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Final Approved 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, March 7, 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 @ 7:34pm

- Serenity Prayer Rick W., Chair
- Preamble – Jane E. , Suffolk / Preambulo – Fernando, Westchester
- Daily Reflection (Reflexión Diaria) – Pat, Queens
- 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

Approval of Minutes from Previous Committee Meeting (*Aprobación del Acta de la reunión anterior del Comité*) • Motion made and seconded.

• Yes= 44 No= 0 Abs = 1

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

- Delegate's Questionnaire has been distributed in numerous forms. Not a lot of new material, only four questions this year. A different twist for the Day of Sharing. Instead of open meeting at the end of the day we will have presentations at the start of the day to guide people on how items end up on delegate's questionnaire. Many items have to do with pamphlets that are being updated or new pamphlets that are being created. Also a brainstorming of the GS Feasibility study. Please bring questionnaire back to group and discuss it. These are due back by APRIL 9th. That is the absolute last day for questionnaire's to be received. Earlier is better!

- Attended EACYPAAs emphasized the importance of young people taking a look at the young people's pamphlet.
- Questions:
- Can you explain more about the feasibility study? We aren't at a point to discuss it yet, we will be at a point to discuss it after the Conference

Alternate Delegate: John W., altdelegate@aaseny.org

- Attended EACYPAAs Convention. It was a huge success. They are dispersing their surplus funds and will be sending SENY a donation.
- Attended elections for NYCYPAA. It was wonderful to see. Jenny from Brooklyn is the new SENY liaison.
- Jon B is the chair of WORYPAA a new committee for Westchester, Orange, Rockland Young People's. Jon came up and requests increased participation. Anyone interested, please contact him.
- This Thursday is the next Service Participation Meeting we will be discussing the upcoming Conference and will discuss more the feasibility study.
- Will attend NERD and Westchester's County meeting and the SENY Convention. Please come to view some of the videos. They are amazing historical videos. They are powerful, you owe it to yourself to see these videos.

Thank you again for the privilege to serve.

Treasurer: Manny A., treasurer@aaseny.org

1. Feb financials were distributed.
Motion to accept. Seconded.
Y = 45 N = 0 Abs = 6
Motion Carries.
2. 7th Tradition passed - \$ 140

Registrar: Fred M., registrar@aaseny.org

Tonight's count: DCMs = 29 DCMCs = 9 Committee Chairs = 9 Officers = 5
 Alt DCMs = 11 Alt DCMCs = 4 Past Delegates = 2

The Delegate's Questionnaire mailing has been deployed in both English & Spanish. A huge thank you to the Nassau County Registrar Marty K. for going above & beyond in helping me.

I owe the Area an amends, however. In my haste to get the questionnaire out as quickly as possible, I used "Area 49 of AA" in the return address instead of "SENY Area 49". I realized my mistake the day after I sent it out. It will not be a mistake I ever repeat. I have ordered enough envelopes to last the remainder of the rotation with the correct address printed on them.

On a more positive note, I sent out my first email newsletter campaign to our ~1,700 English subscribers, which was dedicated to the Delegate's Questionnaire. It had our highest open and click

rates yet, excluding campaigns where we only emailed a small fraction of the list:

- 41% open rate (more than 25% increase over the list average of 32%)
- 15% click rate (almost 4x as much as the list average of 4%)

I've asked Rick to pull me into future campaigns as he has been handling the newsletter — I think we have a lot of opportunity to continue to build deeper engagement. As a small example, in this campaign I did our first A/B test to date: I tested the subject lines "Delegate's questionnaire is released!" and "Is your group important enough?" There was no statistical difference in open rates, but it was a worthwhile exercise. I have some ideas for more useful ways to test subject lines as well as send times.

Last note on this campaign: I'm still waiting on Spanish translation of the email, so it hasn't gone out to our Hispanic subscribers yet. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

I attended NERAASA, including the Registrar roundtable both nights. Almost all of the other Registrars are extremely overwhelmed by their workload and the inefficiency of FNV (as am I some days) - typically they are spending 10 - 30 hours per week on their Registrar responsibilities, most of them on the higher end of that range. I explained the alternative approach I've taken, which almost everyone was receptive to by the end of Saturday night. Most of them were so exhausted in just getting by with their service responsibilities that they didn't have a moment to look up and ask whether what we're doing with FNV makes sense. I think there's more support in the Northeast Region now for considering a broader range of possibilities in how we approach data management. There's at least one other Area who is checking out the same tool as us - I spent about 90 minutes on Saturday getting Area 47 set up at their Registrar's request.

