

# SENY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, 2158 WATSON AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10472-5402  
Monday, October 2, 2017 (7:30-9:30 p.m.)

(7:00 pm) New DCM Orientation

## Meeting opened @ 7:30 pm by SENY Chair, Jane E.

- Serenity Prayer and A.A. Preamble (led/read in English, by Jane E.; in Spanish by Ramón, DCMC, Hispanic District).

## General Housekeeping (SENY Chair)

- In lieu of the usual abbreviated housekeeping, Chair read verbatim the written guidelines “General Housekeeping, How We Run Our Meetings, and Voting Procedures.” In addition, Chair pointed out that it is those who may vote who may make motions.
- Spiritual timekeeper (added post-area-inventory): Mitch. Two minutes for discussion; four minutes if translator is used; all officers other than Delegate five minutes.
- Parliamentarian (also added post-area-inventory): Bill C., Past Delegate, Panel 55.
- There is a quorum.
- Substitute Recording Secretary, Anne W.

## Minutes from June 5, 2017 approved, with corrections (see below) read by Fred M. (Registrar)

Fred's Additions (to fill in parts of report that didn't make it into the June 5 minutes):

Had our monthly shared-database team meet-up.

Made a lot more progress automating more admin work.

Sent out June's monthly email update.

May 12 was the deadline to submit updates for the next printing of the Directory. Registrar ensured all the updates were passed to GSO by the deadline. Registrar is confident that SENY's contribution to the Directory will be more accurate for this printing. Most incorrect contact info should now have been removed, and much new info was added.

Also working on something to make it easier for people to find their group numbers, to see whether their group will be in the next Directory printing, and a way to give people more opportunity to step up as group contacts and GSRs. Registrar was to provide update of that at the June 17 Assembly.

When someone signs up for the Area's monthly email update on the aaseny.org homepage, they'll now have the option to sign up for emails from Bronx/Upper Manhattan, Manhattan, Nassau, Queens, Rockland, or Westchester. All these counties send out updates, and are using an up-to-date tool to do so, so Registrar was able to make some back-end updates on our shared database system to make this possible.

Snapshot taken after the April Assembly: We know of about 2,000 groups; of those 2,000, 1,500 have a point of contact. Of those 1,500 groups with a point of contact, 1,170 are GSRs, and of those 1,170 GSRs, only 242 have ever attended an Assembly over the last five, or full year's, worth, of Assemblies. And of those 242, 115 have attended more than once in the last year. We have about 25% drop-off of groups with no point of contact. We have only a 22% drop-off going from group-with-contact to group-with-GSR. But we have a 78% drop-off in those GSRs ever attending an Assembly. Then of those GSRs that do attend at least once, about 50% return for another, and so on.

These analytics are not academic, they're actionable. They point clearly to where we should be focusing —on GSRs who've been elected but never attended an Assembly, and on GSRs that have come once, but not returned.

[end of Fred's additions]

No other corrections were offered.

### **Introduction of new trusted servants (appointed by Chair); Committee approves appointments by show of applause**

- Brendan, new Literature Chair. Derek, Lit. Chair, stepped down for medical reasons.
- Kathy M., DCM of 405, new member of Archives Ad Hoc committee.
- Kathy W. from Suffolk County, well versed in GAAP, new appointee to Ad Hoc Finance committee.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **Delegate** (John W. Panel 67— [delegate@aaseny.org](mailto:delegate@aaseny.org))

Just a quick update since the assembly two weeks ago:

Manuscript litigation. I have no new information about the manuscript litigation. There's a mid-Oct. date on the horizon for the two sides to reconvene in hopes of reaching a mutually agreeable settlement.

Convention. The body voted at the assembly to give me right of decision for moving forward with negotiating the 2019 and 2020 convention contracts. As I told you then, the Marriott was proposing room rates of \$134 in 2019 and \$139 in 2020, a \$1,500/day meeting room charge for our three-day event, a \$70/person banquet fee, and 550 room night requirement. I was able to get them to keep the room rate to \$134 for both years, get them to reduce the meeting space fee to \$1,000/day, and they are working on pre-paid box lunches (sandwich, bag o' chips and a drink) for under \$20, including for this year. And I signed that contract.

NAAAW. I'm just back from the National AA Archives Workshop in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It was a wonderful weekend. (When I pointed out that it really wasn't "national," I got shouted down! Apparently they've had that discussion before.) I heard some great presentations on AA history and learned more about preserving our past.

E.g., they used a talk from a new book containing Bill W's talks—you'll recall I asked you for feedback a few months ago about this book—as one of the presentations. The talk was on the changing of "spiritual experience" in the first edition of the BB, to "spiritual awakening" in the second. Bill blamed Greenwich Village for that, and thought that "spiritual experience" was a stronger term, and that "spiritual awakening" was a tepid form of "spiritual experience." That talk should be available to you all, as it was transcribed and will be in the archives.

I was flattered to have been approached on three separate occasions by folks hoping that I was there scouting out the possibility of Area 49 hosting the event in the future. It's nice to know how well regarded SENY is! Although they've got the venue lined up for the next three years, if someone wants to work on getting the NAAAW conference to be in SENY, please talk to me about that.

