and Canada. Half of the Delegates rotate in on an odd year. New Delegates are assigned a “buddy” who is a Delegate that will be rotating out.

Attended Delegates Only Meeting.

At the remote communities meeting I presented on the Transgender AA and it was incredibly well received.

A Committee Consideration was made for the Archives Committee which included “the committee suggested that the use of gender specific language be avoided, when possible, in future printings of the Archives Workbook.” A seed has been planted.

“I Am Responsible” is one of my take home messages from the conference..

I am responsible..., when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A.
always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

I am Responsible: to write & submit stories when I ask for a new book

I am Responsible: if I choose to use social media to understand and use privacy settings

I am Responsible: to maintain anonymity. Anonymity has not changed since 1939

Sunday –

Roll Call (Jane emotionally described this Spiritual Experience).

Two minute Area highlights to get to know each other – (see Jane’s LINK report).

Upside-down triangle explained.

There are eight regions in the United States and Canada.

Who makes up the conference? More than 2/3 of the voting members of the conference come from the Delegates who represent the groups of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We had presentations all week which will be in the final conference report due out in September in hard copy and the electronic copy will be on the Delegate page as soon as it comes available. In the meantime, every Conference Committee consideration and advisory action is anonymized.

Sunday night we had the first committee meeting on Treatment and Accessibilities.

How the Conference Operates

This slide show will be on line. The questions and answers have been translated into Spanish.

The Spiritual Handshake - The General Service Conference is not a legal entity. The Bi-Laws of the General Service Board are legal instruments. The General Service Board has legal authority. Advisory actions from the conference are carried out by the spiritual handshake between the General Service Conference and the Board. That is what Concept 7 means.

A Committee Consideration is something that the Conference does not vote on but each of the thirteen committees discuss at length and make a consideration of what should or shouldn’t happen. It’s more like a suggestion.

Advisory Action - Represents the informed group conscience of the Fellowship, as the result of the recommendation made by a Conference committee or a floor action, which has been approved by the Conference body as a whole.

Questionnaire Answers – Jane discussed the questionnaire answers. These answers will be available on-line, as will the Power Point presentation.

Interim Report with all Considerations and Recommendations is available on our website, on the “From the Delegate” page.

Jane recommended that everyone read the Communications Audit and Box 459, as well as the Final Report, and to please submit Grapevine stories.

Workshops

Jane thanked SENY for their love and support.

NERT Election – Francis G. of Area 30, formerly of Area 49, was selected to be our Northeast Regional Trustee.

Thanks to everyone of SENY who volunteered on our Hospitality Committee.

AA.org - AAWS Meeting Guide will be up this summer. Please look at “What’s New” tab.

2020 International Convention – July 2-5, 2020 - General consensus was reached to put SENY on the hospitality room list. Registration before April, 2020 is \$115.00, after April it is \$140.00. Hotels are on a first come, first served, basis.

Please check SENY calendar when planning events.

We need to have a lot of discussions, please keep asking, please keep reading the Communications Audit, please keep reading Box 459, please keep being you.....

2019 Northeast Regional Forum (hosted by SENY) – 439 registered attendees with 193 newcomers, and the Hispanic Districts represented in strength. Thank you to all who did service at this event.

I am available to facilitate Group and County Inventories, and to speak at meetings or workshops on Traditions or Concepts.

Delegate's Report Back on the Questionnaire, 69th General Service Conference (GSC), 2019

Do I look different? I certainly *feel* different after attending the GSC. I had an incredibly spiritual week; thank you for all the responses I got from your groups. I'm blessed by you, and completely overwhelmed with gratitude.

“Spiritual Handshake”: The General Service Conference (GSC) is not a legal entity. The bylaws of the General Service Board (GSB) *are* legal instruments; the GSB has legal authority. Advisory Actions from the conference are carried out by the *spiritual handshake* between the GSC and the GSB. Concept VII **Advisory Action** — Represents the informed group conscience of the Fellowship, as the result of the recommendation made by a Conference committee or a floor action, which has been approved by the Conference body as a whole. **Committee Consideration** — An item that was discussed by a Conference committee, but with no action taken or made by the Conference as a whole.

1) Literature: Review proposed revision to A.A. World Services “Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials.” **Committee Consideration:** The committee supports the proposed policy and its intended impact to support more effectively carrying the A.A. message. In keeping with Concept Eight which states in part, “The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) with respect to the larger matters of overall policy and finance, they are the principle planners and administrators...” the committee expressed support for G.S.O.’s publishing professionals and their efforts working on behalf of A.A. In keeping with Concept One which states in part, “The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship,” the committee recognized the importance and the sensitivity of maintaining the integrity of the Conference process for developing and updating literature to best reflect A.A.’s collective experience, strength and hope. The committee requested that the final version of the complete text of A.A. World Services’ “Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” be included as background for future General Service Conference committees. **Advisory Action** (from a floor action) that the “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee with an updated proposed policy to be brought back to the 70th General Service Conference.

