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**SENY ASSEMBLY MEETING
MINUTES**
*SENY REUNIÓN DEL ASAMBLEA DE ORDEN DEL
DÍA*

**Saturday November 12, 2016
(9:15am-3:15 PM)**

ACTION: Link Articles: Please send articles for **The Link** to link@aaseny.org next deadline is November 30.

(9:15am) Service Workshops (Talleres de Servicio)

Meeting called to order 10:30 am

- Serenity Prayer Rick W., Chair
- Daily Reflection (*Reflexión Diaria*) – Allen Z., DCM Suffolk
- Preamble / Preambulo – Ginny M., Alt GSR Suffolk / Celso F., Hispanic District

New Business: Jim W. - Delegate

- This was announced at our September elections and was mentioned at our October Committee meeting. We need to elect a candidate for Class B Trustee at Large United States. They will serve a 4 year term beginning at conclusion of GSC in April 2017.
- Qualifications: Attend 3 quarterly board weekends 4 quarterly meetings, specialty meetings of the board, trustees serve on committees of the General Service Board and may serve on subcommittees of the trustees, they will also be involved in multiple conference calls. Attendance at regional forums. They may be asked to sit on other boards or other area and regional activities and numerous other activities and travels. Open to Past Delegates Panel 63 and earlier.
- Who is willing to make themselves available? Linda McG. Panel 63 Past Delegate
- Motion made and seconded
- Yes = All No = 0
- By substantial unanimity, motion passed

Introductions (*Presentaciones*)

- New GSR's, DCM's and DCMC's (*Nueva de GSR, DCM y DCMC*)
- Why I'm Here Today (*Por eso estoy aqui hoy*) – Pat D., GSR Suffolk
- About Service Sponsorship (*Patrocinio Servicio*) – Tom B., Alt. DCMC Suffolk

General Housekeeping –

- GSR's DCM's and DCMC's vote
- Roberts Rules of order and 2/3 unanimity

Approval of Minutes from Previous Assembly Meeting (*Aprobación del Acta de la reunión anterior del Comité*)

- Bottom line was read for the three pages of the minutes
- Motion made and seconded
- Yes = 113 No = 0 Abs = 5
- Motion carries as amended

Officer Reports

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

Highlights from the Alternate Delegate – Nov 12

A big part of my job is to have a strong understanding of the area because I am to take that understanding to the Conference as a voting member in April. So my reports might seem like travelogues, but I want you to know that I'm getting around our area as much as possible.

Since we last met in September I've been to 10 of our 13 counties to attend events that included:

- Participated in service workshops in Manhattan presenting on AA's financial health, in Orange presenting on the Twelve Concepts, and in Brooklyn on presenting Group Inventories. I attended the LISTS workshops and ESCYPAA-3 out in Suffolk, and the District 613 PI workshop in Manhattan.
- Helped with the elections in Brooklyn and in Queens, and for the Hispanic Districts and NYCYPAA.
- Went to SENY's Joy of Service workshop hosted by Nassau this past Saturday. Three terrific panels focused on "Supporting Our Future" – the theme for the 67th GSC in April 2017.
- Attended the Bronx/Upper Manhattan spiritual breakfast.
- Chaired the Service Participation meeting on October 13 where among other things, we discussed how to use the Final Conference report as a service tool. Our final SPC is on December 8.
- Participated in a North East Regional conference call with our regional trustee. Fifteen of the 18 areas were represented. Some good news, revenue is up in all categories: contribution, literature and Grapevine sales. There are more specifics in my Link article.
- As a reminder, please consider attending the Hispanic Convention tonight and tomorrow in Ronkonkoma. It's a great time – lots of food and fellowship. Last year there was a great history presentation on AA throughout Latin America and they even had a mariachi band as part of the entertainment!

Questions?