Most importantly for my service commitment, I got to spend quite a bit of time with Kate W, the Western Canada Regional Trustee. A Winnipeg resident, she's also the chair of the Trustees literature committee and, as the conference committee chair for literature, I will be working closely with her as in the coming months as we head toward the 68th General Service Conference. It was good to establish a rapport with her, for that reason.

Conference agenda items. Which is a nice segue to remind you all that Dec. 15 is the deadline for submitting agenda items for the April 2018 Conference. I'll be glad to talk with anyone from SENY about how this process works, if any of your counties or districts want to put up an idea. Basically, you have an

idea first, and then you build from that to bringing people on board, and the idea may end up getting on the conference agenda.

Q: Will the workshop you attended produce a closing report, as NERF and NERASA do?

A: I don't know, but you can go to NAAAW.org, and see whether there are any from the past there. I know that all the sessions were recorded, but I don't think there will be a report as such, because it's not under the auspices of GSO, but is an independent group that's affiliated with GSO.

Q: Where are we at with the cost of the manuscript litigation?

A: I don't know where we are right now, but I can tell you where we were a month ago, which was under \$100,000, not sure how much under.

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

Hi My Name is Manny, I am an alcoholic, and I thank you all for the privilege to serve you and the area as your alternate delegate.

[Alt. Delegate apologized for not having brought the report with him, but will email it.]

Hola, mi nombre es Manuel, soy alcohólico y le agradezco a todos por el privilegio de servirle a usted y la Area como su delegado alterno.

#### Summary and Highlights of My Activities:

##### 1. Hispanic Districts Assemblies/Asambleas de Distritos Hispanos: 6/18, 7/16, 8/20, 9/17

- I attended the last four Hisp Dist's Asambleas:
- made a comprehensive report on the 2018 SENY convention;
- was able to secure a Hispanic Districts Liaison to the SENY Convention;
- disseminated Convention details and made Convention Chair contact information available (Michael C. @917.685.8677 or [www.convention@aaseny.org](mailto:www.convention@aaseny.org))
- also announce the fact that, through the diligent and persistent efforts of our Chair, there are two 2018 Assemblies scheduled on Sunday (April/November); making it possible for greater attendance by our Spanish-speaking community.
- made a detailed announcement on the 2018 New York State Informational Workshop (NYSIW); and that Jane, our Chair, Michelle, our Treasurer and I, met with the 2018 incoming Delegate for Area 48, the Host Area. to secure that there would be Spanish translation; and there will be Spanish translation at the Workshop.

#### Mark Your Calendars:

- 11/25-26 XXXVII HISPANIC CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, Hosted by Nassau District 214: MARRIOTT Hotel 1350 WALT WHITMAN RD. MELVILLE NY 11747(XXXVII CONVENCION HISPANA DE ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS)

##### 2. New York City Young People in A.A. (NYCYPAA): 6/18, 7/9, 8/27, 9/3, 9/17 NYCYPAA Mtg, Bronx/Manh, NY

There is a need for a NYCYPAA Liaison to SENY/SENY 2018 Convention.  
The 2018, SENY 2018 Convention

### Upcoming YP events:

- 10/13-14 NYCYPAA (New York City Young People in A.A.)
- "A Night in Dracula's Castle" Friday the 13th Castle Party & Lock-In (Tickets \$15.00): Fri. 7:00pm-Sat. 12:00pm, Castle On the Delaware, 139 Stockton Avenue, Walton, NY, 13856(Info & Registration: [www.nycypaa.org](http://www.nycypaa.org))
- 11/9-12 Empire State Convention of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous: Radisson Hotel, 205 Wolf Rd, Albany, NY 12205(Info: call 864.ESCYPAA "372.9722")

### 3. Other Events:

- 9/11 Qns Cty Gen Svc GSR Bootcamp-AA Group Life/Group Functions-How to Start an AA Group, Qns, NY
- 9/20 Brooklyn General Service Meeting, Francis College, 180 Remsen St. Brooklyn, NY: Made brief presentations on the status of the Printer's Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous and Safety in AA.
- 6/6 Astoria Safe & Sober Post Inventory Discussion/Sharing Session & voting, Ast. Qns.
- 7/28 Astoria Safe & Sober Inventory Discussion/Sharing Session, Ast. Qns.
- 6/12 Van Wyck Group: Facilitated Group Conscience Discussion and Voting, Queens, NY

### 4. Other Mark Your Calendars

- 10/12 SENY Service Participation Meeting: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, NY Intergroup, 307 7th Ave.-#201, New York, NY 10001

