June 1, 2020 - SENY COMMITTEE MINUTES - Approved

<u>CHAIR:</u> (Jerry R.) Meeting called to order at 7:33 p.m. Serenity Prayer and AA Preamble, in English and Spanish. Quorum established; and Housekeeping (explanation of voting)

May 4, 2020 minutes approved

OFFICER'S REPORTS

<u>DELEGATE'S REPORT</u> (Jane E): <u>delegate@aaseny.org</u>

Intro... heartfelt thanks to those present for disseminating information to those you serve, and especially about the COVID -19 link on aa.org https://aa.org/pages/en_US/update-on-covid-19-coronavirus, the From the Delegate Page https://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate, the Seventh Tradition Letters from GSO, and the availability for members to make recurrent Seventh Tradition Contributions starting at \$5/month on line on aa.org https://contribution.aa.org/

I'll give a full report back at our Post Conference Assembly, June 13, 9-3:30. Information is on https://www.aaseny.org/ It's a SENY Assembly, it is not a Zoom Assembly. It is a SENY Assembly, held virtually, we happen to be using the Zoom platform, and to call it a Zoom Assembly is a break of Tradition 6. Same goes for AA meetings. They are AA meetings held virtually. They are not Zoom meetings. Tradition 6.

Tonight, I'll report on a few agenda items.

AAWS NTD

I'm sorry to report that John W. SENY delegate Panel 67 is not serving as AAWS NTD yet.

8 Days before the Conference, all delegates received a revision to the background. It included a letter of April 7 from someone who had applied for NTD and was not chosen. She requested an appeal of the process and to disqualify John W. and said this was based on the panel on which he served as delegate.

It turns out there were several versions of the announcement regarding the opening on the AAWS Board. One stated that Panel 67s weren't eligible, another said Panel 68s weren't eligible, and the Box 459 announcement didn't reference panel eligibility at all.

Procedure No. 1 Grapevine and A.A.W.S. Boards Procedures for Nominating Corporate Board Directors, states "Past Delegate – not eligible until one year after rotation.", which is usually understood to mean not eligible to serve until one year after rotation. I look forward to this procedure being clarified. John's qualifications as the best candidate are clear and at the GSC were affirmed by AAWS. At Conference, several delegates expressed concern about an unclear process getting in the way of his appointment. During discussion, your delegate shared:

I support the full slate forwarded by the GSB to the GSC

"...we expect that our Conferences will always try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love — one member for another" -Bill W. on Concept VII

Bill W. wrote on Concept IX:

"when we talk about A.A. leadership we only declare that we ought to select that leadership on the basis of obtaining the best talent we can find."

Our Board has done so.

Will we, decide to negate the Board's choice for AAWS Director based on an unclear procedure that will be clarified as noted by both the Board and our Conference Committee on Trustees? Or will we approve the best talent we can find? In the end, substantial unanimity could not be met by either the GSC or the GSB and the AAWS Board has a vacancy.

I see opportunities for growth here, one of which is to be guided by the *spiritual intent* of all 36 principles. Another thought is around clarity in processes. Is it coincidence that we're reviewing are SENY Handbook this evening?

<u>Service Manual</u> the Report and Charter Committee reviewed the draft of the new Service Manual and requested that an updated draft be brought to the 71st GSC.

<u>Finance</u> the slide show so many AAs enjoy, "The Picnic Table" is up on https://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate. The 2019 Final Report is not final, nor audited and, due to COVID 19 the original 2020 budget is under review. There will be a virtual finance meeting with all 70th GSC members, so the delegates (for the groups) will be updated.

<u>IC</u>: There will be a virtual celebration of the International Convention on the https://www.aa.org/ convention site, which will include the presentation of the 40 millionth copy of the Big Book. This celebration will be available all throughout the month of July. Once up and running members can visit at any time and as many times as they like.

