

SENY NOVEMBER 11, 2017 ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Jane E., Chair, called meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.; Serenity Prayer & Preamble (English & Spanish). Thanks to Putnam for today; next Assembly is 1/13/18 in Staten Island

Housekeeping [Voting, Time to Speak, Explanation of Q&A and Discussion]; Scott, Manhattan DCMC is Parliamentarian; Mitch, Timekeeper

Request that minutes be reviewed

Mary R. has been appointed as Chair of SENY's Archives Ad Hoc Committee; New Trusted Servants Introduced

Explanation of Ask-It Basket

MOTION to approve minutes; **seconded**

MOTION PASSED

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Web Committee, Next Meeting 11/20 at Brooklyn Central Library

Jeannie, Agenda Chair, please email me with events

Anthony B, CPC Chair: On 12/2 we will conduct an event at Fordham's White Plains Campus for Social Workers and with PPI, an upcoming event at the Javits Center for the LGBTQ community

Sally B., Service Sponsorship: My contact info, and we are conducting Assembly and DCMC Workshops, and should be doing so at Convention

Eddie, Translation: Hispanic Convention on 11/25-26, Marriot Whitman Road Melville, on 12/10 will have a Bilingual Grapevine/La Vida Workshop

Richard, Archives: Oral History of Delegates project continues

Michael, Convention Chair: Flyers for DCMC's to bring back; registration and link to link article are online, looking for volunteers, next planning meeting 12/10 11 a.m.

Jane E.: The Convention is spirituality and dancing, the best

Mike, Corrections: Actively trying to get meetings into prisons, only 2 have meetings, if your Group interested, please contact me

DELEGATE REPORT [John W.]

I serve on the Literature Committee and the Archives Committee, and I am chair of the Literature Committee for the 68th General Service Conference. At the end of September I attended the National Archives Workshop, where I had good conversation with Cate, Trustee for Western Canada, about preserving our history and how to accomplish that. NERAASA will be February 23-25 - Cromwell, CT, please take flyers. Great opportunity to meet people in service

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from Maine to Maryland. A tip for new GSR's, check out [AA.ORG](#)'s "what's new" button, for the latest information from the General Service Office.

My main role as your delegate is to attend the conference prepared, including requests for new Literature or revisions to existing literature that are forwarded to the conference's literature committee. December 15, 2017 is the cutoff to submit items for the agenda. This includes: i) for the development of a pamphlet for atheist/agnostic members; ii) a request that AA (US/Canada) publish "the God Word" (a pamphlet currently published by AA United Kingdom); iii) a request to add AA preamble and responsibility Statement to the Big Book; iv) a request for revisions to Living Sober (to reinsert wording about drugs and other medications); and v) A request for a new pamphlet based on the three legacies. For Archives, work continues on the draft of a new book that collects Bill W.'s Conference talks. As you'll recall, the 67th Conference gave the green light to this project. The new working title is *Our Great Responsibility: Selections of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970*. This proposed publication represents a significant trove of previously unpublished material from our co-founder, and it will connect us with our history while giving us plenty to reflect on regarding our present and our future.

Regarding Finance, on the AAWS side, total revenue for the first nine months of 2017 was about \$13.1 million compared to expenses of about \$11.8 million. Significant factors contributing to these results were strong literature sales and increased Seventh Tradition contributions. Including, G.S.O. receiving 1,857 contributions totaling \$76,829 from the \$7.27 on 7/27 initiative. The number of SENY groups contributing has had a modest increase compared to last year for the first three-quarters. From 34.64% in 2016 to 36.69% in 2017. Groups in SENY contributed over \$200,000 to GSO so far this year.

The financial picture also looks good on the Grapevine side. Total income for the first nine months of 2017 was about \$1.5 million. Expenses were about \$1.4, and net profit was about \$120,000. La Viña had a less than expected shortfall of revenues versus expenses for the first six months of 2017.