2) Treatment and Accessibilities: Consider updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never too Late.” **Advisory Action:** The pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late” be updated with a revised introduction; current and inclusive stories; reference to online A.A.; and an updated “How Do I Find A.A.?” section. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

3) Treatment and Accessibilities: Discuss the concept of posting anonymity-protected interviews on aa.org with military professionals about their experience with A.A. **Advisory Action:** The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/ Treatment and Accessibilities develop anonymity-protected audio interviews with military professionals about their experience with A.A. as a resource for posting online.

4) Treatment and Accessibilities: Consider adding a story from an A.A. member who is deaf to the pamphlet “Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers.” **Advisory Action:** Ashley’s story (an A.A. member who is Deaf) be added to the pamphlet “Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers” and that the video version of the pamphlet be updated to reflect this change. (Note from Jane: the video is in ASL)

5) International Conventions/Regional Forums: Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees. **Committee Consideration:** The Committee suggested compiling notes from the first timer sharing for later distribution to inspire first timers; consider developing a Regional Forum app; consider developing a micro-site for distributing the Regional Forum flyers; increase awareness at the local level, including “intentional” outreach to different populations (we did this!); encourage local welcome committees to create “Save the Date” flyers (we did this!); consider inviting A.A.W.S./AA Grapevine directors to “non-service” A.A. events; place information about Regional Forums in the AA Grapevine and La Viña. Your ideas were creative and inspired the committee.

6) Treatment and Accessibilities: Consider revising the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” to include related corrections activities. **Committee Consideration:** The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities consult with the trustees’ Committee on Corrections to review all treatment and corrections committee literature from G.S.O. related to bridging the gap and temporary contact activities with the following in mind: How treatment and corrections material can be updated for currency and inclusion; How this material could be combined; What material might be discontinued; How the combined material might be broadened to encompass the full range of possibilities in which a temporary contact might be useful. The committee requested that a report be brought to the 2020 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities committee.

7) Literature: Consider requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The Literature Conference Committee recommended that a draft Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* be developed and a progress report be brought to the 2020 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,” and the Appendices remain as is. This item did not receive the 2/3 vote necessary to become an Advisory Action on the Conference Floor. **Committee Consideration:** the committee reviewed the request for the development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* which would include a section of stories comprised of individuals who got sober under the age of 25, and took no action noting that A.A. is inclusive, never exclusive. If a Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* is to be developed the committee suggested that

stories be gathered from as broad a cross-section of the Fellowship as possible, including from those who got sober under 25. **Advisory Action:** from a floor action that “A draft Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed and a progress report be brought to the 2020 General Service Conference” be committed to the trustees’ Literature Committee.

-----“I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to be there, and for that I am responsible.”

The Responsibility Statement is for each one of us AA members. The deadline for Conference Agenda Items for the 70th GSC is December 15, 2019. If you wish to bring an agenda item forward for support from the Area, the item would need to be heard as new business preferably at the September SENY Assembly, but the November is also possible. November just doesn’t give the Area time to think about it more if we need to, to discuss and develop an *informed* conscience. AA moves at the speed of *trust*. It’s best to give the Area Chair 4 weeks advance notice so the agenda can be prepared, disseminated, and the GSRs especially, and other SENY voting members are informed of your proposed agenda item.

The theme for the 70th GSC is “2020: A Clear Vision for You”, with discussion topics of 1) Recovery - Who Is Missing in Our Rooms? 2) Unity - Practicing Our Principles 3) Service - Keeping A.A. Relevant. Often, Districts, Groups, and Counties choose to use these themes for breakfasts and other events.

This report and the Power Point will be posted on [aaseny.org](http://www.aaseny.org) on the From the Delegate page <http://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate> after presentation today (June 15, 2019). The final report from the 69th GSC will be available in hard copy at the September 14 Assembly in Orange County, and the anonymized e copy will be found on the From The Delegate Page once available. In the meantime, an interim report is posted.

The Communication Audit is on the link listed above - it’s a great Summer read; I encourage every AA member to read it.

In closing, I reach out to you from my heart. You are a wonderful, loving, encouraging bunch of alcoholics. I love you.
Jane E.

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?

Alternate Delegate Report – Tom B.: 2019 Northeast Regional Forum, we had 439 registered attendees, of which 190 were at a Regional Forum for the first time. That means that about 43% were “newcomers.

I am available to facilitate Group and County Inventories, and to speak at meetings or workshops on Traditions or Concepts. I would love to come visit your District or your County, just to be available for any questions you might have.