- Was there any speculation around what we can attribute the rise in contributions? Specifically 7th Tradition contributions and recurring contributions online. Last year 89 people made monthly gifts online for a total of \$1600 per month. In the year 2016 so far, 500 people making monthly gifts at close to \$18,000 per month. Also, some items that they have not raised cost on for quite a while were actually being sold for a loss, those were corrected and that helped.
- Discussion about Birthday contributions
- Does General Service Office put out a flier with this information? Is it appropriate for GSRs to create a flier with this info and put them on bulletin boards? There is a flier highlighting all of the services provided by GSO because of 7th Tradition Contributions. A letter of gratitude is coming out that will talk about this stuff, but right now, it is our job to announce this.
- Would you think that the strategic plan, the media plan make a connection as the biggest part of supporting our future? The topic of supporting our future does get broken down because it is not just about the money. It is about a few different things, but the finances to run the operation is critical. I am responsible.

Treasurer: Manny A., treasurer@aaseny.org

Financials for October were distributed

Discussion:

What is the total amount that we look to have in the Prudent Reserve? We have 8.08 months, the suggested amount is 8 months

What do we do with overage? We will have a zero-sum budget. We will roll some over to next year and we use that money next year.

What is the process for that is that done at the committee level or at an Assembly? The officers will bring it to the committee and then to the body.

Seventh Tradition statement card from GSO is available.

I see that \$100 be allocated for ASL. Why isn't more money allocated? Will it be utilized for the convention? When we set the budget, we have not had the need for it, but the budget line is there so that if the need arises, we would see where we can get that from.

In terms of the prudent reserve: It needs to be between 8 and 9 months. The ASL for the convention is a separate account, but we leave this here in case it is needed.

Motion to accept was made by Mike H DCMC Queens County and seconded Casey, DCM 602

Yes = 141 No = 0 Abs = 2

7th Tradition Report (7th Informe Tradicion)

\$381

Chair: Rick W., chair@aaseny.org

- **SENY Handbook Revisions:** We are in the process of revising the SENY Service Handbook and the committee is working on getting it ready for review. I just wanted to give you an update to let you know it will either be revised at the December or January Area Committee meeting. More to come.
- **Area Inventory Update:** I've already had 2 transition meetings with our next Area Chair, Jane E., and we have one left. At that meeting, I will be reviewing the items left to accomplish on the inventory with Jane. She will be working with the new Officers in the next rotation to get it finished.
- **Joy of Service Workshop:** SENY recently had the 2nd of two service workshops this year and wanted to thank Nassau County for the wonderful job they did at our "Joy of Service" workshop this past weekend. It was well attended and the panelists did a great job sharing information on the upcoming GS conference theme, "Supporting Our Future." One thing that was shared by Ben U. from Queens was the report from the 2012 GSC Workshop on "Safety in A.A. - Our Common Welfare." At the workshop, I told the body that I would work with the website committee to get that report loaded to the SENY website because it was full of helpful information for GSRs to help their home groups better understand this topic. I sent it over to Jon O. our web chair asking him to get it loaded so folks could download it. It should be available from our website shortly.
- **Recurring Contributions Online to AAWS:** I'm not going to go deep into this since John just did a great job talking about this in his report except to tell you that I have already signed up as well for my monthly recurring contribution to AA and I've already received my first receipt.

And finally, since this is our last Assembly for this rotation, I wanted to personally thank each and every trusted servant in Area 49 for the service you provided to SENY over the last 2 years. I want to especially thank Jim W., our Area Delegate, Panel 65 for well representing SENY at the the past two General Service Conferences and for his many years of service to South Eastern New York. Thank you Jim. To all of our Area Officers, our Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Chairs, Committee members, County Officers and Chairs, all of the DCM's in Area 49, and lastly, and most importantly, every single GSR who represented their home

groups at our meetings - I want to say THANK YOU for your service. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you as your Area Chairperson and as I leave New York and move to Texas to be closer to family 5 weeks from now, I will take with me many wonderful memories of my service here in South Eastern New York and look forward to the amazing things that I'm sure I will hear about as your new Panel 67 Area trusted servants take office on January 1st. Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Registrar: Fred M., registrar@aaseny.org