2023 NERAASA will be held in Area 59 Eastern PA

2023 NERF will be held in Area 61 Rhode Island (it's not a road, and it's not an island).

<u>Delegate's Activities</u> since our last Committee meeting: 70th GSC, 2 Preconference Sessions to meet jointly with the Trustees and to reduce agenda items for the Treatment/Accessibilities and the IC/RF Committees, JOS hosted by Putnam, 5 meetings of the Northeast Regional Delegates, a GSC Conference Delegate Chair meeting, spoke at several meetings including the Westchester General Service Meeting, and attended or spoke at workshops on Safely Reopening meetings. My notes are on the https://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate

SENY is having a workshop called "The return of In Person Meetings" June 20 at 10am-noon, held virtually. Please mark your calendars and join in.

<u>SENY Convention</u>: Our 2021-2023 SENY Convention Contract was signed February 27, 2020. The 2021 SENY Convention is scheduled for March 3-5, I would have liked it to be later, but the Marriot had two weekends available in 2021, the other would have conflicted with the Hispanic Asamblea and Sullivan County's GS meeting.

On March 13, 2020 I sent a letter to your Chair for the Marriott, invoking the impossibility clause for our 2020 Convention, so we would be free of the cancellation fee of \$60K; I'm flagging this for you. We do not know where we will be with COVID 19 in March of 2021. Please know that the impossibility clause is in the 2021-2023 contract.

Due to COVID-19, we cancelled our SENY Convention; other Areas are cancelling their conventions, too. For example, the Massachusetts State Convention was cancelled, scheduled for November. In addition to the cancellation of the 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, the World Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous scheduled for October has been cancelled. In addition, the Western Canada Regional Forum, the Pacific Regional Forum, and the Eastern Canada Regional Forum, scheduled for May, August, and November have been cancelled.

September 12 SENY Elections- Your officers agreed unanimously to hold our SENY Elections virtually. In SENY, your Area Chair arranges for the venue, all outreach regarding directions to the Assembly, and matters of getting the word out (calendar, LINK, emails, and so on). Your seated delegate chairs the elections. Moving to a virtual election this year might have been challenging, but fortunately, your delegate served at the 70th General Service Conference, where we voted anonymously, using polling and even a virtual hat. The GSC Tech Special workers who set up and ran the voting at the GSC were expert, it was seamless. We officers agreed I'd reach out to the two leads, I did, they met with our TCO, and will work at our elections as special workers.

Please DCMCs: if any GSRs, RSGs, DCMs, or MCDs in your county do not have a laptop, or a desktop, or a tablet, or a smart phone, I encourage you to think about how their need for one can be met for the elections. SENY is blessed to have a highly capable, loving group of DCMCs. I know you'll come up with great ideas. Please feel free to reach out to your delegate, I love to hear innovative service ideas. Tradition 3 informs us to be inclusive and accessible; some members do not have a device to get to virtual meetings, and some, get to more than ever. For example, I was on an AA meeting with a member who got to one or two meetings a week for 18 years in her wheelchair. She now goes to 2-3 virtual AA meetings a day.

The next Committee meeting is after the elections in September. Voting members of the SENY Committee are eligible to stand for SENY Office. This circles back to the Service Manual, which did not get its proposed complete revision this year. Our service manual informs us that anyone standing for delegate be familiar with the entire service manual, has read the last 2-3 years of GSC Final reports, AA Comes of Age, and have a working knowledge of all 36 Spiritual principles. I trust that it comes as a relief that a complete overhaul of the service manual was not approved this year.

In practicing Concept IX, I vote for the best possible candidate. At my group this has at times meant that I did not vote for my best friend, but for the member who would serve the group best. Same for the County and Area level, I vote for who would serve best, principles before personalities. I do the same at work when sitting on hiring Committees. "When we talk about A.A. leadership we only declare that we ought to select that leadership on the basis of obtaining the best talent we can find."

