

October 7, 2019, SENY COMMITTEE MINUTES – Approved

Meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m. – Jerry R., **Chair**

Serenity Prayer and AA Preamble, in English and Spanish.

Quorum established; and Housekeeping (explanation of voting)

Spiritual Parliamentarian (Bill C.), Spiritual Vote Counter (Liz), Spiritual Timekeeper (Marty K.)

No corrections to June minutes; Accepted as written

OFFICER'S REPORTS

DELEGATE'S REPORT: Jane E. (delegate@aaseny.org)

Reading of the yellow card. Safety Card (a service piece from GSO) read out loud.

The SENY Committee members, every one of us, from DCM down to delegate, are leaders (Tradition 2, Concept 9), we are responsible to those we serve: the members of SENY (Tradition 9). We Committee members need to provide a safe and welcoming environment here and at our Assemblies. It has come to my attention that there was an unsafe and frightening exchange at the last Assembly, witnessed by several at their first Assembly. It's doubtful they will return. I was treated with love and respect at my first Assembly, and it made me want to come back. I did not witness the hostile exchange, but several members informed me, after I went home. I notified the Chair and other officers and seek the help of everyone of this Committee to prevent recurrence. Please join me and practice Traditions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 12 and Concepts 1, 5, and 9, and make SENY safe.

I will be at least 10K under budget: I've traveled extensively with our Alternate Delegate. We've practiced prudent financial principle and had the support of our Treasurer. Traditions 1,3,7 and Concepts 8,9,11,12

The prudent reserve of AA as a whole (US and Canada) is 9-12 months of operating budget of GSO, AAGPV, and AAWS combined. SENY currently uses 7-8-month operating expenses.

Tradition 7, Concepts 8,9,11,12

At the Assembly, there were handouts from GSO requesting ideas for the 2021 GSC Theme, presentations & workshop topics, with history of all listed since 1951! We have some copies here tonight, or you can write me at delegate@aaseny.org and I will send to you. If you're not digitally fluent, have another AA member email me for you (Accessibility) This is a perfect example of Concept 1.

The theme for the 2020 General Service Conference be: "2020: A Clear Vision for You." Traditions 3 &5, Concepts 1&2 The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2020 General Service Conference: Recovery — Who Is Missing in Our Rooms? Unity — Practicing Our Principles Service — Keeping A.A. Relevant The workshop topic for the 2020 General Service Conference be: Attraction Through Action (Traditions 3&5, Concepts 1&2)

There was a motion here to align the SENY Committees with the Conference Committee and have Treatment and Accessibilities be one committee. I was all for it! After discussion it did not pass, and the 2 committees remained separate. Because of the gracious and loving committee work of our Accessibilities Chair and our Treatment Chair, I've learned more, and have a clear vision that this is better for the Area. Informed conscience, thanking the SENY Committee and a couple of past delegates for making me an informed delegate. (Step 10)

How the Conference Operates handout...Turn page over for Robert's Rules as they apply to the Conference, one exception in the Area is that a motion needs to be made and seconded instead of the first line on the back. Another is that tabling a motion is not the same as postponing a motion in the Area.

How an idea becomes an agenda item reviewed, emphasis on thorough discussion to encourage an informed conscience (Concept 1). "Talk about it".

I've been made aware that there is a lot of confusion about exactly what the motion at the Assembly was, so I've brought handouts of the motion and it is up online on the from the delegate page. Whenever you email me, a link to the From the Delegate's pages is under my signature to make it easy to find things your delegate believes are important for the Area to be informed about. Background information on that motion is there too.

Thanks to our web chair for facilitating our members to be informed.

Our collective conscience should be an *informed* conscience.

Background information from the GSR who made the motion was sent to the Officers in July with encouragement to pass on to any interested committee members. There have been many interested committee and other AA members reaching out to me and I've passed it on. People want to be informed! The background and motion are here and on the delegate's page, please spread the word. (Concept 1 and 12). Everyone has a conscience, is it informed?

