

# SENY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, 2158 WATSON AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10472-5402  
Monday, May 1, 2017 (7:30-9:30 p.m.)

(7:00 pm) New DCM Orientation

## Meeting Called to order @ 7:30 pm

- Serenity Prayer and A.A. Preamble (*in English*, Jane E.; *en español*, Vicky B.)

## General Housekeeping

- Voting clarifications, rules of order and spiritual timekeeping.
- Sally B. volunteers to bring food to the next SENY Committee Meeting.

## Approval of Minutes from April 3, 2017

## Introductions of new DCMs

## Officer Reports

### Delegate (John W. — [delegate@aaseny.org](mailto:delegate@aaseny.org))

- Will give a quick report on the outcome of the eight items on the Delegate's Questionnaire, saving details for June 17 Post-Conference Assembly.
  - **1) Archives: Consider proposal for a new publication, Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970**
    - Approved with substantial unanimity. Archives Committee considered the proposal worth publication and recommended that the completed draft (or a progress report) be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Archives for review. So we may see a close-to-final book, or a book ready for publication next year.
  - **2) Cooperation with the Professional Community: Consider request that the title of the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" be changed to "Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?"**
    - Approved with substantial unanimity. Conference Literature Committee recommended that the title be changed. The new pamphlets will be phased in AFTER the current pamphlets run out.
  - **3) Finance: Consider request to add text to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" indicating there is no dollar limit to the amount a group may contribute.**
    - The Conference voted NOT to add text to the pamphlet. The Conference Finance Committee recommended the text as follows: "Question: Are there limits to the amount an AA group or an AA event can contribute to GSO? Answer: No." That was different from the original question posed to the groups, and from the floor they could not successfully amend it to take out "or AA event."

- **4) Literature: Agenda item - 6A - Consider request for revisions to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”**
  - The Literature Committee recommended REMOVAL of two bullet points: “*A file of names, addresses, and phone numbers of newcomers (who wish to volunteer the information), with notations showing sponsor or sponsors for each one*” and “*Review of newcomers list by steering committee (or Twelfth Step or sponsorship committee) — with followup activity where it seems needed.*”
  - The Conference voted to remove the two bullet points in question.
- **5) Literature: Consider request to retire the pamphlet “Too Young.”**
  - Literature Committee took no action. Like SENY, they felt it needed to be updated, but no consensus on how to change it.
  - In a floor action (“not-quite-friendly new business”) that PASSED, the Trustees’ Literature Committee was tasked with revising the pamphlet “Too Young,” and will report back to the Conference in 2018.
- **6) Literature: Consider requests for literature and/or language regarding safety.**
  - The Literature Committee made three recommendations, which were approved by the Conference with substantial unanimity:
    - 1) to modify question #10 in the group inventory list in “The AA Group” to read “Are we doing all we can to provide a *safe*, attractive and accessible meeting place.”
    - 2) Adding to “The AA Group” the first four paragraphs from AAWS Safety Guidelines (SMF-209) into a section called “Safety in AA; Suggestions to Consider.”
    - 3) Trustees’ Literature Committee will develop language regarding safety which will be incorporated in current and new recovery literature where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation. The draft language and proposed plan (or progress report) will be brought back to the 2018 GSC.
- **7) Literature: Discuss request for a revision to the pamphlet “The A.A. Group.”**
  - The Literature Committee considered a request to add a section to the pamphlet “The AA Group” — “Why AA groups and members should respect the rental requirements of their landlords” — and took no action.
    - The Committee agreed that an AA group’s relationship with their landlord falls within the autonomy of the group.
- **8) Policy/Admissions: Consider a request to add a “YPAA Subcommittee” to the service structure.**
  - The Policy/Admissions Committee took no action.
    - The Committee recognized that YPAAs are AA entities comprised of members of Alcoholics Anonymous, and encouraged Young People to continue their participation at all levels of service.
    - The Committee Chair responded to questions about the decision to take no action by stating that the background materials of the request did not have enough specifics and substance to make decisions at the level of the Conference.

He states he felt supported and well-informed by the Area, the Conference was an *amazing* experience, and he looks forward to sharing more with us on June 17.