At the last Assembly I announced that I could offer DCMs real-time views into our database for just their district as a resource to help them keep their groups & GSRs connected. I'm happy to report that 8 DCMs representing 11 districts have taken me up on this, and in most cases it's radically improved the accuracy of the Area's data. If you're a DCM and you'd like this resource as well, just email me at registrar@aaseny.org.

I also held a workshop to invite counties to use the Area's database as their own, which would simplify registration, improve the quality of both Area & County data, and make things much easier for county registrars & secretaries. Option #1 is to use the same database, and option #2 is to use the same tool but separate databases.

- Orange, Rockland, Brooklyn, Bronx - Upper Manhattan, and Westchester have opted for #1, and I am moving forward with them right away.
- Manhattan and the Hispanic Districts have opted for #2, so I will pivot to them as soon as I get the first five set up.

- I'm thrilled to already have adoption from 7 of the 13 counties, and look forward to hearing from Suffolk, Nassau, Queens, Staten Island, Putnam, and Sullivan.
-

I'm hoping to deploy the next mailing, which is for the April 9th Assembly, by this weekend at the latest. This will be about one week earlier than the last minutes mailing. I am waiting on Spanish translation of the minutes from the February Assembly. If you're interested in helping with the mailing, please let me know. It will be taking place one night this week, or during the day this upcoming weekend, in Soho. If there's enough of us, we can knock it out in an hour or two. I could really use the help.

Chair: Rick W., chair@aaseny.org

First, I am happy to announce that we are adding some new trusted servants to our SENY family - one who was appointed earlier to the LINK layout and design position, but who has decided to accept the appointment of the full on LINK Editor position - please welcome Domi E. Domi, would you like to say a few words to the committee? And, I would like to introduce my appointment to the Grapevine Chair position - Kay E. From Orange County. Kay approached me directly expressing interest in the position. After having a conversation and taking with her about the responsibilities of the position with her, and encouraging her to talk to her service sponsor and the Orange County DCMC, Mike D. about it - she came back to me and said she would love to take the position. Kay, would like you to say a few words? A big thank you to each of these amazing ladies who have stepped up to service in Area 49.

Also, I am still looking for one more committee member who would be interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Finance committee. It is a multi-year commitment. If you, or if you know of someone who is interested, please let me know. I'm also still entertaining interest in the 2017 convention chair position. I will be talking to Jarrett D. Our current chair, as well as looking outside the committee, but would like to get this position appointed soon.

For those of you who have not heard, our dear friend and longtime trusted servant Dorothy D.'s brother Dennis passed away on March 1st. As many of you know, Dorothy has performed endless service for NY Intergroup and SENY for over 30 years. She is not reading emails at the moment, but would be happy to hear from you. Her number is [212-683-3779](tel:212-683-3779).

Next, I had the honor of speaking twice at the recent EACYPAA Convention and the most exciting part was when I got to address convention attendees on Saturday night at their General Session before the main speaker. The main reason I was asked to speak was to talk about the importance of young people in AA getting and being involved in the general service structure because THEY are the future of A.A. I had many young people come up to me after I spoke and thanked me for my service, as well as many of them letting me know that they agreed with my comments.

Next, I also had the opportunity to attend the 2016 NERAASA in Springfield, MA and attended many wonderful service related events where I learned a lot about not only what is going to be discussed at this year's General Service Conference, but I had the honor of being the recording moderator of the Area Chair Roundtables that were chaired by our very own Cookie S., SENY Past Delegate. Some of the

highlights that were discussed by the 18 NE Regional Area Chairs in attendance were:

- Decreases in area participation/engagement
- Working with Intergroups
- “Selling” service in general
- Better supporting Districts in the Area
- Needs of remote communities (geographical & linguistic)
- Addressing conflict with the Area
- An Area Chair Quote: “I believe that if we want to see our Districts change, we need to be that change ourselves.”

Next, we have already begun to address the action items that came from the area inventory. A handful of them were executed at the last assembly in the Bronx. In an effort to keep the area informed on our progress, I am working on a way to continually make progress reports available to you. We WILL have them all completed by the end of this year.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we have a location for the April 9th Assembly. It will be at:

- PS 84 – The José de Diego School, 250 Berry Street, Brooklyn, NY , 11249
- The school is easily accessible by both the B32 & Q59 bus as well as a short 8 block walk from the Marcy Ave J/M & Z trains.
- Thanks to Evelyn R. & Richard S. (DCMC) and the amazing team at Brooklyn General Service for all of the hard work in securing this location. We thank them for their service and look forward to an amazing assembly on April 9th.

Old Business (Asuntos Pendientes)

- None

New Business (Asuntos Nuevos)

1. Alt Delegate in response to the Area Inventory is suggesting two service workshops: Westchester May 14th and Nassau in the fall, half day work shop to expose people in the counties to service at the SENY level and at the County level. Open to all of SENY. Asking tonight for \$500 for the first workshop.