### 5. Since our last Com. Mtg. on June 5, I attended/reported at/ presented, spoke at:

- 6/6 Astoria Safe & Sober Post Inventory Discussion/Sharing Session & voting, Ast. Qns.
- 6/11 Hispanic Districts Share-A-Day CELEBRATING THE 82 YEARS OF A. A./33 DIA DE COMPARTIMIENTO:(HOST Dist. 714 ,ST. LUKE CHURCH, BRONX N.Y.
- 6/12 Van Wyck Group: Facilitated Group Conscience Discussion and Voting, Queens, NY
- 6/18 Hispanic Districts Assembly/Asamblea-Hisp Distritos, Bklyn, NY
- 6/18 NYCYPAA (New York City Young People in A.A.) Mtg, Manh, NY
- 6/24 Brooklyn Share-A-Day, Brooklyn, NY\*
- 7/1 Hispanic Districts Svc Wkshp Dist 314/ Taller de Servicio, Queens, NY
- 7/9 SENY Conv Plng Mtg, Bx, NY\*\*
- 7/9 NYCYPAA Mtg, Manh, NY
- 7/13 SENY Service Participation Mtg, Manh NY\*\*\*
- 7/14 Al-Anon Conv. Renaissance Hotel, Westchester, NY
- 7/16 Hispanic Districts Assembly/Asamblea-Hisp Distritos, Manh, NY
- 7/22 Staten Island Share-A-Day, SI, NY
- 7/28 Astoria Safe & Sober Inventory Discussion/Sharing Session, Ast. Qns.
- 7/31 Hispanic Dist 814 Billing Wkshp-Safety in AA, Westchester, NY
- 8/4-6 New York State Informational Workshop, Rochester, NY

- 8/10 Service Participation Committee, Manh, NY
- 8/14 Queens Cnty Bootcamp, Queens, NY
- 8/20 Asamblea-Hisp Distritos, Bronx/Manh, NY
- 8/27 SENY Conv Plng Mtg, Bronx, NY
- 8/27 NYCYPAA Mtg, Bronx/Manh, NY
- 9/3 NYCYPAA, Manh NY
- 9/4 New Life Group Mtg, Tradition 9, Queens, NY
- 9/11 Qns Cty Gen Svc GSR Bootcamp-AA Group Life-How to Start a Group, Qns, NY
- 9/16 SENY Assembly-Post Conference: Aviation High School, Long Island City, Qns, NY
- 9/17 Hispanic Districts' Asamblea: Fortaleza y Esperanza, Mount Vernon, NY
- 9/17 NYCYPAA Mtg, Bronx/Manh, NY
- 9/20 Brooklyn General Service Meeting, Francis College, 180 Remsen St. Brooklyn, NY
- 9/23 Bronx Share-A-Day: Villa Maria Academy, Bronx, NY
- 10/1 Rockland County Share-A-Day: Camp Ramah, Valley Cottage, NY 10989

***6. On the calendar--until we meet again:***

- 10/7 Staten Island "Breakfast Lunch and Service": 9:30 - 3:30 pm, Rossville AME Zion Church, 584 Bloomingdale Road, Staten Island, NY 10309
- 10/9 Queens County General Services GSR Bootcamp: 7:15 - 8:30 pm, Queens Intergroup, 105-29 Metropolitan Ave. Queens, NY 11375\*\*\*\*
- 10/12 SENY Service Participation Meeting: 7pm - 9pm, NY Intergroup, 307 7th Ave.-#201, New York, NY 10001
- 10/15 Hispanic Districts' Asamblea: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm, Venue TBA, NY
- 10/15 NYCYPAA Meeting: 4:00-6:00 PM, 7 East 10th St, Manh, NY\*
- 10/22 Bronx Upper Manhattan Spiritual Breakfast: 9:30 - 1:30 pm, Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road, Bronx, NY 10469
- 10/23 Safety and AA Workshop, Hosted/Presented by District 602:11-3:00 pm, Rutgers Church, 236 West 73rd Street, New York, NY 10023
- 10/28 District 603 Grapevine Workshop: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, St. Peters Church,  
346 W 20th St., NY, 10011
- 10/29 Queens Spiritual Breakfast: 9:00 - 2:00 pm, Five Star Banquet, 13-05 43rd Ave, Long Island City, NY 11101

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

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

The report for Sept. – Jan. 2017 is available on the table. June, Jul., and Aug. were approved during the last Assembly.

Asks for everyone's reimbursement requests before the Dec. 9 budget meeting (for which an email will be sent with the necessary information). Some chairs have not handed in any receipts for reimbursement. If reimbursements are not disbursed before the meeting, we won't know where we are for the coming year, budget-wise. This is how a budget is done, by looking at what was disbursed previously.

Then asks all to look at their respective budget line, and if you have expenses, see whether the amounts equal, or exceed, 100% of the budgeted amounts. If they're coming up with 100% or near, they need to ask for a larger budgeted amount.

One of the line items that is coming up is telecommunications [line 70075]. We had a number of different expenses that we weren't really sure where we should be putting these types of expenses. These were new items that had been grandfathered in from a previous rotation, expenses that we have not had in past rotations. So a lot of them got deposited in telecommunications, and telecommunications is coming up on December's budget. That's because of a number of different items, some of which are [inaudible]. You had things like Mail Chimp under telecommunications, [inaudible] under telecommunications, [inaudible] also under telecommunications. These were expenses that we didn't know, going into the budget meeting, where we were going to put those expenses. If they end up in telecommunications, then we have to figure out what to do about the [inaudible—overage?].