Chair – Jerry R.:

Thanked Hispanic committee for providing us with a great Assembly in Yonkers on May 4.
The Office Manager Chair position is open. We need a coffee maker for the committee meetings.
The Translation Chair position is open.
Thank you all who served, attended, and participated in the 2019 Northeast Regional Forum.
“Our Great Responsibility”, Bill W’s Conference talks from 1951 to 1970, is now available.
2020 International Convention: Visit aa.org for video and info regarding the Convention. Click the link at the top of the page.
Al-Anon Discovery 2019 Convention, July 19-21, Renaissance Westchester Hotel, West Harrison NY
2019 NYSIW - August 2, 3, 4, Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Route 9, Garrison N.Y.
Our next assembly is September 14, 2019 in Orange County
Our next committee meeting is October 7, 2019.

Treasurer – JoAnne M.:

Treasurer’s Report: Motion to accept, seconded, treasurer’s report approved.
7th Tradition: \$228.50

Registrar – Mike D.: (read by Jerry)

Has a meeting with Jerry, e-mail Editor and Website chair to investigate ways to use Airtable, the SENY website, and Mail Chimp, to better serve our groups.
Updating GSO’s database: anticipate launch of a new system in August with How To video.

SENY Convention – Nisaa A:

Please fill out surveys (also available on line). Recommendations: fewer workshops, hold theme meeting in ballroom. Please join convention committee

SENY Convention Treasurer – Heidi:

Net \$7,370.19 and there is \$10,370.19 in the account right now (including seed money).
Scholarships (for registration fee only): \$335.00 in scholarship donations, 29 people received scholarships. 1,171 attendees. Went over budget on hospitality and printing and publicity.
Sold 295 banquets, and we made our room block.

Delegate – Jane E.: Asked the members for permission to sign another contract at the Marriott.
General consensus agreed.

Motion to accept 2019 convention budget, seconded, approved.

Corrections – Eddie D.: had meeting at lunch, has held monthly meetings since March.

Treatment Facilities – Ed M.: Getting more and more Bridge the Gap requests, will be involved in Share-A-Day in Brooklyn and Manhattan, had first committee meeting at Queens Intergroup.

Accessibilities – Sally P.: had productive workshop this morning. All counties have chairs.

Public Information – Mike D.: had a Pre-Conference Workshop, chairs are active.

Grapevine – Sherri A.: Workshop was wonderful. New Book: “Take me to Your Sponsor”. The June Grapevine magazine, Letting Go of Resentments and the LaVina is our Big Book 80 Years. Upcoming stories we are looking for are “My Spiritual Awakening” and “Getting Through the Tough Times”. The Spanish stories they are looking for are “Character Defects”. The Language of the Heart is now available on CD for \$21.00. Grapevine Celebrates 75 Years. Please write your stories and send to grapevine@aaseny.org on how Grapevine has been instrumental in your recovery, 350 words or less, deadline is August 14. Three more counties have chairs. Hispanic District of Area 16 Georgia is doing “Chest of Hope” project to generate gift certificates to LaVina and will go to Hispanic speaking inmates around the U.S. and Canada. To contribute, go to aagrapevine.org and click on Subscribe tab.

Archives – Hank G. (read by Richard): next meeting on Thursday at NYIG. Go to aa.org, “What’s New” for a copy of the “Archives Checklist – A Quick Guide for Local Archivists”. Will be updating Area history book. Last update was in 2010. Hank is planning on attending AA’s National Archives Workshop from 9-5 to 9-8 in Detroit. Next SENY Archives meeting is Tuesday, September 10, 7:00 p.m. Workshop on September 14th on Digital Recording.

CPC – Laura G. (read by Jerry): Will be attending LISTS on July 14th, will be doing workshop at NYSIW.

COUNTY REPORTS:

Hispanic Districts: Raina: Convention will be held in November at JFK Center.

Suffolk – Michelle: Birthday Brunch is June 23rd, tickets available for \$20.00

Bronx – Zack: Spiritual Breakfast, October 27th – tickets are \$31.00 and available in packs of ten

Queens – Frank G.: Spiritual Breakfast October 20th – tickets are available

Westchester – Rich S.: Spiritual BBQ, August 24th, Ardsley – tickets \$5

Bill C.: General Service Conference Hospitality – thanked members on behalf of Linda McG and himself for assistance. Delivered message from Manny A., past SENY Alternate Delegate, thanking members for their prayers and messages.

Manhattan – Keith: Share-A-Day, Saturday, June 22nd. Tuesday is next county meeting.

Staten Island – Andy V.: Share-An-Evening September 28th.
Spiritual Breakfast November 24th, will have tickets in September.

Chair – Jerry R.:

Next Assembly: September 14th at Orange County Community College

Motion to close. Seconded. Meeting adjourned with AA’s Declaration of Unity