- Q. How soon will they address the matter of the Non-Trustee Director?
- A. We do not have a date

John W., past delegate (Panel 67): My mantra after battling throat cancer last year, followed by a global pandemic, is my third step practice is really strong. I'm clearly disappointed. What happens next? Very soon there will be a posting in Box 459 for two openings on the AAWS Board, and I will apply again. Hopefully, I will get an interview. If I don't get an interview, I'm not going to appeal it.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT (Tom B): altdelegate@aaseny.org

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

Our Delegate Jane has just given you a great deal to absorb and think about, and I hope and pray you will do just that, as the trusted servant leaders of SENY. Leadership in A.A. is critical, and as I've said before, that leadership is embodied in the people attending this meeting.

The first part of my report involves safety, and more specifically the speed with which we move from virtual meetings back to live meetings – and remember, they are *all* A.A. meetings, whether they exist in one, two or three dimensions. I'll ask you to remember that A.A. has various guidelines, but no opinions on issues such as the current pandemic.

So I won't give you any opinions tonight – I'll throw a bit of data your way, and tell you what I intend to do over the next few months. The data is gathered from statistical analysis in the NY Times as of this afternoon. If you want to see this single-page worksheet, email me at altdelegate@aaseny.org, and I'll be glad to send it to you.

To date, there have been 376,250 cases of Covid-19 reported in NY State, of which 29,766 have died – a mortality rate of 7.9%. In SENY's 12 counties, the numbers are 348,553 cases (92.6% of the state total), and 28,087 deaths (94.4% of the state total). The mortality rate in Westchester is 4.5%; in Suffolk 4.9%, in Nassau 6.5%, and in NY City 10.1%. If you're in a higher-risk category, you can move those percentages up – I don't have that data.

Let me put it another way: If I catch the virus here in Suffolk County, I have at least a one-in-20 chance of cashing out. If I live in the five boroughs, that number increases to over 1-in-10. I don't like those odds, and it took me too long to receive the gift of sobriety, so I will continue to exercise extreme care and prudence. That's the first part of my two-part A.A. action plan.

The second part is to find better ways to serve SENY – and to try to think outside my own box. If you've listened to Jane and read the Concepts (at least Concept III), you know the importance of always being as fully informed as possible. For me, that means keeping an open mind. And because I kept an open mind at our Committee meeting four weeks ago, I realized that I have more work to do, and perhaps a few amends to make.

After my report last month, one of the DCMs who has become a special friend asked me if I would be doing group inventories on line. I replied that I felt they should be done in person, because of the sensitive nature of an inventory, and because it needed to be done in confidence and anonymity. Yet the more I thought about it over the following weeks, the more I realized I was off-base: if a group asks for an inventory, and feels that it will work in a virtual medium, then who am I to lay out different ground rules?

And so, I will be reaching out this week to the 4 or 5 groups (and one county) that I postponed over the past two months, and I will ask them what *they* would like to do as far as rescheduling their inventories. Because I have to remember *why* I do *what* I do – it's to serve the groups in SENY, and to serve A.A. Period.

So I will say this yet again, with no qualifications this time: I am available to facilitate Group and County Inventories, help with meetings or workshops, and to talk about Traditions or Concepts. I would love to visit your group. And beyond being available, I am 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. Questions / Preguntas?

CHAIR'S REPORT (Jerry R.) chair@aaseny.org

Concept of the Month-Concept VI

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiatives and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

June Historical Dates

June 1st, 1949- Anne Smith, Dr. Bobs wife, died.

June 10th, 1939- Dr. Bobs last drink and the official founding date of A.A.

June 11th, 1945- Twenty five hundred attend AA.s 10th Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

June 16th, 1938- Jim Burwell" The Vicious Cycle" in the Big Book had his last drink.

June 18th, 1940- One hundred attend the first meeting in the first Clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th Street, New York City.

June 21st, 1944- The first issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 26th, 1935- Bill Dotson. (AA#3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

June 28th, 1935- Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital.