Just to give you an idea what you should be looking at for your budget line, what you're going to need. I need the expenses in order to figure out where you are for the budget. So if you have expenses tonight, please give them to me, or email them to me. We'll be sending out the invitation to the budget meeting. Has everyone had a chance to look at the Sept. financials?

Q: I'm on the Web Committee, and I notice that you have a budget line for website [70085], and you spent \$92. And there's another website line, and I think you spent \$92. Our web chair should have been able to tell you about the telephone/telecommunications expenses for Mail Chimp.

A: Yes, I have those expenses, which are under telecommunications. I'm just saying that because that's where we grouped them, in telecommunications, that's why that budget line is coming up to 100%, because we did not consider where to put those types of expenses in the last budget meeting.

Q: It doesn't help the website budget if you put it under telecommunications.

A: It's not website item,

Q: Mail chimp?

A: No. Mail chimp sends out emails to the body. It's really a communication, not a website item.

Q: I wouldn't consider that accurate. Have you spoken with the web chair about that?

A: No. Again, it's a communications item. It's not done by the web chair.

Q: Thank you.

Delegate: Impressed that she got the financials done by Oct. 2, with pneumonia.

Chair: Motion to accept treasurer's report? Motion made and seconded.

Vote counted by KC, DC of 602.

Vote: 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. Report is accepted.

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

Hey everyone, Fred alcoholic. My report will cover what's happened since the September Assembly. Making information more accessible. At the last two Assemblies and our previous Committee meeting I presented on an idea to make non-identifying group information more easily accessible to everyone. I also asked for feedback in the July, Aug., and Sept. email updates. All the feedback was very positive with a single exception from someone who thought the idea was "all right," so I moved forward with the idea.

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](http://aaseny.org/groups) to check it out. I encourage everyone to go there and let me know if you have ideas for how we could improve it further. Also be sure to point people there who are looking for this information.

Participation analytics. I now have the data from our Sept. Assembly. [graph displayed] We knew of about 2,000 groups. About 1,500 of those groups had a point of contact. 1,128 of those points of contact were GSRs. 231 of those GSRs had attended an Assembly over the last five, a full year's worth. And of those 231, 111 have attended more than once in the last year.

So now let's look at that in terms of "conversion metrics." [graph displayed] We know of about 2,000 groups, about 1,500 of which have a point of contact – in other words, 75% of groups have a point of contact. Of those 1,500 points of contact, 1,128 are GSRs, or 75%. But then of those GSRs, only 20% have attended an Assembly over the last year! And then of those GSRs that do attend at least once, only about 50% return for another. And so on.

Here's how things have changed since the April Assembly when we first started tracking the numbers in this format. [graph displayed] The only significant change is a 13% increase in groups who have attended 4 of the last 5 Assemblies, and a 12% decrease in groups with perfect attendance over the last 5. I'll be working on a way to display the data over time that's more useful. One of the challenges is that the location of the Assembly has a large effect on how much participation we get, so comparing one month to the next isn't really comparing apples to apples.

In the meantime our biggest opportunity is clear — the 80% of GSRs who have never attended an Assembly over the last year, and the 50% who have come once but not returned. Also, if you haven't done so already, please make sure you've signed in. That's where this data comes from.

A note for DCMs and DCMCs. I also want to mention to DCMs and DCMCs – it will take a lot of effort & time & greater willingness to change for us to improve participation as a whole Area. But you can always see how participation is changing for just your district or county. After each Assembly, you'll be able to open your Views at the average for your district or county. Your Views can also show you which GSRs fall into these two columns so you can reach out to support & encourage them. Ultimately this is the purpose of this data - to put it in your hands to help further our primary purpose.

One action item for everyone. So I want to leave everyone with one action item that everyone here can do. 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. 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.

I've created a sign-up sheet that is being handed out. Please circulate it 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 will be a game-changer in terms of reaching a far greater proportion of those we serve. Please take this to your groups and pass it around.

Q: Is an alternate GSR who attends also counted for purposes of the analytics?

A: Yes, either is counted.

Q: In what month do the most GSRs attend?

A: A good question, but I don't have the answer.

Q: Is there any way to track data about counties that provide transportation—do they have better turnout? Can this be tracked?

A: This would be a little tricky; there are so many variables that could play a role. Suffolk and Manhattan generally do have disproportionate attendance relative to other counties, but they also have the most groups, out of all counties. But I encourage DCMCs to dig into the data for their county and reflect on that stuff. I thought about including participation percentages in the the [aaseny.org](http://aaseny.org) site Groups. But I don't feel comfortable doing that without the body weighing in on it, since the info could be improperly wielded, as opposed to it inspiring further participation. But that would be data that could be looked at, to see how

actual participation matches up with hypotheses on how to improve participation. But right now it's not on the website.

Q: Is it possible to keep track of the location of Assemblies [and its effect on participation]? We had discussed previously having a fixed location. Any data on the effect of location on participation may need to be looked at in a future year or rotation, in reconsidering the issue of a fixed location.

A: I agree, but we'd need at least a full two years' worth of data, in order to achieve a baseline for what could be expected for each location. You'd probably want four years' worth, before being able to make predictions with any confidence about location's effect. It will be interesting to see what we learn from the data over time.