The job description of the delegate is in the Service Manual and in our SENY Handbook, the quick version of our group conscience. The full group conscience is found in our minutes (thank you Madam secretary). (Concept 9)

From time to time during a commitment I review my job description (Step 10, Concept 9). I always read a job description thoroughly before I stand for or put my hand up for it.

GSO is a clearinghouse, many members keep me in the loop, so if you have questions sometimes I'll refer them to someone at GSO, you reaching out to me to find out which desk to contact helps to make the delegate informed, and I'm very grateful to you, for that, and for my life.

Thank you for my life. Any questions?

Q: What is the preamble item? Is it going to the conference?

A: (Delegate) There was a motion at our last SENY assembly to submit a request for an agenda item to the General Service Board for inclusion at the 70th General Service Conference of AA to request that our trusted servants at Grapevine change the language of the AA Preamble to as follows: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of *people*" and the rest of the preamble unchanged. The motion was already supported by Brooklyn County which means that Brooklyn County can send it in. The motion was already supported by Transcend Group, which means the group can send it in. This motion was to ask for SENY's support to send it into the conference.

Q: Is the Preamble conference approved literature? What is the status of the Preamble?

A: (Delegate) The Preamble is copyrighted by the Grapevine as it is currently written. If you look at the history, you will see that it has been changed twice already. I don't believe that the Preamble went to the General Service Conference for approval because the copyright is owned by the Grapevine, however, the Grapevine has not gone against the conference unless the conference... (refers to past Delegate).

(Past Delegate): Like the first edition of the Big Book, the Preamble precedes the General Service Conference so it was in use before the conference went into process so, like the first edition was not approved by the conference, the Preamble was not approved by the conference when it was first being used, but it is in all the literature that is conference approved. As past Chair of the literature committee, we look from the front cover to the back cover and that's what's approved by the conference, so the Preamble is conference approved.

Q: Two weeks ago, I went to a conference in Intergroup Central Office of AA. The business meeting was attended by the Grapevine editor, publisher, and trustee. It was brought up that a group in Boston wanted to change the Preamble to "persons" and asked if that could be an Agenda item. They told him that the groups can change it at will. Is this going to be an agenda item as well, will it be a joint agenda item, or will they be done separately, or will it not be necessary to do it at all because the groups can do it unilaterally?

A: Each group is autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole. This year at the General Service Conference I heard that groups can change the steps in their group. They can't publish them differently. There are many groups in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and in our area, by the way, that are saying "a fellowship of people". There are also many groups in Toronto and Quebec who are doing that. Each group is autonomous. We don't get to decide what a final agenda item is. I encourage all of you to read Concepts VII and VIII. We can submit. The motion in front of SENY is to submit for a final agenda item, for this to be looked at by the conference. We have no idea what is going to be a final agenda item until I get the final list in January meeting. The final time to get a proposed agenda item in December 15th.

Comment: Additional information regarding this agenda item: This is an opportunity to possibly have AA as a whole discuss this. The person that has done the research for the background information of this motion has been speaking to other AA groups across the country. This is an opportunity to have all 93 Areas have a discussion.

Q: My understanding is that the motion was tabled, so in order for it to be rediscussed for the Area to review, it has to come off table at the next assembly. Is that correct? Because it was not postponed, it was tabled.

A: That is exactly correct, and that is the difference between a tabling and postponement. We don't even need a motion to postpone. The Chair has that in their power. This would not be discussed here, it would be discussed at the next assembly, where it would come off the table.

Q: It comes off the table if someone requests that it come off, right?

A: Not just request. It would be a motion, a second, and a simple majority to take it off the table.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT: Tom B. (altdelegate@aaseny.org)

Good evening / Buena Noches – I have the honor and the joy of serving as your alt del.