Motion made and seconded

Discussion:

- That is the day after Corrections Connection. Have you done research into the feasibility? Yes framework is done. We have reserved the space but have not spent any money.
- Workshops seem to be more localized, why isn't the county doing these? It is a response to the Area Inventory that the Area wants more service workshops to encourage service participation. We are trying to use this budget line to present regional workshops, not local workshops.
- I thought that line was for County's to put on workshops. A SENY Workshop should be from a N

-From the Inventory, we need to do more things to better engage GSR's in Area 49. We thought this would be a better way to bring a workshop to the levels.

-We need to fill this request and need at this point.

Is the money going to come from that line of Service Workshops? It is requested to come from that line.

Yes = 49 No = 4 Abs = 3

Motion Carries

Minority Opinion: To say that you aren't taking all of the money from that line but this will deplete that line. If that money is gone, then a County needing that money will be it is not available.

- It seems like there are a ton of places to go for service, we need to get different people coming to the service opportunities.

- I am having issues with the semantics. If this is a SENY Workshop, it doesn't make sense to take money from a County Workshop line.

Motion to reconsider made and seconded

Reconsider: 8

Consider vote as final: 41

Vote is final

2. Link Editor spoke about the goal for the Link Committee to try to update the Link and to help GSR's to connect with information about the Conference and Concepts. We have invited GSR's to submit articles along with Committee Chairs to that. I have been including excerpts from Box 459 and Markings on the Journey. Your feedback is crucial to help us make progress. We are making visual improvements for accessibility. We have changed the font and have increased the graphics. The graphics are all from our own literature. We have tried using a two color process It does cost a little more per link (\$.12 vs \$.15) I would request an additional \$1600 for the LINK line item to cover two color processing for the remainder of this year.

Motion Made and seconded

Discussion:

- The entire budget is spent on printing.

- I noticed that the LINKS are showing up on the website and I am wondering if we might want to consider reducing the number of copies and that might curtail costs.

Request for Web Chair on April 9th to get the number of downloads to see about that.

- Where will this money come from? We will have money to cover that because not all of the committees and chairs use up their budget.

- How will we judge the effectiveness of the change? I am asking the body to help us through informal conversations to get information back to us this information. From the ad in the last Link of requesting articles from GSR's, we got 7 articles.

Yes = 42 No = 3 Abs = 6

Motion Carries

Minority Opinion:

It doesn't seem that we have an effective way of comparing whether the spending is worthwhile.

3. Box 459 wants all area input on Public Information, but it was left out of the Delegate's Questionnaire. This is an important item and I would like to request this item be added to the questionnaire.

-The discussion that is going to take place is a review and an update using the information that was reported from last year. It is information that is going to be given to the Delegates, not information looking to get from the Delegates yet. It seems to be the trend that there is not much to put in the Delegates questionnaire when there is no action being taken yet, but just recommendations at this time.

Translation: It has been a challenge.

DCM Q& A Forum:

District seems to be having a problem with safety in the rooms. Is this a wider issue? There seem to be boundary issues and they want the district involved. We did a workshop on safety in AA and this seems to still be an issue and I am wondering if other people are having the same issue. Looking for ideas

- We did a lot of work on this in NYCYPAA. There was a lot of energy about creating literature about this. While we can't ban someone from AA, a group can ban someone from their group. Also, if someone is doing something illegal, it ceases to be an AA issue and becomes a criminal justice issue.

- We have covered that issue in our group and while we have not asked someone to leave AA, we have asked people to leave our group. We have contacted GSO.

DCM's be thinking for the next meeting, you can use this forum as your outlet to get input and information.

Standing Committee Reports (Informes del Comité Permanente)

1. **SENY Liaison to Intergroup** – SENY Liaison quarterly meeting will be held in Nassau Intergroup Office on Sunday March 13, 2016 at 12 noon. Nassau Intergroup 361 Hempstead Turnpike, West Hempstead, NY 11552. All Intergroups are invited to attend refreshments will be served. Intergroups will make reports and share experiences that they feel of interest to attendees. All groups are encouraged to support your representative office and make group changes on an as needed basis so that accurate meeting dates and times are maintained. You are encouraged to use the pie chart for suggested contributions to entities. In the roundtable discussion at NERAASA it was noted that a 123th step roster that was current and accurate was difficult to be maintained by the various intergroup offices. You are encouraged to help intergroup maintain such a listing. Liaison is awaiting information on Sullivan County intergroup meeting as well as Putnam County. Liaison is requesting contact information on liaison to intergroup so that we may discuss any issues of interest.
2. **Public Information:** Feb 16th had PI meeting. Had people from intergroup on the conference line. We has table at EAYSPAA. Worked with young people to get young people to take more information about PI back to their groups. Did a presentation on literature at NERAASA. Got lots of information about other areas and other CPC committees at the round tables. Other areas wanted to know how we made it happen in getting our cooperative relationship with our intergroup. We all could be tipsters. If you know anything that would help carry this message in PI, please let us know. Please reach out.
3. **SENY Service Sponsorship:** I will be available to answer questions. We will have GSR/DCM orientation and it is available on our site