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

I'm a grateful alcoholic and my name is Jane E. Thanks to the chefs!

SENY Office. The SENY Office **is** available on weekends, there's no need to move. The storage closet needs a fourth-step inventory, and after consulting with the Treasurer, I'll gather financials more than seven years old and will get them shredded. Financials are not appropriate for Archives.

Introduction of member of Archives Ad Hoc Com. Introduction of member of the Archives Ad Hoc Committee, Cathy M.

SENY Handbook Revision. The last SENY handbook revision was in 2011. I'd like to thank the Publications Ad Hoc committee for excellent work. Chris the Chair is here tonight to take notes, and has not once said "what an order!"

Box 459. The latest Edition of Box 459 is a great read! Check it out.

Scheduling of Meetings. The Calendar is up for 2018. I've heard from members, asking why sometimes we have a committee meeting and Assembly in the same month. It was decided some time ago to not have them in July or August, unless the Chair calls for it. Historically attendance has been low in the summer months, which leads to less of an informed conscience, and less unity. Of course, there are new people here and we could have summer meetings if that's what you want.

New Business. There is one piece of new business I've placed in front of old business this evening from our Alternate Delegate and myself. I'll be requesting an increase in the Chair's budget. I already talked with our Treasurer, and she informed me we have the money. I've not been informed of any other new business.

Area Inventory Follow-Up. Reviewing our last Area Inventory, I'm happy to report that the following ideas have been put into place as a result:

- Regular Committee and County reports
  
- A timekeeper
  
- A parliamentarian
  
- Improving focus on accessibility for Assembly Venues
  
- More focus on Spanish translation
  
- Ask it basket (just implemented) as a way to get the quieter members involved
  
- Rotation orientation (it's in the job description; for example I met with Rick three times for transition)
  
- Lots of exposure for regional events so members can see how other Areas do things
  
- Improved time management



Nov. Assembly, Area Inventory. Please encourage everyone you know to come to the November Assembly for our Area Inventory. There will be no business at the Inventory Assembly. I'll have more details at the next Committee meeting, after I talk to Rich, who will facilitate. He's a lot of fun, so it'll be a good time!

Are there any questions?

Q: What is it?

A: Nov. 11, in Putnam County, and it's an inventory, so no other business, other than a Treasurer's report. Explains what happens in an inventory.

Coming up next are the County and District Reports, please let us know if you'd like to have the mike brought to you.

## **County/District Reports**

**Nassau (Regina, DCMC)**—(1) Round table discussion on the Concepts continues, with Al Z. from Long Beach speaking on Nov. 20, Concepts 11 and 12, at Nassau Intergroup Office, W. Hempstead, 7:00 – 8:30. (2) The Nassau Big Meeting will be on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 2:00 to 5:00, cohosted by Nassau General Service and Nassau Intergroup, held at the Ethical Humanist Society, Garden City.

**Suffolk** (Tom B., DCMC) (1) Suffolk is working on putting together a legacy event; we'll provide more info as it becomes available. (2) We have room on the bus to Assemblies; if Nassau would be interested, we could add an extra stop to pick up Nassau members. (3) The Hispanic Convention: on Sat. of Thanksgiving weekend, please attend; Sat. evening is the dance. A wonderful experience; I attended last year.

**Staten Island** (Jerry, DCM) (1) Our GS meeting, this Sun. at 7:00 p.m. (2) This Saturday, CPC workshop for all members, breakfast and lunch will be served (see flyer). (3) The SI Spiritual Breakfast is the Sun. after Thanksgiving, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Vanderbilt. I have tickets with me. (4) Dec. 16, at St. Patrick's, we'll have Traditions workshop, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (5) SI will host the Assembly on Jan. 13, at P.S. 48, 1050 Targee St., SI 10304.

**Putnam** (Rob O., DCMC) (1) Putnam County 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Unity Breakfast will be Oct. 15, at Greymoor, Garrison, NY; tickets are \$20. (2) Putnam will host the Nov. Assembly, George Fischer Middle School, 281 Fair St, Carmel Hamlet, NY 10512.

**Brooklyn** (Mel R., DCMC) (1) Brooklyn's Spiritual Breakfast will be held on Dec. 3. Please see Mitch about tickets and details. I have all the tickets for the DCMCs. (2) At our County meeting on Sept. 20, Manny (Alt. Del.) spoke on the manuscript litigation and on the safety card. Thank you, Manny. (3) Brooklyn is working on providing a bus to the SENY Convention.

**Hispanic District** (Ramon L, DCMC) [translated] (1) Hispanic Convention will be held Nov. 25 and 26, at the Melville Marriott, Melville, NY. (2) [inaudible] (3) introduction of new alternate DCMC for the Hispanic District, Consuela. (4) Chair for La Vina [inaudible].

Q: [Sally, SENY sponsorship chair] Whether the Hispanic District has a service sponsor chair? A: Yes. We elected a chair at our last Assembly, Mariel.