I have been on a journey of reflection for the last 23 days – reflection on my sobriety, my service to AA, and the peaks and valleys in both. I've thought about my first rotation as a GSR, where I went in knowing nothing, and came out knowing not much more, except for two things which became incredibly clear to me: first, that the AA groups must survive, and that the GSR is a major lifeline to that survival; and second, that I came to value and respect solid, loving leadership.

As a county treasurer, thrust into an immediate crisis of thousands of dollars gone "missing", I ultimately came to understand that the phrase "where money and spirituality mix" wasn't about the recovery of the money; it was about AA principles, and what is really important at the end of the day. And I was guided in that time by solid, loving leadership.

In two subsequent rotations for different groups as a GSR, I learned that a GSR who is caring and involved can make a positive difference in the life of a group. I also learned that a frustrated, disenchanted GSR can have a different effect on the life of a group. In all honesty, I have been both.

As a county DCMC, I had to learn to shut up, listen, and accept that we all have different opinions and belief systems – anyone want to hazard a guess on how hard that was for me? As an alternate delegate, I've had to learn to listen to my Area, as well as think in terms of AA as a whole. Equally important, I've looked at the messages that came out of our Area Inventory almost a year ago: 1) The person new to service needs more support; 2) Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusiveness; and 3) Communication. And I've continued to be guided by – you guessed it – solid, loving leadership.

I've discovered one other thing on this journey since September 14th: I look at the upside-down triangle of service a bit differently. In fact, because "more is better", I've created a new one, using our 3 Legacies – just for me. In my triangle, Recovery and the Groups sit on top of the triangle (and of course the Groups are held together in unity by the Traditions).

But the triangle itself is made up of Unity and Service: arrows for Service, all pointing upwards, from different levels of the triangle; and the entire triangle is filled with a bright background color of Unity, which erupts out the top, along with the arrows, and infuses the Groups. Hey, it's my triangle, I can do whatever I want with it!

So, "is there a point, and will Tom be getting to it any time soon"? Yes, there is – actually, there are four points: tolerance, acceptance, unity and love. Take a look at the quotes I've assembled for you, and see – from Bill Wilson's own hand – where the "the base of our pyramid of service really rests". It rests on the GSRs and on the DCMs, and many of you here tonight are the latter. This SENY Committee, this body of Servant Leadership, everyone in this room, are the ones to whom the GSRs look for leadership, for guidance, for "how to be".

On November 10th we will hold our next Area 49 Assembly. Once again, potential hot-button issues will be raised or brought to a motion. All of us in this room, *myself most emphatically included*, will need to answer the following question in their own way:

- Will my comments at – or away from – the microphone, show the Unity of Servant Leadership that SENY holds dear, or will the GSR drive away thinking "that was painful, I think I'll go back to being a coffee-maker".

I've heard GSRs say something like that too damned many times. We can change that, if we choose.

I am available to facilitate Group and County Inventories, meetings or workshops on Traditions or Concepts. I would love to simply come visit your group. And beyond being available, I am excited, delighted and honored to be of any service I can to SENY, and to AA as a whole.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, and as our Delegate says, thank you for my life. Que

Chair: Jerry R. (chair@aaseny.org)

Reads Concept X

Went to National Archives Workshop in September in Detroit. Heard what may have been the first PBA by Radio WWWJ in Detroit. Visited downtown Detroit, site of our 2020 International Convention.

Office manager position has been divided into three parts. Liz is the electronic person at the assemblies and the committee meetings. George, DCMC of Bronx/Upper Manhattan, will be doing coffee.

Will need someone for the SENY office during off hours and on weekends.

By the end of the year I will be about \$4,000 under budget. Please pick up your LINKS. I am available to do group inventories, and in any way that I can be of service to South Eastern New York.

Treasurer: JoAnn M. (treasurer@aaseny.org)

Convention account is \$10,370.19. I plan to transfer out \$7,370.19 back to the general fund because seed money for the convention is \$3,000.00. The special events account right now has \$6,463.79.

