

SENY Assembly Meeting Minutes - Approved
Saturday, May 4th, 2019
(Hosted by Hispanic District General Service)

Assembly opening & Welcome by Jerry R (Area 49 Chair)
Serenity Prayer, Housekeeping
Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2019
Presentation to Jane E.

Delegate – Jane E. Opened the Pre-conference Morning Session for the GSRs to share the Groups consciences on the Delegate’s Questionnaire (DQ) with the Body of SENY; expressed gratitude for all the responses received so far and the love of AA shown by thoughtful responses. Our process with the DQ was started by Panel 53 Past SENY Delegate Terry F.

Welcome to visitors from Area 87: Raymond, Panel 64, Area 87 Past Delegate and Andre, Panel 68, Area 87 Group Service Coordinator.

This year the Groups had an extra month to reply to the DQ because the General Service Conference (GSC) is much later than usual.

There were questions on the responses on the DQ to “Discuss ways to encourage first time attendees, discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees.” Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) information shared with thanks for creative ideas to be brought to the General Service Conference (GSC).

Fifth Edition: (English Big Book) If a fifth edition is decided on at the Conference, there will be a call for stories from all AAs. Important that in order to have diverse stories, we need diverse submissions. Lots of submissions. Lots of submissions from the AAs who want to see more diverse stories. Please start to write your story!

“On Trust” and “How the conference operates”: All the delegates receive these prior to the conference, there are copies here in English and Spanish.

Concept III review

I’ve got lots to bring to the conference from you; thank you!

Let’s hear from the groups and practice Concepts I & II!

Concept I: Final Responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship. The 69th GSC, “Our Big Book - 80 Years, 71 Languages,” will be held in Manhattan, from May 19-25. Asking for your prayers or other 11th Step practices for the Conference, and a little extra at 1:30 on Wednesday the 22nd, when we’re having the elections for the Northeast Regional Trustee (NERT). Bill C., Panel 55 Delegate is our NERT candidate. I’m blessed to present him. Qualifications for a good trustee and for all general service commitments are in our service manual. I’m bringing all of you with me in my heart. Thank you for sending me to the GSC.

Spanish Big Book: I gathered information from GSO which was sent in postal and emailing prior to this Assembly, due to a need for more information. The book *De las Tinieblas a La Luz* is for sale on the literature table.

There’s a new section on aaseny.org, thanks to our Webchair. Information on the “From the Delegate” page will be changed to stay current. Concepts 1,2, 4, 9 and 10. Review of new section and calendar.

7th Tradition Information: AA has never been fully self-supporting through our own contributions.

Right after the Delegate's Day, I contacted our Archivist at GSO, Michelle Mirza who told me that another member had recently asked her if A.A. has ever been fully self-supporting through contributions. Not knowing the answer, she sought guidance from our Director of Finance, Bob, who did not believe that we had ever been. Following her first communication with that member, the member pointed out that Bill wrote in Concept XII "Group contributions are exceeding our service needs by about 5%." So, Bob and Michelle looked at the Combined Income Statement for the year end 1960 from the 1961 Final Conference Report in an effort to validate the "5%." When the report was analyzed, however, it showed we had a loss in 1960 of over \$19,000 and this loss included gross profit from Literature Sales of over \$118,000. Based on this data, Bob was unable to confirm Bill's statement in Concept XII.

In addition: Our GSO Archivist recently discovered a letter Bill wrote in 1966 about self-support. Copies here.

Letter from a member (March 2019):

Dear Jane, Last weekend at NERAASA, during the Literature Chairs' round-table, I learned about the 7th Tradition Fact Sheet. Of the many things I learned this weekend, one of them is that A.A. is not fully self-supporting, not because members don't care, but because they aren't aware of the potential power of their contributions.

I think this fact sheet could go a long way in getting valuable information out there. Therefore, I thought it would be helpful to attach one to every confirmation "thank you" email sent out regarding online contributions. It's my understanding that on-line contributions are increasing. This could be a simple, low-cost tool (especially if it's automated) to share the information across the fellowship in this increasingly utilized contribution platform.