**Orange** (Sherry, DCMC) (1) Orange County GS inventory will be held on Oct. 17. (2) On Nov. 4, Derek will do a Safety in AA workshop.

**District 404:** Evelyn, DCM. My district has the highest concentration of agnostic and atheist meetings in the US and Canada. This pamphlet, "The God Word," published by UKAA, was presented to me by two different GSRs, wanting to get it printed in the US. A motion passed in our last district meeting, to try to bring it to our county, and then to the SENY body. We are aware of the Dec. 15 deadline, so I'm going to

send this to John to read, and we intend to propose that this be printed in the US. There is precedent for this. In 1980, a UK pamphlet was adapted and printed here.

Comment (Jane E.): This could be an item of new business in Nov., or Dec., here at the Committee Meeting.

A: Yes.

Q: Is the pamphlet available online?

A: Type in "The God Word," and UKAA, and it will pop up.

Jane: So that will be an item of new business for next time.

**District 601:** Michael, DCM. We host a monthly (unique in Manhattan) meeting devoted to the Concepts, with great speakers. In our Oct. meeting (this Wed.) we'll have Vicky B., alternate DCMC for Manhattan, on Concept X. The meeting is at Trinity Lutheran Parish, lower East Side, please see the SENY website.

**District 608:** Terry, DCM. Please come to our Nov. 18 (Sat.) workshop on Public Info, also a training for speaking to non-AAAs. Hudson Guild, 441 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St., with light refreshments.

**District 602:** KC, DCM. We're hosting, along with Manhattan County, "Safety and AA, Our Common Welfare," on Sat. Oct. 21, 11:00 – 3:00, at Rutgers Church on W. 73<sup>rd</sup> St. at Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Registration is required on the Event Brite website, see flyer, due to limited capacity.

**District 603:** Michael, DCM. On Sat. Oct. 28, 2:00 – 4:00, St. Peter's Church, W. 20<sup>th</sup> St, we're holding a Grapevine workshop, panel discussion, with cartoonist, pizza, etc.

**District 412:** Megan, DCM. We had a great picnic in Sept., our annual picnic. Upcoming, the Greenwood Group is having their anniversary/costume party (meeting first), Oct. 28, with door prizes, consisting of tickets to the Bill W. dinner and tickets to the Brooklyn Spiritual Breakfast. The Christmas Alkathon is coming up, and a late winter workshop, both still being planned. And myself and my alternate are attending meetings that don't have GSRs.

**Announcement by Michelle G., Treas.:** This Sat., Oct. 7, Westchester Share-an-Evening. 1:00 – 7:30, at Highlands Middle School.

**Service Participation Committee:** (Manny) On Oct. 12, 7:00 – 9:00, we'll have the Service Participation Committee meeting, for DCMCs and Alt. DCMCs.

## **Committee Reports**

**[7th tradition: \$142—hat passed during committee reports.]**

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

Attended Bronx/Upper Manhattan Share-a-Day on Oct. 23; attended the Rockland Share-a-Day on Oct. 1; I will be attending the Dist. 603 Gv Meeting on Oct. 28; on Nov. 5 I'll meet the La Vina chair and his committee, and attend their meeting; I have sold out of the book *Voices of Women in AA*.

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

I connected with the regional volunteer services coordinator for NY state, for this section, and she said there's a desperate need for AA to be brought into prisons in this area. So starting with Edgecombe Prison, in Washington Heights, Lincoln Prison, on 110<sup>th</sup> St., and Otisville Prison in Orange County, we'd like to bring in AA meetings. So if you know someone who take this commitment, two days a month—a reliable person, please reach out to me, my number's on the back of the link. Our next committee meeting is on Nov. 19, at the Intergroup Office. If anyone has experience with the corrections correspondence program, positive or negative, please call, email or text me.

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

First, the printer made a written amends for having messed up the first page for the second time. They explained how they would fix it.

I didn't print a *Link* in Oct., so we'll only have 9 issues this year, and we're supposed to have ten. This was because there were only two weeks between the Sept. issue, distributed at the Assembly, and the one that would have come out tonight. I spoke with Jane about how to avoid this for next year, how to avoid the scheduling/calendar glitch that caused us to fall short. We'll coordinate on that for next year. So the next deadline is Oct. 22, and that issue will be distributed at the Nov. 11 Assembly.

Also, we'll be creating a 50<sup>th</sup> SENY Convention issue, a special commemorative issue—Cookie's idea. We'll be gathering some interesting history, which I'll be coordinating with Mike. Terry and others are helping.

We're also continuing to increase circulation via intergroups. I'll be focusing more on those numbers next time, so I'll need the help of DCMs and DCMCs, to understand how well the Link is getting to the groups.

I really encourage committee chairs to provide at least one article during their terms. I'll take your commitment for that today, if you want to do that.