**Alternate Delegate** (Manny A. — [altdelegate@aaseny.org](mailto:altdelegate@aaseny.org))

- Attended since we last met:
  - the Pre-Conference Assembly
  - Hispanic District's Asamblea (sharing information on SENYCON 2017 & 2018, and NERF regarding transportation challenges)
  - Suffolk County General Service Meeting
  - Baldwin Group Movie Night on April 22 (watched "A New Freedom" Corrections Video and "2009 Young Peoples Videos — 25 and under" followed by Q&A)
  - 4/22 General Service Conference Opening Dinner in Rye, NY
  - 4/23-27 served as a GSC Hospitality Committee Volunteer

**Treasurer** (Michelle G. — [treasurer@aaseny.org](mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org))

- Time to pass the basket!
- No report tonight; April and May financials will be reviewed at June SENY Committee Meeting.
- She encouraged NERF attendance, and shared with the Committee the text of her article on NERF travel expense reimbursement (motion approved at 4/3/17 meeting), which did not make it into the *Link*.

**Registrar** (Fred M., [registrar@aaseny.org](mailto:registrar@aaseny.org))

- In June of last year, he kicked off a long-term project: to be able to give the Area ongoing insight into the health of our participation. Everything we've been working on has made this possible, and we now have a year's worth of data, and it's a much more accurate picture of our Area. We've added about 700 groups since starting!
- Over this past year, we've been counting the number of voting members present, and dividing that by the number of potential votes (if every GSR, Area Committee Chair, past Delegate, etc. was present). This was a good starting place, but now that we've hit the year-mark, there are much more meaningful ways to present the data.
- The main change is that he is now focusing on the *groups* — on GSR and Alt-GSR attendance — which is the most relevant information to everyone in the room. Additionally, he is tracking attendance over a year's time (not just a snapshot of each Assembly) to provide a more nuanced picture of GSR attendance.
  - Before, we only looked at how many GSRs were present at the Assembly — they were either there, or they weren't there. But there are a lot more degrees of engagement to consider.
  - Registrar displays graph that reflects the 2,005 groups we know about. Of those ~2,000 groups, ~1,500 have a point of contact. Of those ~1500 groups with points of contact, ~1170 are GSRs. Of those ~1170 GSRs, 242 have attended at least one Assembly over the last year. And of those 242, 115 have attended more than once in the last year.
  - In terms of "conversion metrics" — we have about a 25% drop-off of groups with no point of contact. We only have a 22% drop-off going from a group with a contact to a group with a GSR. But then we have an 88% drop-off from elected GSRs to

GSRs who have ever attended an Assembly! And then we have a 50% drop-off from those GSRs who have attended once coming a second time.

- This is super-exciting! Our data is actionable and shows us where to focus. It clarifies the biggest opportunity for DCMs and DCMCs — reaching out to those groups with elected GSRs who have not yet come to an Assembly, and then following up with first-time attendees to support them in attending a second time.
- No questions, but the Manhattan Alt-DCMC shared concern about groups that were “dropped off” or missing from the Regional Directory.
  - The Registrar has tried to make it as easy as possible for the Directory to be updated: DCMCs and DCMs can see an individual & group’s directory status, and it’s included in the welcome email, both county & Area sign-in sheets, and printed/online registration forms. He restates the requirements for a group to be listed in the Regional Directory: name, phone number and valid mailing address of the person *who agrees to be in the Directory*.
  - The Queens DCMC explains that if a group contact opts out of the Directory on their own, that group *will be removed from the Directory* unless someone informs GSO of the new contact (who provides the information listed above).
  - Another commenter suggested that once Registrar submits information to the GSO it’s out of the Area’s hands.
  - Registrar again states his commitment to providing GSO the most accurate information possible — any updates sent to him by the May 12th deadline will be processed.

**Chair** (Jane E. — [chair@aaseny.org](mailto:chair@aaseny.org))

- Welcome home to SENY, John! We are so excited about your journey!
- I was thrilled last Sunday to be a guest at the Pre-Conference dinner. What a moving experience.
- Yesterday Rockland had an amazing breakfast and on Sunday, Orange is having theirs! Gym time for me!
- When I rotated in I reached out to a past chair who helped me by explaining that the Committee meetings tend to the operations of SENY, Assemblies to the Spiritual, and that the Chair is the Administrative Leader and the Delegate is the Spiritual Leader for the Area. That’s why you hear so much business here, and why I save most of my reporting on rounds for Assemblies. And this way you don’t have to hear it twice.
- I’ve appointed the DCMC of Rockland to maintain the Office computer, and am happy to report that it will serve us well when he’s done. He’s already removed malware, and the other unused old computer in the office will have all the data saved, get wiped, and recycled. Thanks, Ray!
- We received several voicemails from NYC Housing Preservation and Development about complaints (usually heat) at various addresses. It seems our phone number was listed as a slumlord’s — oops! — I mean landlord’s. I investigated and sent HPD an email informing them that we are a not for profit 501C3 and that we do not own any property whatsoever. We’ve not heard from them since. Fingers crossed.
- I reported last month that I learned there were two Staples accounts and an old B and H account; turns out there were three Staples accounts and two B and H accounts —