In addition, we could encourage those who contribute already to share this fact sheet and/or the information contained therein with their sponsees, their home groups, their districts, their areas, etc. Perhaps a note in the body of the "thank you" e-mail could contain a note with such a suggestion or encouragement.

Something else to consider would be to include in the body of the "thank you" email is a direct link to the "What's New at AA.org" page. Included could be an invitation to click on it to "find out what's new!"

Could you please pass these suggestions along to the General Service Board and ask that they consider it?

I did pass the letter on and the chair of the GSB Ad Hoc finance Committee called me and asked me to thank our member. She thought it was a great idea and will take it to the rest of the Board. I brought handouts of the 7th Tradition Fact Sheet so everyone here can support our fellow AA's ideas.

I'm thrilled he asked me to pass his letter on for him. This is a perfect example of the types of things that can be brought to the General Service Board for you by your delegate, Concepts 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10.

Any AA can make one time or recurring monthly contributions on aa.org for as little as \$5- a month, but no more than \$5000- a year. A one-time contribution as a bequest in a will may be made to AA. These limits are for SENY as well. There is no limit to what a group, district, county or Area can contribute to AA.

Our alternate delegate is prepared to step in and represent SENY for us should I become incapacitated. Once the GSC has role call, and I'm accounted for, that's it, no one can step in...

More information:

The launch date for the app should be announced soon.

The Intergroups are invited, not required, to participate in the Meeting Guide. If they choose to not list their meetings, they may have their website listed, but again, only if they want. General Service does not tell the groups or Intergroups what to do. Tradition 4.

The meeting guide helps alcoholics to get to a meeting.

A remote community may be due to language, geography or culture. All 93 delegates were asked to submit an article for presentation at the Remote Communities pre-conference meeting. My LINK article is an edited for length copy of my submission, which was accepted. I'd like to thank the AA Trans Community in SENY for encouragement and support.

I'm using the same submission for the following request from the GSB: In your area what do you believe are the different underrepresented populations of suffering alcoholics that the area could focus on carrying the A.A. message to? GSO staff expressed gratitude for the topic of Trans AA.

My primary Conference Committee is Treatment/Accessibilities.

In addition to the questions on the questionnaire, the Treatment/Accessibilities Conference Committee is reviewing three kits; the Treatment Facilities Kit, the Accessibilities Kit, and the Draft Remote Communities Kit. I'm reading lots of pamphlets, there are wonderful pamphlets, in addition to those that are out of date. Many (8 or 9) were revised last year at the 68th GSC. My predecessor, John W., Panel 67, was chair of that conference literature committee. Incidentally, he says hello and that he misses everyone. You will see John at NERF, and he will return to SENY for the Post conference Assembly June 15.

We have two SENY past delegates who are named John W.: Panel 67 and Panel 57.

My secondary conference committee is International Conventions/Regional Forums: 2020 IC video on aa.org, review of "What's new?" section and NERF registration.

Our 2020 International Convention has a new logo which is available only for areas, districts, and intergroups to use as a link to the 2020 International Convention page at aa.org. This logo is only for AA entities, and I've been doing a Tenth Step: Am I part of the problem or part of the solution? When the IC is here and vendors have all that drunk junk for sale, tons of it, some with our licensed logo on it, I will not be purchasing any with the logo on it, I will not be part of the problem. Buying it just puts us in the same position we were in with the Printer's copy, and the circle and triangle logo.

I will be purchasing the souvenir Book for the 2020 International Convention available in English, Spanish, and French from AA World Services! Traditions 1 and 7, Concept 9 and 10.

Since our February Assembly, I presented on the delegate's questionnaire at two counties and the Hispanic Distrito, facilitated group inventories, led Traditions and other AA meetings, attended the SENY Accessibilities and other committee meetings, brought you back information in as many ways as I can think of from NERAASA, NERD, and our own SENY Convention, written presentations for NERF and the General Service Conference, and read.

Read. A. Lot. I'm almost fully prepared to go to the General Service Conference. I will be fully prepared by May 17th. I expect to have a spiritual experience. Thank you for my life.