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

The Treatment Facilities committee met, at the SENY office in the Bronx, on the last Sunday of the month, from May through Sept. We've had participation from three counties so far, and we'd like to have participation from all 12 counties, and the Hispanic districts' treatment rep as well. We received the treatment facilities packets, which come in our kit and are recommended, and which we ordered from GSO at a discount. We have one for each county, but we'll also order the Spanish-language version of the packet, since the county reps expressed a need to have this on hand in case the need for it came up. We've also discussed collecting used Gvs, to distribute to those who are going into the facilities meetings. As the numbers of used Gvs build up, we'll donate them to county Treatment Facilities or Institution committees. So please bring your used Gvs to us, via the assembly, or through your rep who comes to our committee meetings, or here to the SENY committee meeting. We're working on bridging the gap, and once we get a volunteer list together, we'll reach out to the professionals, so we have people on both sides of that bridge. And we'll have a workshop next year.

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

First, I didn't print out the calendar for this meeting, so I need to make an amends about that. I promise to provide the print version in November. The calendar on the website is updated as of this past Saturday. If you have any events you'd like to add to the calendar, please email me.

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

We participated in the [inaudible] recovery month event, with the bureau of recovery services, on Sept. 22. Chris from Manhattan and Adrian B. from Brooklyn took that commitment. It went very well. It was open to the public, and Chris was swarmed with people who wanted to talk about AA. So he gave an impromptu PI talk. The good thing about this was that we reached a lot of young people. They also have a lot of contacts with TFs, so I'd like to connect with the TF committee, and work with them more.

A few events: the Staten Island CPC workshop, on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and the District 608 PI workshop on the 18<sup>th</sup>. And there are a couple of public health fairs happening in the Bronx and in Queens through the rest of the year. We'll also begin our school mailings to colleges, high schools, and middle schools, now to be done via email. We're working with District 601 to reach deaf people through schools for the deaf. I'm also working on speaking at an upcoming Asamblea. There is a Hispanic district PI chair. We will have our committee meeting on Oct. 31.

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

As our Chair aptly put it, the long-awaited oral histories of former delegates has begun. Thank you to Sherry for providing a secluded area where I can do the histories, and thank you to Devlin [?] from Brooklyn county for participating and helping me. I've got two done, and intend to complete the rest, doing three per month, by the end of my rotation. The next Archives Committee meeting will be held at the NY Intergroup office, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Oct. All are welcome.

Q: Will we be able to access those?

A: It's an in-house project, using first and last names with the delegates' permission. I have duplicate recordings of each, one on tape, and one digital. I think we'll go to digital- only at our next committee meeting. At the next Assembly, maybe I can allow members to hear them, on the side.

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

We will meet this Friday at 7:00, at NY Intergroup. All are welcome. I'm asking all DCMCs to send someone that's interested in this type of committee work. They can come once, or maybe join the committee.

I went to Far Rockaway, to the Oceanview Nursing Home, this past week, in response to a request from GSO. I consulted with the DCMC of Queens, who thought it would be best if the Queens Intergroup Chairperson also went with me. So we went to speak to the social worker and activities director of that nursing home. They've asked us to begin having one meeting per month, because there are 12 patients who need it.

**Ad Hoc Publications Review** (Chris)

We're working on revising the service manual, which I'm going through with a fine-toothed comb. Hopefully in about three weeks I'll have a draft to submit to our committee for approval.

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

I'm working on testing a new system for the calendar for the website, and hope to have more on that next month. And I'm working on best practices for emails, especially transitioning when someone rotates out. There have been challenges with signatures and forwards, for example, and we want to make sure that we address these issues. If anyone has any input, or experience with this, we'd love to hear from you. We're planning another web committee meeting, so please let me know if you want to attend, and I'll do my best to accommodate everyone's scheduling needs.

**Office Manager** (Richie — [office@aaseny.org](mailto:office@aaseny.org))

If you'd like to use the SENY office on weekends, it's open. To do that, please email me. There were problems communicating with the building manager, but we seemed to have worked that out. He was very helpful with deliveries of the conference reports. We should consider giving him a tip.

**Ad Hoc Finance** (Michael)

This report is available on the table, also. On Sept. 24, three out of the four of us met, brainstorming ideas for 2018. Cathy W., the nominee for the term ending in 2021, also joined us. We agreed on the following: (1) We'll designate the most recent set of area financial and budget guidelines as the official set from which we'll work. (2) We'll conduct a comprehensive review of all 17 budget and financial guidelines every two years; each quarter we'll review two or three of the guidelines and make appropriate recommendations to the area committee as needed. There's a question whether we'll also review the area convention financial guidelines. We also discussed other service entities whose finances are guaranteed by SENY, about which we'll need to learn more. (3) We agreed to develop three educational products for SENY. "SENY Finances 101" is the working title of one, targeting committee members and assembly voters, to help them understand how and why SENY finances operate and are reported, so they can perform their fiduciary responsibilities through informed consent. We suggest these be offered before each area committee meeting and some assemblies, with members of the ad hoc finance committee alternating as deliverers. Cathy is leading work on that project. We're also developing a Tradition Seven workshop, with a multi-length, customizable syllabus, that can be delivered at any service level throughout SENY. Mike is leading that project. An ad hoc finance committee member will be designated as a resource for each county. And our third education program will be something for county treasurers, if need be. Our committee will work with Manny and the service participation committee to see if there's a need and desire for that.

Q: What is the question about the area convention financial guidelines?