both vendors had personal names attached to accounts. I've been working with both companies to streamline to one SENY Account each with a generic name, SENY phone number and address, and a SENY email which passes to the next servant rotating in. Both companies state they have updated the accounts, but due to the complexity, I'll be following up to check. The Ad Hoc Finance Committee and my fellow Officers are aware of details. Review of the Costco account is next on the list. The take home message is that an AA service entity with accounts should not have an individual's name or info attached to the account. We must support our future and ensure safety, an important consideration in all ways, including tax exempt status.

- The Grapevine is exploring, and the General Service PI Committee will implement Google not for profits.
- The counties have different district meeting styles. Several of the boroughs have district or cluster meetings within the district, while some of the outer counties have them incorporated into their county meeting. I was asked for a DCM workshop, and bearing that in mind, consulted with our Service Sponsorship Chair. I'm thrilled to report that the DCMCs of Brooklyn and Suffolk, will be chairing a DCM workshop at the June Assembly.
- A request for Committee Chairs and DCMCs: even if you have no report, please stand at every Committee meeting or Assembly and introduce yourself (you can say "no report", people like that). At every SENY gathering, we have new trusted servants, and we want them to know who you are. New servants have more resources this way.
- Committee Chairs: reminder about Saturday's noon meeting, please respond to my email.
- Another reminder: please send Anne secretary@aaseny.org your reports for the minutes. If you're a digital immigrant, and a hard copy is easier, please do that.
- I noticed that when I requested Service Chefs and got volunteers, there was no food, and when I asked and got no volunteers, we have food. So, until you ask me to do differently, I'll just let everyone know during housekeeping, like I did tonight, that all are invited to bring food to share.
- I'd like to thank Suffolk for providing the timing light at the last Assembly and for tonight's meeting. We'll purchase one like the one we saw at NERAASA for our future meetings.
- Are there any questions? (clarification of statements above).

**7th tradition:** \$152

#### **Introduction of Panel 67 Treatment and Facilities Chair for Committee Approval**

Kathy from the Huntington Group is approved by the Committee.

#### **Introduction of Publications Ad Hoc Committee Member for Committee Approval**

Steve S. from Nassau is approved by the Committee.

## **County/Hispanic District Reports**

**Orange (Sherry A., DCMC)** Spiritual Breakfast on May 7 — five tickets left. Also, Orange County will be hosting the September Assembly, as soon as date and location are confirmed she will let us know.

**Rockland** (Ray W., DCMC) Thanks to everyone who came out to the Rockland County Spiritual Breakfast this past weekend; it was a wonderful success.

**Suffolk** (Tom B., DCMC) Saturday, May 20, “Joy of Service” Workshop in Massapequa. On Sunday, June 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. the Birthday Brunch @ the Polish Hall in Riverhead.

**Westchester** (Emma M., DCMC) Westchester is hosting the Bill W. Dinner Dance, November 4, 2017. Next Planning meeting will be Sunday, May 7, 2 p.m. at NY Intergroup. Lots of opportunities for service, including speaker selection and graphics.

**Brooklyn** (Mel R., DCMC) Brooklyn hosted the Pre-Conference Assembly. He attended the Rockland County Spiritual Breakfast — it was an awesome event. Will be at the Orange County Spiritual Breakfast next Sunday. Asking other DCMCs to do the same — supporting each other’s events. Brooklyn County Share-a-Day will be June 24, where they will be selling tickets for Brooklyn’s Spiritual Breakfast on December 3rd. Next County meeting will be May 17, focusing on DCM participation at the Committee Meetings.

**Staten Island** (Andy, DCM?) Workshop coming up on, May 13. Come on out, they will feed you well!

**Manhattan** (Scott M., DCMC) Thanks to everyone who participated in Manhattan Share-a-Day — it was a great event. Nothing else to report.

**Nassau** (Regina T., DCMC) They will be continuing their Concept Series — On May 15, 7:30 p.m., Albin Z. will be speaking on Concepts 5 and 6 — at the Nassau Intergroup Office. Unity Breakfast will be June 4th at the Long Island Marriott — tickets still available, \$30 each. Next County meeting June 17th at 7:30, Nassau Intergroup Office.