- English-speaking email newsletter subscribers up by 3.5% to 1,965 for the October campaign with a 34% open and 3% click rate. This may be our baseline, but too early to tell because the rotation coming to a close is a confounding variable.
- We did not deploy a Spanish-translated version because I did not hear back from one of our translation go-tos and I dropped the ball on following up with others. Very sorry to the Hispanic Districts.
- I created an automated so new subscribers will receive a confirmation that they're subscribed.
- For the members of counties that have opted into the shared database AND have an email newsletter, you can now see / change your county email newsletter opt-in status using the Assembly and Committee meeting sign-in sheets.
- Thank you once again to Fran from Nassau for taking most of them manual postal mailing stuff off my plate. The number of postal mail subscribers continues to decrease.
- Soon we'll be able to mail from any USPS commercial location instead of only two Manhattan locations.
- Made some changes to how we process our mail which will save about \$700 per year plus up to \$.045 per piece. We are also no longer tied to the Area laptop to create the mailing labels. Label creation now takes 5-10 min. instead of 30-90 min.
- Sometimes I may only receive a name and mailing address from GSO. Previously I opted them into our postal mailings even though I didn't have their permission. This past Monday at our committee meeting I informed the Area that I would no longer be doing that because I felt it created a misrepresentation of participation, resulting in DCMs not being able to know to try to identify a more engaged point of contact. After reflecting on the pushback from our Delegate, I am taking a different approach. I still will not be opting people into postal mail without their permission - however, I will send them a letter to ask them for their preferences as well as asking them for any other information we might be missing. Integrating our two perspectives resulted in a much better outcome.
- When people opted out of postal mail from the Area, I passed on their address to GSO and deleted it from our database. I've switched to always retaining addresses to be able to include them in the sign-in sheets, so if your address changes I'll be more likely to find out and I can pass that onto GSO since they only do postal mailings (for those registered in FNV).
- For the members of counties that have opted into the shared database AND have an email newsletter, you can now see / change your county email newsletter opt-in status using the Assembly and Committee meeting sign-in sheets.
- Reduced time it takes to create sign-in sheets from 90 min. to 15 min. for Assemblies, and to 2 min. for Committee meetings and counties – made the method available to opted-in counties.
- 61% of registered DCMs (42) have Airtable Views for their district.
- Views now include the participation analytics: the percentage at which groups had voting representation when they were entitled to it; and which Assemblies (and in the case of the districts, also Committee meetings) they had representation at.

- Further improved support materials, incl. how to use the participation analytics to be a more effective DCM.
- 3 DCMs have requested text alerts (in addition to emails) when new groups or GSRs in their district are added to the database.
- I have eliminated duplicate mailings from GSO for DCMs of clusters.
- 10 of our 13 counties have opted into the shared database. 6 are fully up & running; making progress with the implementation for the others.
- Groups in Airtable: 1301; In FNV: 1565 Active, 326 Inactive or unknown. 41% participation at June Committee meeting, 9% at June assembly, 13% at September Assembly, 38% at October Committee meeting, 30% at November Committee meeting.
- **Comment:** Suffolk recently opted in, and one of the things I haven't gotten to yet is that there are lots of people who haven't been coming for many years. We can't delete them, but we can encourage the DCMs to reach out to those groups and get an accurate rep.
Answer: Quick correction – we can delete them, and we should if they are no longer active, even if we don't have a replacement yet.
- **Question:** Could you do a workshop before or after the assembly for DCMs?
Answer: Yes, I want to do this early in the next rotation.

LUNCH

Delegate: Jim W., delegate@aaseny.org

-I thank you for the opportunity to be of service through the years of Alcoholics Anonymous. I have had the opportunity to work with other areas and have tried to pass much of the information to our incoming delegate. Not all areas allow past delegate to participate in voting, but more than half do. Another topic came up regarding having an alternate area chair, an area that has an alternate area chair does not have an alternate delegate.

I passed on information regarding the strategic plan as well as the conference inventory. There are three sections mission, vision and action guided by our 36 principles: Steps, Traditions and Concepts. What can be done at all levels? Next is improving communications, and last but not least, fiscal planning and financial viability of General Service Board and sound financial planning for the future.

Fliers were out regarding where your money goes for the 7th tradition. Please get that information out so that each member is aware of where the contribution goes and to find out why groups do not send in contributions.

General Service has elected Michele G as the chair for the General service Board. She is very dedicated to the fellowship of AA.