A: [Chair offers to answer] I had asked John W., the most recent convention treasurer (from 2017), to use SENY convention guidelines, and I asked Ira, the incoming chair for 2018, to reach out to John, and see whether they could work together. That's why there's a question. It's not cut and dried because he has the expertise.

**2018 SENYCON Chair** (Michael — [convention@aaaseny.org](mailto:convention@aaaseny.org))

There's a save-the-date flyer on the table. Our next planning meeting is Oct. 22, 11:00 a.m., at the SENY office. We've filled all of our committee chair positions, and all committees are seeking volunteers. So please attend the meeting if interested, or if you can't attend, email me.

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

Our next meeting will be Dec. 2, either in Orange County, or Nassau, location TBD.

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

One thing I do in this job is facilitate the GSR orientations in the Assemblies, and I'm having a ball, getting to know all the GSRs. The turnouts at the GSR orientations have been great. The DCM orientations are held here. Anyone who can't make it to the orientations can feel free to email me or call me, and also may do so with any questions on service sponsorship. I can also speak at county meetings.

**YPAA Events** were announced as part of the Alternate Delegate's report.

**Service Participation** (Manny A.) report was done at the end of the county and district reports.

**The following were absent or had no report:** **CPC** (Anthony B. — [cpc@aaaseny.org](mailto:cpc@aaaseny.org)); **Literature** (Brendan — [literature@aaaseny.org](mailto:literature@aaaseny.org)); **Al-Anon Liaison** (Jamie S. — [alanonliaison@aaaseny.org](mailto:alanonliaison@aaaseny.org)); **Translation Chair** (Eddie D.)

**New Business—Increase to Budget Lines for Chair, Alternate Delegate.**

**Chair:** An item of new business. I'm asking for an increase in the Chair's budget of \$1,500. I live in Suffolk County, and the expenses are much higher than anticipated. I'm close to the end of the budgeted amount, in Sept. [most of this was inaudible]

**Alternate Delegate:** I'm going to need more funds for my budget. I'm up to 93% of my existing budget, before submitting all of my Sept. expenses. I'm going to ask for \$2,000 more. [much of this was inaudible]

**Chair** (to Treasurer): Is the money available?

**Treasurer:** We can move money around, so it is available. [mostly inaudible]

**MOTION:** To approve an increase in the Chair's budget of \$1,500; to approve an increase in Alternate Delegate's budget of \$2,000.

Motion seconded.

**Discussion:** A trusted servant spoke in favor of the increase, pointing out how driving is much more expensive than using public transportation, and expenses can be wildly different from year to year, and somewhat unpredictable. And dependent on where the person lives. That this will inform us for 2018 budgets.

Another trusted servant sought clarification of how the amount of the increase was arrived at. Clarification was provided.

Two other trusted servants spoke in favor of the increase, how the counties and groups have benefitted from the Chair and Alt. Del. travelling and visiting them. And that there is plenty of money in the budget that can be moved around.

At that point, the Chair moved to the vote, with no further discussion.

YES: 53            NO: 0            Abstentions: 0    No minority opinion.

**Motion passes.**

**Old Business—Amendments to the Registrar’s Job Description**

Chair: This has been handed out many times. The registrar’s job description. I’ll entertain a motion to accept or reject the job description as written.

**MOTION:** To accept the registrar’s job description as drafted. Seconded.

Discussion: A trusted servant expressed concern about the high level of digital literacy required for the job; and elimination, in the description, of providing help in transitioning the new rotation; whether the registrar is the owner of the database; and whether there’s a backup of our database, which should be mentioned in the descriptions. Another trusted servant pointed out that more than one person is needed to do the job, as the description says, but wondered whether these others would be assistants or new, additional positions.

Another trusted servant wanted to avoid the use of trade names in any descriptions.

The drafter then addressed these concerns. How the job is really three jobs, and less technical experience is required, now, to do this job than in the past. He wants to make the job manageable, and to clarify which skills are needed for each of the three jobs. He will work with any amendments.

Further discussion occurred, by two trusted servants. One was against creating two new positions, with their respective voting rights, and causing an imbalance. Another spoke of the chaos that occurred in prior years, and how the current registrar has cleaned everything up and made everything easy.

Chair: To vote now, or to postpone? Since Fred is willing to work with any amendments, with the ad hoc publications chair, if we vote now and it doesn’t pass, we can get working on amendments, and move this along.

Vote.

YES: 6            NO: 22            Abstentions: 12            (Fred votes against; will work with Chris.)

Minority Opinion: A trusted servant is in favor of requiring technical skills for this job, and for specific expertise for other jobs.

No one changes vote. Motion does not pass. It’s the recommendation of this body that Fred and Chris work together on amendments.

Further comment: A trusted servant worries that we have made no progress in the handbook. The revision should move ahead. It’s been five years without a SENY handbook. The one job description shouldn’t hold up the entire process.

The chair responded that other positions also need updating and amending.

Another trusted servant commented further, urging that we move forward.

The registrar responded that all input is welcome.

**MOTION** to close. Seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m. by Jane E., Area Chair, with A.A.’s Responsibility Statement.