As many are aware, AA sued to recover the printer's copy of the Big Book manuscript in May, 2017. I spoke with Rich P, Northeast Trustee, about how much we've spent, but he was vague, but I've heard we spent \$150-175K. There is a hearing scheduled for Dec. 13, which is the next date set for a mutually-agreeable resolution. Some members, who have a secret Facebook Group., believe suing was a grievous error and have called to oust or censure the Board, or restructure. Both were submitted as Conference Agenda items for action next April. A restructuring of the board requires a 75% vote at Conference as per Art. IV of the Charter. This presents an opportunity to learn more about the application of Concepts III and VI and Traditions 2 and 10. I'll keep you informed, but I am saddened that this is happening. I welcome questions:

During questioning, clarified that fellows are angry over different things; seems to be mainly over suing for manuscript, but spilled over into communication: in May the Board, which had just become the new Board, decided to litigate. People expressed anger because the fellowship not consulted. Barry Leach, who was a member of the Greenwich [NYC] Group, wrote Living Sober. He received manuscript from Lois; it's one of about 400, but is unique in that it has Bill's and others actual revisions on it that were incorporated into what became the first edition. Barry gave it to AA but asked to hold on to it for research; when he died, did not come to AA but, the chain of custody is not clear, was sold and resold.

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ALT DELEGATE REPORT (Manny A.)

Completed reports on the 2018 SENY Convention and 2018 NERAASA, which thanks to Eddie D (Translation) were translated into Spanish and distributed. Updated Hispanic County and NYCPPAA on events and issues. Attended, reported and presented/spoke at over a dozen events around SENY and will continue to do so. The Hispanic Convention is upcoming in Melville, NY. A full copy of my report is available, please email me at altdelegate@aaseny.org. Available for Group Inventories, Group Sharing, and showing AA videos. Questions?

CHAIR'S REPORT (Jane E.)

The General Service Conference report, towards the back, each Delegate gives a brief summary of their Area; it's worth reading. Our Area Inventory date was changed, primarily to have it on a Sunday for greater Hispanic district participation, and because of new business from District 404, which we will get to later. The deadline for conference agenda items submissions is December 15th. More info on why we changed the date is in chair's LINK article. I am available for inventories and other service.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT (Fred M.)

After generally positive feedback I'm moving forward on a way to make non-identifying group information more easily accessible to everyone. Anyone who wants to make sure their group's information is correct can now go to our website and find their group, and review the name, the district #, group #, whether their group is represented by a GSR, GSR & Alternate, Group Contact, or none of the above, whether their group will be included in the next printing of the directory, and if so what city will be they be listed under and with what meeting days. Go to aaseny.org/groups to check it out.

Participation: We know of about 2,000 groups. About 1,500 of those groups (75%) had a point of contact. 1,128 of those POCs were GSRs. 231 of these GSRs (20%) attended an Assembly in the last year. And of those 231, 111 (48%) attended more than once in the last year. So our biggest opportunity remains the same — the 80% of GSRs who have never attended an Assembly over the last year, and the 52% who have come once but not returned. Where the Assembly is held is a big determinant of how much attendance we see. That said, as an Area we should be striving to see these numbers go up, and think hard about what we can do individually & collectively to make that happen.

One way we can move this forward is to give everyone in our Area the chance to sign up for the Area's monthly email update. The more our entire Area is informed, the better connected groups are to general service, and the more supported GSRs will feel when their home group members appreciate what general service is all about. Please circulate this sign-up sheet at your group, and then have someone take a picture and email it to the address at the bottom. On the back is an excerpt so people can have an idea what they're signing up for. It's a very low-tech approach that I believe it's going to be a game-changer in terms of reaching a far greater proportion of those we serve.

A GSR asked how to stay looped in after he rotates out – please stay signed up for the monthly email update! We included the digital conference report which Jane mentioned, and some info about the manuscript litigation that John talked about. Also, some of you may recall that the Area sent me to the National AA Tech Workshop in September – the talk I gave is now available on YouTube and linked to in the most recent email update.

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TREASURER'S REPORT (Michelle)

The last 3 months of reports explained. Announcement of upcoming December 10, 2017 Budget Meeting

MOTION to accept Report; **seconded**

101 FOR, 0 OPPOSED, 5 ABSTENTIONS

MOTION PASSED

COUNTY REPORTS

Queens County (Jeanne C): Queens County Share-A-Thon for Thanksgiving starts on 11/22 at 6 p.m. and there will be meetings every hour on the hour until 11/25 with the last meeting starting at 7 p.m. The Holiday Share-A-Thon runs from Friday 12/22 at 6pm through January 1, 2018 with meetings every hour on the hour with the last meeting starting on January 1st at 7pm and ends at 8pm on New Year's Day: Christ the King Center, [145-02 Farmers Blvd](#), Springfield Gardens, NY 11434; see website www.queensaa.org for info and directions (additional info provided by Burt, Queens Intergroup)

Staten Island (Jerry): Spiritual Breakfast tomorrow, upcoming 12/16 Traditions workshop, and county meeting tomorrow. Next Assembly will be in Staten Island

Suffolk (Tom): On 1/27/18 we will have our First Legacy event, in Riverhead, and on 3/4 our Unity Breakfast, in Wading River

Brooklyn (Mel): 12/3 Spiritual Breakfast, Bus to Convention for Saturday day.

