

## SENY MARCH 5, 2018 COMMITTEE MINUTES

7:30 p.m. Meeting called to Order by Jane E. [Chair]

Serenity Prayer and Preamble [English & Spanish]

Quorum established; Housekeeping [Voting, Time]

Parliamentarian Gary \_\_\_; Spiritual Vote Counter Ray (Rockland); Timekeeper Michael M.

SENY Office Manager getting new microphones

No corrections to minutes; approved.

Introduction of New Trusted Servants

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brendan, Literature; people have been ordering literature before the convention, especially in Spanish, so we're selling. This includes Spanish versions; will be at Brooklyn & Manhattan Share-a-Days and Convention; attended NERAASA. Please email or call me if you need literature

Brendan, Literature, for Laura, Grapevine: She will be at Convention, Brooklyn Share-A-Day, Manhattan Share-A-Day, and Convention; she also attended NERAASA

Mike D., Corrections: Next meeting March 18 at Area Office; will be set up at SENY Convention, and am speaking at a Saturday morning panel; we received 5 requests for meet on release

Bill, Archives (reporting for Richard); Archives met 2/17, good participation, interview oldtimers and 2 more former delegates, which will be available in digital format on website. Preparing for convention and next Assembly (where there will be a workshop). Also preparing for July handing off of duties from current archivist to new one and digitalizing documents for preservation and presentation on SENY website.

Anthony, CPC, also reporting for PI (Bianca) (CPC and PI meet together); next meeting March 27, 2018 at Intergroup at 7 p.m. Working w/ GSO on presentation on college radio station. CPC is now more prominent on website (aa.org). PI has a new video. GSO has approved over 600 PI announcements. At SENY convention will be with PI; 3/26 table at Ardsley HS Health Fair; 4/7 Manhattan Share-A-Day, in May will be at American Psychiatric convention at Javits Center; plus, Long Island roundup

Jeanne C. Agenda: Updated calendar on website; please email or call with corrections

Nellie P., Accessibility: Had meeting (we have conference call ability), if you need minutes please email. Will have workshop at convention

John C. Al-Anon: Liaison to Discovery Convention August 24-26, Renaissance in Westchester, will have meetings and need volunteers for Friday and Saturday, would like wide representation. We will also have Alkathon, need volunteers as well. Persons going will have to register.

Kathy, Treatment Facilities: We pushed back our monthly meeting because of conventions and NERAASA, now March 18<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m., 3/18 SENY. NERAASA was wonderful, as were roundtables. One thing is that treatment is aspect of bridging the gap; Google Voice is used in some other Areas to help find people to assist people getting put of facilities. Trying to get number with 6 recipients; text message will be generated if drops into voicemail. We'll need volunteers and will have signup sheet and impromptu meeting at convention

Domi, Link: Delegate Questionnaire in Link, thanks to people for 50th edition, next deadline is April 7, 2018

Eddie D., Translation: will attend workshop on Safety in AA for Spanish women on 5/5. We have 3 out of 4 panelists, will have food. Will be hosted by Manhattan, Orange, and SENY

Mike C., Convention: 485 Room Nights; we have ways to go, as of 2/26, registration extended 1 week; 230 Banquets, 398 registrations, cut off is 5<sup>th</sup> of March, but if you mail it today we can process. Jerry Program Chair and Emma Greeting are here. Contact me with any issues with registration and hotel rate. Q&A clarified registration process.

Richie, SENY Office Manager: Public Address system brought to shop today; and we got new cordless multi-directional mikes

No further reports

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

Delegate (John W.)

It really is the busy season for your delegate!

The Delegate's Questionnaire: On February 15, I received the final background material for the upcoming 68<sup>th</sup> GSC. After a quick review of the 91 agenda items, I selected 8 that I thought would be of interest to our area and that would be particularly helpful to me as a member of the Literature committee and then I finalized the questionnaire.

The translation committee translated it overnight and Michael sent it out electronically on February 17 – and thanks to our webchair Chris the questionnaire is live on our site now. Saadi and his team mailed it out to those who requested hardcopies.

For the first time an anonymity-protected version of the complete background material is being made available to our area. It's up on the SENY website in English and in Spanish. It was an amazing team effort and I am grateful to all involved in getting this information out so quickly.

Delegate's Day of Sharing: I could not have been more pleased with how the day went. We had a large and enthusiastic crowd, eager to learn more. The presentations were all strong and insightful, and Manhattan County proved to be excellent hosts by any measure.

I think the best compliment for how well things went came from someone who I'm going to guess is relatively new to general service: she asked how large a staff I had! So thank you again, one and all who made Saturday so special.