4. **Agenda Chair:** Printout of upcoming events through June on the table. On that printout the day of the SENY Assembly there will not be an Archives Committee meeting on the day of the pre-conference assembly. If you have anything that you would like put up on the SENY website, please email me at agenda@aaseny.org
5. **Web Chair:** We are scheduled to meet on March 13th, but we will not, April 10th will be the next committee meeting. Information on website about convention as well as delegates day of sharing. Chris has been helping get new DCM's set up with a SENY email.
6. **CPC:** There are a lot of professionals who do not have enough information about what AA is and is not. What we are doing is really important and we can all play a role. I want to start a sponsoring a doctor program. I will provide you or your GSR's information to take to your doctor. We want to increase the number of Speaking to Non-AA's about AA. We will be having a meeting in March to talk more about this. One thing that I suggested was to do a buddy system, For more info, please email me at cpc@aaseny.org
7. **Archivist:** Now housed across the street from SENY office. We have saved quite a bit from the archives. We meet every second Saturday of the month at the SENY Office. If anyone is interested in attending a tour of Stepping Stones this Saturday see me. We will have the archives at the Convention.
8. **2016 SENY Convention:** Preregistration as of today: 503 rooms booked, 325 registrations.

Please do not cancel rooms find someone to take your room.

9. **Treatment Facilities:** 2/21 was the last committee meeting. Topic was Bridging the Gap, Inside and Temporary Contacts Outside. Handouts included pamphlets, temporary contact group sign-up sheets and detailed sheets on tried and true suggestions for temporary contacts. Our next meeting is 10am Sunday March 13, 2016 at NYC Intergroup Office There are 12 counties plus the Hispanic district in Area 49, yet only 5 counties have participated in treatment Facilities Committee meetings since April 2015 and of those 5, only 2 have shown up more than twice. This is a problem not only in Area 49, but in AA as a whole which was pointed out in the trustees report at NERAASA 2016. In his report, he stated a primary reason for its financial decline is due in part to a reduced membership contributions and sales of literature. The 2014 AA survey shows that nearly 33 % of our membership comes from Treatment Facilities. We as a Society of Trusted Servants need to step up our program, so I am asking for help from all DCMC's to encourage your county's TF rep to either suit up and show up and/or send an alternate or appoint someone who will.

On a positive note: Westchester was working on St John's Hospital in White Plains, which I learned had AA meetings in 5 units, Detox/Rehab Men's and Women's and Co-ed Rehab, 7 days a week totaling for 35 meetings per week. Awaiting updates. Also, I have made contact with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with NY Presbyterian Hospital's Weill Cornell Medical Center for Liver Disease and Transplantation last week. I have put into action their request for NYC meeting lists and AA literature for her patients via SENY Literature, Michelle G. and NYC Intergroup Chair, Chris D. For this committee, this is truly "Man On the Bed" stuff. The Social worker is working on getting an AA meeting at her facility, despite her parent Hospital's (Columbia) policy which does not allow AA meetings in any of their facilities. The next meeting will be on 3/13 at NYC Intergroup Office Education, Participation and Commitment.

10. **Bronx County** - SENY Workshop will be held at Asbury....need greeters, contact Sally if interested.

11. **Suffolk County** – October 15th is LISTS with more information to follow. Yesterday was 19th annual Unity Breakfast. It was AWESOME!
12. **Hospitality for General Service Conference.** If interested, get in touch with Bill
13. **Orange County** Spiritual Breakfast is May 1st. Please come
14. **Nassau County** – May 14th Grapevine/LaVina workshop
15. **District 404** April 9th is putting on a workshop at Mt Carmel Church

Motion to Close

Meeting adjourned 9:30 pm @ by Rick W., Area Chair with A.A.'s Declaration of Unity

Thank You for Participating and for Your Service!

NEXT AREA 49 COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 2, 2016 – 7:30pm – 9:30pm
Church of the Holy Family, Mechler Hall
2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472-5402

NEXT AREA 49 ASSEMBLY

Saturday, April 9, 2016 – 8:30am – 4:00pm
[HOST: BROOKLYN COUNTY] PS 84
250 Berry Street, Brooklyn, NY 11249