- In regard to publishing, between the delegates questionnaire and the conference we talked about pamphlets that need updating for "AA For The Woman", "AA and the Gay or Lesbian Alcoholic", "Alcoholics with Mental Illness". We should hear more about that shortly.

They are in the process of being revised and published. They are looking at the stories and looking to update the stories in those pamphlets. The process is slow to be careful and do it right. They also came out with an item called the AA History Shelf which is bundled as a holiday gift set at the price of \$30 per set. The set will be offered from 10/1/16 through 1/31/17. They will be available in the three conference languages of English, Spanish and French.

It has been a pleasure to serve you and attend the various counties and do service throughout the Area.

I suggest we record the history in the form of the digital archives of the past delegates so that we can get this history of SENY and of AA.

Thank you.

Question:

Is there any thought as to getting to the “why?” certain decisions are made? Committee chairs are supposed to be keeping minutes and sending them to the archives committee. Everything that happens at our events, minutes are kept and put on our website. We will have a report at the December committee meeting from our Archivist that will help us with that. I certainly urge that we do that so that we can know that information. There are notes from the committee meetings at the Conference that are included in the conference report. We can bring that forward for the future conference

Is it published what are Michele’s credentials? She is a retired lawyer, active in social work. Has served as a class a trustee. She is more than well qualified. She will not take over until the end of the next service conference and the bios will be in the final conference report.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

County/District Reports:

Nassau County: Thank you for privilege to serve. The DCMC elect is here. We completed the Joy of Service Workshop. February’s Assembly will be in Nassau

Hispanic District: Hispanic Convention 5pm in Ronkonkoma, today and tomorrow. See me for fliers

Queens County: Around holiday time, our intergroup does day long share-a-thons. Thank you.

Standing Committee Reports:

SENY Convention: 49th SENY Convention on March 24-26 2017 at Renaissance Westchester Hotel. Friday night host county is BxUM. Registration is open by mail. Fliers are out also in link article.

Online registration is working. If you go to the convention page you can click the two little buttons for choice of meals and for registration. I would suggest you email me if you register so I can coordinate your paypal payment with that email. Convention_treasurer@aaseny.org next meeting for the planning committee is Sunday 11/20 at 2pm at the SENY office. If you have any other issues, please email convention@aaseny.org

GSR Forum:

Question:

- The Assembly in Manhattan in June had good reports afterwards about behavior.
- How do we work on business meetings that get out of hand?
 - o The higher percentage you have of people attending your business meetings, the more invested they are in them. We also put in time limits so that there a bit more controlled. We read the traditions before the meeting so we can focus on that.
 - o Bring the traditions principles before personalities.
 - o A working knowledge about the 12 concepts is helpful.

- My homegroup has a question about wheelchair accessibility. Our group is in conflict because although the bathroom is accessible inside, you have to go up steps to get into it, so it is not really accessibility.
 - o We worked with SENY to indicate that “we are not fully wheelchair accessible”
- Enthusiasm helps the report
- I struggle with short business meetings that are not effective. How do people handle this?
- Can you speak to the importance of rotating GSR’s on the same schedule as General Service Conference?
 - o The Conference Charter and Bylaws states that all the service positions are supposed to be concurrent with the Delegate. It is not a suggestion. Our goal is to be of service and we need a service sponsor to help us figure out.
- I think it would be useful if we ask people who are available to be service sponsors so we can add that in.
- We instituted the position of Parliamentarian and that has helped our business meetings very much.
- Our group attended a workshop of “How to Run a Business meeting”, we tried to incorporate some of the suggestions and the meetings have been successful, succinct, on time. Ask your district to run a workshop.
- When we have what we think will be an extended discussion we ask for a group conscience and ask to have a second business meeting. That worked better for us.
- We did a group inventory and that helped us to get more people involved in General Service and helped our business meeting.

Motion to Close 2:25pm

Thank You for Participating and for Your Service!

NEXT AREA 49 COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, December 5, 2016– 7:30pm – 9:30pm
 Church of the Holy Family, Mechler Hall
 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472-5402

NEXT AREA 49 ASSEMBLY(Elections)
Sunday, February 12, 2017 – 9:15am – 3:15pm
 (Dates to be confirmed)
 [HOST: Nassau County]
 TBD