**Bronx/Upper Manhattan** (Barbara Ann, DCMC) Bronx Spiritual Breakfast will be October 22nd, tickets will go on sale in June.

**Queens** (Jo Ann M., DCMC) She contacted Aviation High School to pay the permit fee for June 17 post-conference assembly — will continue to work on getting final confirmation for the event. Planning a service workshop and Spiritual Breakfast for the Fall. Please send in dates for county events that are already scheduled for September and October to avoid conflicting events.

**Putnam** (Rob O., DCMC) Putnam County Spiritual Breakfast will be October 15, tickets are \$20. They will be hosting the November Assembly; date and location TBA.

**Hispanic District** (Ramon L, DCMC) Asamblea will be meeting on May 21st, host district 314 in Corona, Queens. 33rd Annual Share-A-Day hosted by the Hispanic Groups in the Area will be held on June 11, 2017: 8 a.m.-11 p.m. host district 714 @ St. Luke's Church, Bronx, NY.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Accessibilities/Special Needs** (Nellie P. — [asn@aaseny.org](mailto:asn@aaseny.org))

- Please note: A/SN Committee will be meeting the first Friday of the month at NY Intergroup Office @7:00 p.m. Information in the Link is wrong.
- Represented A/SN Committee at Rockland County Spiritual Breakfast.

### **Grapevine/La Viña** (Laura G. — [grapevine@aaseny.org](mailto:grapevine@aaseny.org))

- Attended Manhattan Share-a-Day; will be attending Staten Island workshop on May 13; and will be having Grapevine meeting, May 20, SENY office @ 10 a.m.
- Grapevine has a new book, *Making Amends*. Copies will be available at the next Assembly.

### **Service Sponsorship** (Sally B. — [sponsorship@aaseny.org](mailto:sponsorship@aaseny.org))

She's available for any questions you have on service sponsorship. Chris D. (her alternate) has been doing workshops and tabling County events. They are out there!

### **Intergroup Liaison** (Steve K. — [intergroup@aaseny.org](mailto:intergroup@aaseny.org))

Their next meeting will be June 10, SENY Office, 11 a.m.

### **Agenda** (Jeanne C. — [agenda@aaseny.org](mailto:agenda@aaseny.org))

All county General Service meetings have been added to the calendar. If there are any events you would like to have added to the SENY calendar or The Link, please email her (flyers preferably in PDF so they can be posted easily).

### **Public Information** (Bianca C. — [pi@aaseny.org](mailto:pi@aaseny.org))

- CPC and PI have been working together. Past events include: March 30 and April 2 — Panel at the Rotary Club in Suffolk County; Manhattan Share-a-Day on April 15th; Speaker Training at the Somers Serendipity Group in Westchester on April 29; tabling at the Rockland County Spiritual Breakfast on April 30. Upcoming events: In May — tabling at Queens Community College Fair on May 3; NY Public Library Health Fair (Tabling and Presentation) May 6; FDR High School Health Fair. In June — Staten Island CPC/PI Workshop - panels, quizzes, great food; Brooklyn Share-A-Day (Table and workshop).
- Mike from Staten Island PI has placed literature in 13 libraries and is working on three precincts.
- Steve, Nassau Intergroup PI Chair, has placed literature in 15 doctor's offices, participated in three narcan trainings, did a radio interview on what AA is and is not in April, AND put a meeting book in every hotel and motel in Nassau county.

**Treatment Facilities** (Kathy B. — [tf@aaseny.org](mailto:tf@aaseny.org))

- Asked the Office Manager if the SENY Office in the Bronx is available to hold Treatment Facilities meetings on the fourth Sunday of each month through the Autumn from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Hoping to have participation from all thirteen counties.
- Goals include increasing awareness of Bridging the Gap through the use of the pamphlet P-49 — “P-49 - Bridging the Gap — Between Treatment and A.A. Through Temporary Contact Programs” — encouraging members to volunteer as temporary contacts for people discharged from a treatment facility, and exploring ways to reach out to the various treatment facilities located in SENY. We will find out more about local Intergroups’ current involvement in Bridging the Gap to avoid duplicating efforts.
- Another goal is to clarify the scope of the various local Intergroup Institutions Committee’s work and to provide service where it is needed.