Nassau (Linda): Our Big Meeting celebrating 76 years is upcoming; join us at our Concepts Roundtable

Hispanicia (Ramon): I invite you to our upcoming conventions, we have a Grapevine / La Vida Workshop on 12/10 with Manhattan and Bronx

Bronx/Upper Manhattan (Barbara Ann): on 12/19 having Joy of Service workshop, panels, at Westchester Methodist

District 405 Brooklyn (Charlene): AA Historical Book Club reading AA Comes of Age, not sure when started in 2018

Putnam (Rob): Unity Breakfast, at Greymoor

Westchester (Emma): Thanks to all for a great Share-a-Day. We will also host the post-conference Assembly in June, 2018

Manhattan (Scott): 605/608 will have a public information workshop on 11/18 from 2-4 p.m., Hudson Guild, 441 West 26th street [accessible]

District 620 (Kimberly): Alcathon starting 6 p.m. on 12/13

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Announced that Districts 401/403/4111 will have a New Years Eve/Day Alcahthon

7th Tradition is \$336.80

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

AREA 49 is hosting NERF in 2019. SENY usually appoints a "Welcome Contact," who will be out future past Delegate John W.

John W. (Delegate): SENY has not hosted NERAASA in a long time. It will be in Cromwell, CT, in 2018; Maryland, 2019, and Manchester, NH, 2020. The location will be decided at 2018 Conference; if there is one bid, that's the winner; more than one, the most distant in time (from last time hosting) usually wins. Shall we put in a bid?

MOTION: "To ask John to make bid for NERAASA for 2021;" **Seconded**

Q&A clarified that NERAASA has its own budget, so not a big expense for SENY, and that we will have NERAASA and SENY Convention. Past Delegates usually Chair Committees, and NERAASA usually draws about 2000 people so many greeters needed

FOR: 89; OPPOSED: 6; ABSTENTIONS: 6. After Minority Opinion Heard, Vote Unchanged

MOTION PASSED

12:05 p.m.: Lunch

1:10 p.m.: Meeting Called to Order

Evelyn (404): The UK has a pamphlet directed at Agnostic & Atheists groups. I spoke to John W. about this on the Manhattan bus a while ago, and he suggested 404 do something about this.

MOTION: "Seeking the support of our Area in asking the Conference for a pamphlet for Atheist and Agnostic members;" **Seconded**

Q&A clarified that this issue has been the subject of General Service Conference agenda actions since 1976. "Many Paths to Spirituality" was a response to a request for Atheist and Agnostic literature, but is not directed to Atheist and Agnostics. A concern was expressed that literature specifically for Atheist and Agnostic members would favor one group over another. and this may have contributed to "Many Paths." But, others had bad reactions to the religious language in the Big Book, where it's clear that the chapter "To Agnostics" was written by a believer. There is no US literature for Atheists and Agnostics, and the majority in AA should listen to the minority. There is a fear that God will be removed from Big Book; it will not.

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This motion is different than the motion discussed previously, as 2 other Areas have motions to either adopt UK literature or craft our own. We would be supporting them. During Q&A clapping was discouraged, as clapping implies choosing sides and we are deciding on conscience

FOR: 89; OPPOSED: 16; ABSTENTIONS: 16. After Minority Opinion Heard, at least 1 person would change opinion

PROCEDURAL MOTION: "To Reopen Discussion;" FOR: 26; OPPOSED: 86; ABSTENTIONS:

PROCEDURAL MOTION FAILS

MOTION PASSED

ASK-IT BASKET:

You can ask your Group for money for NERAASA

The Board is 21 persons and is a NYS service entity corporation. Members are part of GSC but it GSC votes it's not official until Board votes (they can reject); the G.S.C. Report has background info on Board members. A redacted version is available at SENY website

If a DCMC and Alt-DCMC disagrees, it falls to the primary

Next Assembly: Sat. Jan.13, 2018, Staten Island

MOTION TO CLOSE; seconded

2:22 p.m.: Assembly closed