A few other duties as your delegate: The Trustees' Committee on CPC/TA is seeking an appointed committee member with a background in the armed forces. Deadline for submitting is May 15. You can find more details at [aa.org](http://aa.org) by clicking "what's new".

I'm a little more than half way through reading the new book from Archives, titled "Our Great Responsibility". It's a selection of Bill's talks from the GSC. The talks are grouped under headings such as Trust, Service, Responsibility, and Transformation. It's really inspiring and beyond anything I had anticipated. I hope the rest of the Archives committee – and the conference - feels the same way and that we see it in print soon.

I attended NERAASA and will be attending NERD this coming weekend. Both provide the current panel of delegates the opportunity to share experience, strength and hope with each other as we prepare for the upcoming conference.

I want to thank Suffolk for including me in their Unity breakfast yesterday.

Lastly, there was some discussion on Saturday about cultural difference in AA. I want to flag that our Saturday night speaker at the convention will be Bob W, who recently rotated out after serving four years as US trustee at large. One of the chief responsibilities for the at-large Trustee is involvement with AA around the world. I've heard him share some wonderful and sometimes hilarious experiences encountering different AA customs. I hope you all can be there to hear him.

Thanks again for the honor and privilege to serve as your delegate.

Q&A clarified that as member of Literature Committee John has manuscript of Bill's 51<sup>st</sup>-70<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference talks; other members can see source materials by submitting request at GSO.

### **Alternate Delegate (Manny A.)**

Since last we met I attended, Reported at, Presented, Spoke at:

-Feb 8 Service Participation Cmte @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, NY Inter-Group:[307 7th Ave, Suite#201, NY, NY 10001\(212.647.1680\)](http://307%207th%20Ave.%20Suite#201,%20NY,%20NY%2010001(212.647.1680))

-Feb 10 District 305 and 313 Play – Sponsorship Game @ 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 101-18 104th St., Queens, NY 11416

-Feb 12 Queens County GSR Workshop @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Queens Intergroup, 105-29 Metropolitan Ave., Queens, NY 11375

-Feb 17 Stick With the Winners - Group Anniversary @ 7:00 pm- 11:00 pm, Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 101-18 104th St., Queens, NY 11416

-Feb 18 Hispanic Districts' Asamblea @ 9:30 am - 3:00 pm, 74 East 17th St., Bklyn. NY 11226 (2nd FL)

-Feb 18 NYCYPAA(New York City Young People In A.A.) meeting @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, NYU, East 10th Street-5th fl. New York, NY 10003

-Feb 23-25 2018 NERAASA (North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly): Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, CT. To register and make hotel reservations online <https://www.neraasa2018.org>

-Feb 26 Queens County General Service Assembly @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 101-18 104th St. Queens, NY 11416

-Mar 3 SENY Assembly – Delegates Day of Sharing @ 8:30 am - 3:15 pm

PS 41 – Greenwich Village School, 116 West 11th St., New York, NY 10011

I'd like to announce the following upcoming events on the calendar, so mark your calendar:

Mar 8 Service Participation Cmte @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, NY Inter-Group:[307 7th Ave, Suite#201, NY, NY 10001\(212.647.1680\)](http://307.7th.Ave.Suite#201.NY.NY.10001(212.647.1680))

Mar 9-11 2018 Northeast Regional Delegates Meeting: Westchester Marriott Hotel, [670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown NY 10591](http://670.White.Plains.Rd.Tarrytown.NY.10591)

Mar 18 Hispanic Asamblea/Assembly @ 9:30 – 3:00 pm Distrito Afritron/Host Dist: 614, Lugar de reunión de/Meeting place of : Grupo Camino Real, Iglesia/Church: Holy Name, [214 West Amsterdam Ave. New York, NY 10025](http://214.West.Amsterdam.Ave.New.York.NY.10025)

Mar 18 NYCYPAA (New York City Young People In A.A.) meeting @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, NYU, East 10th Street-5th fl. New York, NY 10003

Mar 23-25 2018, SENY 2018 Convention Westchester Marriott (Rooms \$ 129/Night, Registration \$20, Banquet \$70; Deadline for room reservations has been extended Until March 8

I am available for: Group Inventories, Group Sharing Sessions and showing of AA videos

### **SENY Chair (Jane E.)**

Two members have been referred to the Link editor to help with editing.

Thanks for sending me to NERAASA! It was just great to be with so many SENY friends. The weekend started with the first Panel when the SENY Agenda Chair presented on “Our Service Committees having an Essential Internet Presence”. Amazing work!