Motion to accept treasurer's report, seconded, motion passed.

7th Tradition: \$193.00

Registrar: Mike D. (registrar@aaseny.org)

New system will be available to all registrars in the first quarter of 2020.

I will have access to the new group numbers when the new registrar portal is deployed in early 2020. I will have access to the new group number listing when it is deployed in early 2020. Until then, existing group numbers will still be used to identify groups when making donations. Attended National AA Tech Workshop in Bowling Green, KY. Working on video for DCM's to manipulate data on Airtable.

2020 SENY Convention Chair: Richie N. (convention@aaseny.org)

First meeting was held on September 22nd. We elected all chair people. Missing Al-Anon liaison. Next meeting is October 13th at 11:00 a.m. at SENY office. Convention treasurer is Maria. Convention dates are March 27-29.

2019 NYSIW Chair: KC W. (nysiw@aaseny.org)

We had a great workshop, August 2-4 at the Spiritual Life Center in Garrison

We had a new event, speed sharing, hosted by our young people. We launched a website specific for NYSIW which will assist in creating continuity through the four areas of New York State. Next year Western NY will host. We host again in 2022. The website will be transferred to each area. I will share what I learned this year with next year's chair, James. Attendance was lower than expected. We went over-budget by \$1,588.43. The reason: I booked 130 beds but sold only 70. There was a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 per bed, or \$6,500.00. We owed \$2,500 of the \$6,500 because we did not fill beds. We had Spanish translation for the second time ever.

Handbook Editor: Mike O. (handbookeditor@aaseny.org) – We are editing handbooks in the next few weeks. Officers and standing committee chairs will get an e-mail from me regarding their duties. Make sure the duties being performed matches what is in the handbook, or if there are any changes going forward that will help the body, or if you see any typos. We only get about eight weeks to edit to have the handbook ready for next year. Changes will be on-line for body to review.

Literature Chair, Nassau County Intergroup: Bill C. (literature@nassauny-aa.org) Nassau has been selling literature for many years, and concluded that they were out of compliance with the New York State sales tax requirements. We should have been collecting sales tax on our sales. We have reconciled ourselves with New York State. Our action in Nassau has the potential of calling attention to other AA service entities which are also selling literature which may or may not be compliant with state tax requirements. Please let me know if you would like a copy of the more detailed report.

New Business

AA's Parliamentary Procedures in a Meeting:

Member: I think we should all be on the same page about how this all works and maybe have an explanation of that right before we go into old business, new business. At the assembly, a motion was put on the table, it was seconded, and then went to a simple majority vote which was passed. Then there was confusion about a minority opinion which apparently should not have happened, so while the minority opinion was happening there was point of order being called from the group.

Discussion

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grapevine/La Vina: Sherry A. (grapevine@aaseny.org)

October Grapevine Issue: Accessibilities, Sept/Oct LV Issue: Atheist and Agnostics

New Spanish Book: Bajo El Mismo Techo (One Big Tent translated). Upcoming Issues: Oct. 15: Home Group, Nov. 15th: Getting into General Service, Dec. 15th: Annual Prison Issue.

LV Upcoming Stories: Oct. 17th: Annual Prison Issue, Jan 3, 2020: Aa Around the World, Feb. 3, 2020: Your Experience with AA's Traditions. Visit GV You Tube channel for stories and video on GV 75th anniversary tool kit.

Literature: Brian (reporting for Chris): (literature@aaseny.org) Orange County did not get LINKS today. Please donate some.

Intergroup: Mel R. (intergroup@aaseny.org) Last meeting was September 22nd. Robust conversation about their office policies and it's relationship to county general service. . Attended Intergroup seminar in mesa, Arizona. Next Intergroup seminar is in Des Moines, Iowa, next September. Our next Intergroup meeting is on the 22nd at 1:00 p.m., hosted by Queens, location TBD. DCMCs are welcome to attend, as well as Spanish intergroups. Lunch will be served.