June 30th, 1941- Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

Chair Report

Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during this uncertain time.

The Quarantine has slowed us all up a bit but because of this virtual platform I have been able to be part of many gatherings of different venues.

We had an Officers meeting on Memorial Day.

This past Saturday, I was able to be a visitor at Area 48's May Assembly. It's always interesting seeing how other Areas function. Last week I visited our SENY office with Tom B., our Alt- Delegate, to retrieve the mail and check on our conference room.

Future Dates of importance

June 13th- S.E.N.Y. Assembly (Virtual)

July 31st- August 2nd- NYSIW- Hosted by Area 50, Western N.Y.

September 12th- S.E.N.Y. Election Assembly. (Virtual)

October 5th- S.E.N.Y Committee meeting.

November 2nd- S.E.N.Y. Committee meeting.

November 14- S.E.N.Y. Assembly.

December 7- S.E.N.Y. committee meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Joann M.) treasurer@aaseny.org

Income for the month 8,052.72 Total expenses for month 3,279.56

Significant drop in expenses because not much is going on. The biggest expense is the office expenses and the SENY services (interpretation services, archives storage).

To donate on Venmo, if you do not want to scan the QR code, search "aaseny.org".

To donate to SENY, go to aaseny.org, click on "Keep the Area Self-Supporting", and click on "Contribute Here".

7th **Tradition:** \$127.00

Treasurer's report accepted.

TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: (Mike D.) registrar@aaseny.org

Commend everyone for going digital so quickly. We are accomplishing in a couple of months what would have taken decades.

We held our second SENY Tech Committee meeting last month. We are looking for help and input.

What do we do in the Tech Committee? We started out with reports from the trusted servants who deal with technology, like the e-mail update editor, the web chair, the agenda chair, and then open the meeting to informal chat about how we can support this area moving into the digital age at a rapid pace. Our next meeting is this Thursday, all are welcome. Info is on www.aaseny.org/tech. We are considering a tech workshop for the Area. We are also building resources that are area 49 specific. We will cull that info from the technology in AA forum which I linked to earlier. Questions about digital 7th tradition, on-line meeting formats, how to support members that aren't familiar with email. We are working with an outside vendor to get elections set up. An e-mail will be coming out shortly, from the Area, with a link to the general meeting for that day. All are welcome to attend. A separate link will be sent to voting members of the Area the night before the election assembly. Therefore, we need a current list of email addresses.

How is the Tech Committee supporting DCM's, DCMC's. At the moment we are only setting up and facilitating Zoom meetings for standing Area committee chairs. IF DCM's and DCMC's need help setting up Zoom meetings, it is our goal to help you get self-sufficient. If you really need us to set up the meeting for you, we can, but we really want to train you to do it yourself. Regarding election support, same deal.

If you are interested in joining the Tech committee, go to aaseny.org/tech and sign up.

No further movement from GSO on new database that they are creating.

Q: How do I get a copy of the digital GSR kit? A: Send email to Mike.

2020 SENY CONVENTION CHAIR - Rich N.: (convention@aaseny.org)

We had our monthly meetings, had program finalized but not printed. We did do a lot of printing, though. Budget started at \$3,000, had to ask for \$4,000 to cover convention expenses. We had sold over 400 registrations for the event, over 200 banquet tickets sold. Completed task of refunding monies. Got the word out that hotel reservations needed to be cancelled on your own.

\$2,523.00 returned to SENY. Compiled a packet on a flash drive and will pass it on to the next committee.

\$709.59 will be transferred by JoAnn to the convention account and will show on the June report.

SENY HANDBOOK UPDATE 2020 - Handbook Update Editor, Mike O.: (handbookeditor@aaseny.org)

Handbook is done. Email was sent out the other day to indicate there were some clarification of duties between TCO and Chair. Technically we are amending the TCO and Chair positions slightly to clarify who appoints who.

Minor changes were also made to positions to conform with style.