**Corrections** (Mike D. — [corrections@aaseny.org](mailto:corrections@aaseny.org))

- Committee meeting was held April 15 at the Area office; next Committee Meeting will be Sunday, June 18 from 10 am-12 pm at the Area office.
- This past month, received 10 pre-release requests from inmates seeking to get connected with AA — two of those will be in our Area, the rest will be in other Areas in New York.
- He’s available to bring a Corrections table to County events, Spiritual Breakfasts, etc. If you have an event you’d like him to attend, or would like more information on pre-release and other Corrections programs, please call him. His contact information is in the Link.

**Website** (Chris N. — [web@aaseny.org](mailto:web@aaseny.org))

- Minutes from Committee Meetings and Assemblies are on the website.
- We had over 300 submissions for the Delegate’s Questionnaire and over half of them were through the website. A pretty dramatic increase over the 131 submitted last year.
- June 24 @ 2pm the Web Committee will meet at the SENY office.

**Archives** (Richard S. — [archives@aaseny.org](mailto:archives@aaseny.org))

- First Committee Meeting was held on April 22nd.
- He is conducting oral histories using AAWS guidelines. Planning to record as many former delegates as possible — at least two each month.

**CPC** (Anthony B. — [cpc@aaseny.org](mailto:cpc@aaseny.org))

Working closely with PI. Will be tabling at NY Public Library Health Fair next week.

**YPAA Events** (Bianca, for Manny)

- Saturday, July 1, 5th Annual Unity Day & Boat Party co-hosted by NYCYPAA/ESCYPAA/Boston Bid for ICYPAA
- The weekend of Friday, July 21, NYCYPAA/WORCYPAA Campout. For more information, contact Manny.



### **Service Participation** (Manny A.)

The next Service Participation Committee Meeting will be held on May 11th at NY Intergroup Office, 7-9 p.m. All DCMs and DCMCs are invited.

### **Literature** (Jane E. for Derrick H. — [literature@aaseny.org](mailto:literature@aaseny.org))

- Sold AA Literature at the April 3rd Committee meeting, April 8th Assembly and Rockland County Spiritual Breakfast on April 30.
- Will be attending the District 602 meeting on May 10th to discuss possible workshop or meeting based on proposed literature SMF-209, Safety and Respect.
- On May 13th will be attending Staten Island Workshop to discuss same topic, Safety and Respect.
- June 2-4 will be attending the NERF.
- June 24th may be attending the Brooklyn Share-a-Day to discuss Safety and Respect (SMF-209).

### **Link Editor** (Jane E. for Domi E. — [link@aaseny.org](mailto:link@aaseny.org))

Jane reports that Domi was unable to attend tonight; submitted an extensive report. Link distribution is improving thanks to help from Intergroups.

### **Al-Anon Liaison** (Jane E. for Jamie S. — [alanonliaison@aaseny.org](mailto:alanonliaison@aaseny.org))

Jamie contacted Jane to let her know she is unable to attend; no report.

**2017 SENYCON Chair**, Janice M. will give her final report at the June 17th Assembly.

**Translation Chair** (Eddie D.) and **YPAA Liaison** (Jonathan J.) were absent, no reports.

### **Old Business**

**Email provider migration (Chris N., Web Chair, reporting)**. In order to make a recommendation to this Committee, he reviewed information about last year's discussion of this issue, and researched SENY's options going forward. He identified several issues. Among them: concerns about anonymity; use of personal email address rather than a SENY email address; accessibility; usability.

Based on this information, and his professional experience, he suggests that we stay with our current email provider. G Suite is easy to use both on the administrative side and the user side — making it accessible and usable for almost everyone. It also fits with GSO's guidelines for the Internet, which suggest that Areas use free email accounts, so that even if people don't own a computer they can easily access an account at a library etc. Chris had a recent experience of this. Even though he was unable to contact SENY's former Web Chair when he rotated into the position, because of the way the email was set up, he had access to the email and almost all the documents he needed. Bottom line, the tools we have currently are better than the others available to help us do our jobs as effectively as we should. He is prepared to make a motion.

Discussion followed, consisting of comments by trusted servants who have had problems with their gmail accounts and others who have used the platform with much success.

Chair clarifies that we need a vote to establish a group conscience on this issue (quotes page 4 of 4/3/17 approved Committee Minutes) and that is why our current Web Chair was asked for his recommendation.

**MOTION:** SENY will continue to use G Suite for Nonprofits as our email provider.

YES: 41      NO: 1      Abstentions: 3      No minority opinion.

**Motion passes.**

**All other business will be deferred until next month.**

**MOTION** to close.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. by Jane E., Area Chair with A.A.'s Declaration of Unity.

**Thank you for participating and for your service!**