Treatment Facilities: Ed M. (tf@aaseny.org) Planning Treatment workshop in Manhattan, November 24th at the LGBTQ Building, from 1:00 – 3:00. NY Intergroup has asked for help with coordination of treatment in Westchester. Queens is forming a Bridge the Gap committee. Nassau is in the process of forming a Bridge the Gap committee. New York Intergroup is now referring Bridge the Gap requests to Nassau. Expenses for the trip to the Bridge the Gap workshop in Sacramento, California, were \$750.00. If the committee approves, I will probably go over budget this year.

Motion: Give Eddie the money he needs, seconded, motion passed.

PI: Mike D. (pi@aaseny.org) Helping Nassau chair coordinate speakers for Uniondale High School (no date yet). Letter to the media was distributed September 1st by GSO. Working on a workbook to serve as a guide for Speaking to non-alcoholic workshops.

Hispanic/SENY Spanish Convention: Reina (distributoshispanos@aacdhseny49.org) – Dates of convention are November 2-3, Hilton JFK. Registration is \$15.00 and includes Saturday night dinner and Sunday breakfast. Banquet/Dance \$50 on Sunday night. There will be translation.

DCM District 111 Suffolk: Melissa - Co-chair for Areas hospitality room at International Convention. If you are interested in doing service call 631-278-2764.

Archives: Hank (archives@aaseny.org) Went to Detroit for National AA Archives workshop. If you would like us to come to any of your events let me know. Next Archives meeting is October 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Will be discussing guidelines for new history book. James will be doing a presentation for the database. Considering Archives workshop for 2020.

CPC: Laura G. (cpc@aaseny.org) Invited by area 67 in Southeast Texas to participate in telephone conference on October 16th.

Treasurer: JoAnn M. (treasurer@aaseny.org) SENY budget meeting on December 7th at 11:00 a.m. at the SENY office. Will be sending out budget worksheets to committee chairs and officers to start working on budget for 2020. Please inform groups to not send contributions to Lafayette Avenue office. Mail to p.o. box. Email JoAnn for more information. Budget lines do not get changed. We account for changes when we have our budget meeting in December and raise it at that time, if need be.

Intergroup: Mel R. (intergroup@aaseny.org) At the Intergroup seminar in Mesa elections were held, and Queen's Intergroup Chair, Antonio G., was elected Alternate Delegate for next year's ICOAA.

Manhattan: Vicky B. (dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org) District 618 is holding first bi-lingual Grapevine/La Vina workshop October 19th. There will be translation for the Hispanic community.

Queens: Frank G. (dcmc@qcgisa.org) Suggestion for budget meeting: Reevaluate amount of money set aside for assemblies to be increased. Breakfast October 20th. Holiday Share-A-Thon. More info on-line.

Putnam: Jimmy Z. Unity breakfast October 20th, \$20. Alkathon New Year's Eve.

Nassau: Annabel B. (dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org) Archives Workshop Monday, November 18th, 7:30 p.m., Nassau Intergroup office.

Brooklyn: Colleen V. (dcmc@brooklynaa.org) Spiritual breakfast December 21st, tickets \$35.00. Brooklyn did vote to amend the Preamble at county level to "a fellowship of people".

Corrections: Eddie D. (corrections@aaseny.org) Workshop November 16th at LGBT Center in Manhattan. Two members will attending the National Corrections Conference in Houston 11/1.

9:41 p.m. Motion to close, seconded, motion accepted

Next Committee Meeting: Monday, November 4, 2019, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Church of the Holy Family, Mecher Hall, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472 DCM, DCMC Orientation 7:00 p.m.

Next SENY Assembly: Sunday, November 10, 2019, 8:15 am-3:15 pm., Rockland County Community College, 145 College Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901

Close: Declaration of Unity