NERAASA had a panel in Russian on “The God Word: does Great Britain have the Answer?” Thank you to our Delegate, for getting this SENY GSR to speak. First ever NERAASA panel in Spanish, translated to English included “Reaching the alcoholic woman” had A SENY DCMC as timekeeper. The timekeeper for “Integrity and Accountability in AA Service” was a SENY GSR.

We had our first NERAASA presentation in ASL. And on Sunday, the DCM for 602 kept time for the Delegate Highlights! SENY was involved and engaged. Most of us sat together up front on the right.

I talked to the NERAASA Chair and he told me that the topics this year were deliberately thought provoking. There was one titled “Politics in AA: Let's get real, they do exist”. Lots of talk about redistricting, which I expect we'll hear more about moving forward, and I heard quite a few people chatting about the county structure's usefulness, or lack thereof.

The NERAASA business meeting was a highlight for me, but then it would be, as your area chair.... (and ended early, which of course everyone was happy about). We're 82% fully self-supporting as a whole. The 727 plan and individual regular monthly contributions made online at aa.org (as small as \$5- a month) are making a big difference along with savings and improvements our delegate has informed us about.

Where does our money go? I heard a story about a US serviceman in 1979 in Beirut who couldn't get AA literature. He wrote to GSO and we sent literature. In 1981 he wrote back, saying he needed more literature for the Peacekeeper's Meeting in Beirut. We sent literature. He wrote back in 1983, he needed more literature. I went online. You can go to the peacekeeper's meeting in Beirut Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. That's what we do.

Here's a NERAASA take home message: The thing about service at this level, unlike one on one 12 step work, is that we don't get to see the result of our work. Taking people through the steps, we get to see the results. General Service though, we don't see the results.

Have I told you about my nephew, on whom the sun rises and sets? Knowing that AA will be here for him, should he ever need it, means the world to me. We work in faith, for all generations, including those to come. It's always about the sick and suffering alcoholic.

A reminder: today is the last day to pre-register for the SENY Convention! The convention chair graciously invited me to the tasting, I'll be having the vegetarian meal, and all the choices were delicious, but my second favorite was the Beef- short ribs with mashed.

I'm available to facilitate inventories, and lead Concepts, Traditions, and AA meetings.

#### **Treasurer Report (Michelle G.):**

Report summarized. **MOTION** to accept report made, seconded and passed

The Delegate Day of Sharing 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition was \$425

#### **Registrar's Report (Fred M.)**

After consulting with a lot of DCMs, I took advantage of a new Airtable feature to improve the readability of DCM / DCMC Views. I optimized the billing around the shared database system and my expenses as Registrar. My current rough estimate is that we'll be saving an additional \$300 - \$400 per year.

I made it to Orange County General Service to present on redistricting which was a lot of fun. I presented to the Hispanic Districts at their most recent Asamblea on the shared database system. I'm happy to report that it's looking likely that they will opt in, in which case all 13 counties and the Area will be working together. This would be an enormous milestone. Eddie and I have already started translating elements of the system.

At our last Committee meeting I reported on the change of providing Views to incoming DCMs and DCMCs by default instead of upon request. 14 more DCMs have Views now than did before.

Also, at our last Committee meeting I reported on setting up a team to work with me on the database. As a reminder, we already have a team working in the database – that's me and my counterparts from 12 counties. This would be people helping roll out improvements to the system itself, as opposed to maintaining the data within it. Since we met last I've put the foundation in place – now it's time to start

working with those who are interested. I think this will be a major step forward in further distributing institutional knowledge about our shared database system.

People also keep reaching out to me about helping me with data entry but they don't have a computer that's up to the task. I've referred them to Richie to further demonstrate the need for an inexpensive Area laptop.

I also attended NERAASA and made it to the Registrar roundtable both nights. Even before the weekend, several northeast Areas were considering adopting our approach. By the end of the weekend there was considerably more interest. I was even able to stay up late both nights and create Airtable databases for an Area in NY and another in California.

A pattern also emerged: if an Area is small or meets infrequently, it's more likely they can use FNV alone and get by, albeit with some significant headaches. But if an Area is larger, like we are, or meets more frequently, like we do, the default approach of relying exclusively on FNV severely breaks down. Some of my northeast colleagues are so overtaxed that it's sad to see and hard to hear about. Two things emerged in response to that: I sketched out a change to FNV that's easy to implement which will make the position of Registrar infinitely easier for every Area, regardless of what approach they take. I'm thrilled that all of the Northeast Registrars will be submitting the request to GSO as a group. The General Manager of GSO also took note and appears to want to make sure this happens. The other thing that came out of that was we'll be staying in far closer touch to support each other. I've already started to create short videos to help my counterparts in other Areas figure out FNV.