Added footnote to clarify that the GSO is in the process of updating the database and add that the service numbers that the GSR's have been using for years should be updated at some point.

Motion to accept the handbook as presented
Seconded
29 in favor, 2 not in favor
Two minority opinions were voiced
One person would like to change their vote
Does the body wish to reconsider the original motion?
Clarification made by Mike regarding one of the minority opinions
Poll launched to vote whether or not to reconsider
10 in favor, 19 not in favor, 2 abstentions
Motion passes

Standing Committee Reports

<u>Grapevine – Sherri A</u>.: (grapevine@aaseny.org)

Grapevine/La Vina is still here to help: Grapevine Print Issues Jan-May and La Vina Print Issues Jan/Feb - May/June will remain available and FREE until further notice. CARRY THE MESSAGE PROJECT CONTINUES.

June issues of Grapevine and La Vina are the annual Prison Issues: How AA's recovered Inside and Outside of prisons, jails, detention centers.

Grapevine Special: You are invited to enter the world of Grapevine, a sober world filled with love, laughter, hard work and spiritual growth that stand at the heart of OUR lifesaving fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Personal experiences of recovery, unity, and service are available in a three-volume book set, The Best of Grapevine: Volumes 1, 2, and 3 for only \$23.00. Grapevine APP has been replaced with Epub. Features include: user friendly valuable sobriety tool 24/7 Access readable on all computers, laptops, tablets and smart phones. Downloadable audio files of each issue, every story every month and PDF for offline reading access. Archive Access to all 2020 issues with an email notification when each issue is ready with a link to the site, All for \$19.99 annual subscription fee.

Area 49 has been asked to participate in a Workshop hosted by Area 17, Hawaii. It is on Saturday, June 20th at 3:00 p.m. Please email Sherri for ID number and password.

<u>Archives – Hank G.</u>: (archives@aaseny.org) Workshop 10/10/20 – Topics are county history and SENY's response to Covid 19. Updating history book. If county archives need digital copies of their county histories up to 2011, please email me. Next meeting is June 23rd at 7:00 p.m. I will get the ID to the agenda chair and it will be available to you.

<u>PI – Mike D</u>.: (pi@aaseny.org) The Corona virus impact has put planned activities on hold for now. The committee turned to other methods to carry our message to the Public. Happy to report we now have PSAs on WINS, WHUD, and WXPK and are in contact with WFAN, thanks to the efforts of our Westchester Chair Kevin T. The June 20 workshop has been postponed.

Intergroup Liaison - Mel R.: (intergroup@aaseny.org)

We had our last meeting on May 24th. Folks talked about virtual meetings, meetings opening up. Intergroup's are talking about having a voice/vote at the assembly. Next meeting is June 28th, time TBD.

<u>Corrections – Eddie D.: (corrections@aaseny.org</u> Continuing to meet on a monthly basis. All correctional facilities across the state are closed to volunteers. Locally we have been working with local Intergroup's CPFC corrections chairs. Having technical issues with phone calls between members inside and volunteers. We are working on that. Encourage members to write to members on the inside. Eddie (PI) and I will be speaking on NY Inter Group's annual TFC conference, next week. Info is on NYIG's page.

<u>Agenda - Jeannette K.:</u> (agenda@aaseny.org) Please check status of postings. If your status is changing, or the posting needs updating, please let me know.

<u>Treatment – Ed M.: (tf@aaseny.org)</u>

Our service, like others in AA and the whole world, has been disrupted. But twelve step work continues, and alcoholics still recover. I received a phone call from a gentleman in Long Island. It took a moment to remember who he was. He was one of the first Gap requests we received last year from a trusted servant in Florida. He was calling to thank me for the Bridging the Gap program, and to inform me he was celebrating one year on May 27th. Though he was thanking me, I reflected on how many people had collectively made that possible, in multiple states, areas, and counties.

Typically our area committee gets 2-3 gap requests from other areas per month. Also, New York Inter Group gets about six per month. We have not received any gap requests in our area since the first week of March.