Questions, Comments and Discussion from the Groups on the Delegate's Questionnaire

12:00 Lunch and Fellowship

Alternate Delegate – Tom B:

NERF Report to Assembly - If you are interested in volunteering, e-mail altdelegate@aaseny.org, or text (631) 260-0693

Chair – Jerry R.

International Convention, July 2020, Detroit– Registration is \$115 by 4/15/20, after 4/15 \$140
Final SENY convention report will be given at the June assembly by Nisaa and Heidi
New Treatment Facilities Chair, Ed M. from Far Rockaway

Link Report – next deadline May 28th to be distributed at the June 15 assembly.
No link for June committee meeting.

Treasurer – JoAnne M.: 7th Tradition today is \$353.00

We received \$1,433.00 back from former landlord. I went back and reconciled the account

Motion is made and seconded to accept the February Treasurer's Report – motion carries
Motion is made and seconded to accept the March Treasurer's Report – motion carries
Sent check for Delegate's conference fee for \$8,300.00
Received contribution for \$10,000 from a club, which we are not accepting (see relationship between AA and clubs) because it is not from an AA member or an AA entity.
Motion is made and seconded to accept the April Treasurer's Report – motion carries

Registrar – Mike D.: Cleaning up Airtable. Working with Fred to simplify system. Preparing Airtable workshop with Vicky M. in Manhattan. Spanish County is in need of an Administrator.
Welcome e-mails for new GSR's now include links to the area handbook.
Call me at 347-637-8341 or e-mail if you would like to opt in for text message reminders

Standing Committee Reports

NYSIW – KC: August 2, 3, 4, Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY
To register go to nysiw.org

District 620 – John: Service Workshop, May 11th

Literature – Chris: New book "Our Great Responsibility" order #B70 - \$10. We will have them in a week, it is the first original book from AA in over 30 years, available in Spanish and French

Grapevine – Sherry A: New Book: Take me to Your Sponsor, \$11.50
May issue of Grapevine: May/June issue of La Vina – Our Big Book 80 Years
Submit upcoming stories, Grapevine:
Due June 10: Remote Communities and Holiday Stories
Due July 20: My Spiritual Awakening – send stories to www.aagrapevine.org/contribute
La Vina Spanish language stories: Sept/Oct issue: Welcoming Women in AA/Atheist in AA

PI – Mike: Added Event: Interchurch Health Fair, October 22, 10:00 – 2:00,
Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, New York

Nassau – Marty K.: LISTS workshop on spiritual benefits of service – Sunday, July 14th,
St. Anthony's School, 110 Anchor Avenue, Oceanside
Bridging the Gap Workshop, May 20th, 7:30 p.m., Nassau Intergroup Office

Debbie: Suffolk Birthday Brunch, June 23rd, Riverhead Polish Hall, \$20, tix also available on line

Intergroup – Mel: Intergroup Committee Meeting June 23rd, Nassau Intergroup
Big Meeting June 9th, NY Intergroup Bill W. Dinner/Dance November 9th

Sullivan – Jeff: Spiritual Breakfast May 19th, \$15.00

Manhattan – Vicky M: Manhattan bus has to leave at 3:15, please keep this in mind when we have new business to discuss

Brooklyn – Colleen: Post Conference Assembly, June 15th, St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf, 260 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn. Annual Share-A-Day, June 29th, same location, will be selling tickets for Spiritual Breakfast to be held on December 1st

Bill C: – Linda McG and I hosting hospitality for General Service Conference

Orange – Patrick: Spiritual Breakfast June 30th, Kuhl's Highland House, Middletown

Queens – Burt: Spiritual Breakfast, October 20th

NEW BUSINESS

Motion: Authorize sufficient funds to support hospitality room at NERF with the understanding it will probably cost several thousand dollars.

Motion seconded, discussion, vote, majority in favor, one opposed

Minority opinion: expense should not exceed \$10,000

Does anyone change vote? No. Motion passes

Next Assembly: Post Conference Assembly, June 15th, St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf, 260 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, 8:30 am - 3:15 pm

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