I had one other takeaway from NERAASA: SENY seems to have far more Assemblies and Committee Meetings than average in the Northeast. This does not even take into account that we have more meetings still because of the county layer. I don't know about you, but I'm burnt out and not entirely sure why I'm here tonight. Every time we meet there's an opportunity cost: we could all be doing other service, or getting some sleep, or spending time with friends and family. I haven't fully formed my thoughts, but I'm contemplating bringing a motion forward in June. I'd love to get some feedback on this idea – please email or call me. It's not going to change unless we do something about it.

One last thought: people keep telling me they don't think they can be Registrar. You need to stop saying that because it's almost certainly untrue. There's a weird irony that in making this position much easier it now looks much harder to people. It's not hard. I'm going way past what's required to try to make it as easy as possible for the future, and to get as many benefits as possible set up and working well. The basic maintenance of the system is really easy – the only hard part is building it out which is not necessary to do this job well. So please, stop telling yourself you can't do this, and putting that idea out there. We need to encourage more people to stand as officers, not discourage them.

I also want to say that getting to talk to so many of you has made it much easier to connect my work to the spiritual purpose of all this. Sometimes it's hard to make that connection when I'm deep in computer land, so I really appreciate hearing from you guys.

Q&A clarified that issue of new laptop for SENY was previously tabled and could be brought up again by a new motion

## **County and Hispanic District Reports**

Spanish District (Fernando): Invite you to Hispanic Share-a-Day June 10<sup>th</sup> in Westchester as well as March 18<sup>th</sup> Asamblea in Manhattan; will have a Safety in AA workshop at the Central Office for Hispanic Groups (upper Manhattan).

Queens (Joann M): Queens Spiritual Breakfast in Littleneck, in October; we have a Safety Workshop on 5/19, flyers not out yet but we will have skit, speakers, and discussion on yellowcard and safety

Nassau (Regina): Our Concepts Roundtable takes place every other month, next on 3/19 on Concepts III and IV at Nassau with John W. Delegate; our 34<sup>th</sup> Unity Breakfast will be June 3 at Marriott Uniondale

Brooklyn (Mel. R.): Attended NERAASA, Delegate Day of Sharing, Suffolk County Spiritual Breakfast, Brooklyn Share-A-Day will be June 23<sup>rd</sup>; County Inventory June 20<sup>th</sup>; Spiritual Breakfast on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Prospect Hall (new venue), tickets will available at convention at will be \$35; Joy of Service Workshop in October

Rockland (Ray): Our Spiritual Breakfast will be May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m., tickets will be available at convention

Manhattan (Scott M.): Attended NERAASA and Suffolk County Breakfast. Manhattan Share-A-Day April 7<sup>th</sup>, flyers available; April 21<sup>st</sup> District 601 Workshop on Accessibility (Trinity Lower East Side)

Westchester (Emma): Hosting 50<sup>th</sup> SENY Convention, need greeters and hospitality, updated on Convention activities; also, will be hosting post-conference assembly

Orange (Sherry P.): Spiritual Breakfast on 4/29, \$20, I have tickets; 5/6 Joy of Service Workshop. Went to 6<sup>th</sup> NERAASA, presented at Delegate Day of Sharing, wrote Link article

Bronx-Manhattan (Ann): Hosting SENY election 9/15, have 2 locations, would like input on food and costs

Suffolk (Tom B.): Thanks for showing up for Unity Breakfast, on 5/27 we will have a Suffolk Birthday Brunch. PreConference Assembly on 4/8, will have shuttle from Huntington Train Station. Panel 5 of NERAASA was first Spanish panel in NERAASA history, taking CD's to Asamblea

Staten Island (Jerry R.): Brand new website, county meeting tonight, will probably have Share-an-Evening in July, upcoming SI Officers workshop with alt-DCMC Any V.; will host 2/9/19 Assembly

Linda M., Past Delegate: Co-Chair Hospitality for Delegates, need volunteers 4/21-28, but volunteers pay own way

7<sup>TH</sup> Tradition is \$148

### **Old Business:**

The final changes to the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the SENY Handbook and DCM Pamphlet have been formatted into Microsoft Word, which will allow next generation editing. We will find out whether Hispanic Groups will join SENY before translation because that could affect translation process.

### **New Business:**

Parliamentarian (Jerry) rules that tabled business is new business

**MOTION** that Area purchase a laptop that the office manager will keep track of for use of SENY Area business; seconded

Q&A clarified that it's already been budgeted for \$500. Discussion of whether we should buy 2 used laptops rather than one; purpose of proposed purchase – to obtain internet-based laptop for persons who do not have laptops and thereby increase participation at SENY level – clarified. Purchase would help SENY.

**MOTION** re-read and passed.

**MOTION** to close passed at 9:04 pm