Before Covid there were well over 1,000 meetings sponsored in Treatment Facilities monthly in Area 49. So I can only draw the conclusion that without the ingoing meetings Into facilities, our Bridging the Gap program suffers. Without the presentations directly to the clients in these facilities, there has been little demand. When the situation normalizes we will need to devote more energy into presentations to professionals in the recovery field to help increase the demand for this service.

New York Inter Group has had limited success with bringing online meetings into facilities, but Rockland Inter Group has had much success in this area, and sponsors one or more Online Meetings in Treatment Facilities every single day. Also, this week at Rockland Inter Group there will be a motion to consider their own adoption of a Bridging the Gap Program. I look forward to the Post Conference Meeting on June 13th, when we will hear an update on the possibility of a Bridging the Gap Workbook and also the proposed, reorganized, Bridging the Gap pamphlet.

And lastly, but maybe most importantly, we had an Area Treatment Facilities Zoom Meeting, and were reminded that we are more than the sum of our parts.

COUNTY REPORTS

<u>Nassau – Marty K., Alt. DCMC:</u> Next meeting is June 15th. Every officer has an email now. Virtual Corrections workshop July 20. Theme is "Our Primary Purpose". Received permission from Nassau County jail to bring in literature. We notified Intergroup and they will compile literature.

<u>Putnam – Jimmy Z.:</u> We are having virtual meetings. Heard a rumor that the school may not be open in September so we might have a problem with the assembly but won't know until September. October Unity breakfast is up in the air. All our meetings are on Intergroup website.

<u>Brooklyn – Colleen V.:</u> (dcmc@brooklynaa.org) Brooklyn County is working on having a Share-A-Day on June 27th. Trying to connect with some of the Spanish speaking groups in Brooklyn to host a meeting at that SAD. Had conversations about paying rent. Next conversation is going to be about our spiritual breakfast. Discussed meeting outside and commemorating Brooklyn AA people we have lost. BBQ will not be happening this year.

Westchester – Rich S.: (dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org)

We held our first GSA meeting on May 20th, Jane came and spoke. Announced that our PI rep, Kevin, had succeeded in getting some radio stations to run PSA's. Started today on WXPK. June 8th they will be running on WFAN. Going ahead and planning for BBQ August 29th, and our Share A Day on October 17th.

<u>Rockland – Bob C.:</u> (dcmc@aarockland.org) We worked with Intergroup to create virtual meetings in the county, that has been ongoing since March 19th. Intergroup has requested that they maintain these meetings going forward, so once this pandemic is over, those with accessibilities needs will still be able to participate. Discussion at our last meeting of moving accessibility over to Intergroup and the decision was made that we will allow Intergroup to continue with virtual meetings. We will maintain our accessibility chair with same duties that they have in the county.

<u>Manhattan – Mike O.:</u> (<u>dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org</u>) Next county meeting in June 16th, will put inventory on agenda. Districts are doing workshops.

<u>Queens – Frank G.: (dcmc@qcgsa.org)</u> Meeting on the 29th. Will ask Delegate to speak a little bit. Spiritual Breakfast has not yet been cancelled. Share A Day has been postponed, but not cancelled. Will be sometime in the fall.

<u>Hispanic - Reina R.:</u> (<u>distritoshispanos@aacdhseny49.org</u>) National convention for September has been cancelled. We are still doing Zoom meetings. Some groups are re-opening. Trying to get virtual meeting with DCM's but they are reluctant to use that platform. I was asked to participate in the virtual International Convention.

Orange – Frank D.: (frankocdcmc@gmail.com) Breakfast removed from June 21 and we will either cancel or reschedule.

Close with AA's Declaration of Unity – 10:26 pm

Next Committee Meeting: October 5, 2020 - Virtual - Details TBD Next Assembly: June 13th - Virtual - ID 968 4375 2716, PW 316685,

Dial in: 646-876-9923