

October 5, 2020 - SENY COMMITTEE MINUTES – Approved

CHAIR: (Jerry R.) Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m.
Serenity Prayer and AA Preamble, in English and Spanish.
Quorum established; and Housekeeping (explanation of voting)

Approval of June 1, 2020 minutes postponed until November 2 committee meeting.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

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

Thank you for all the work behind the scenes and the work of showing up and participating which went into our first ever virtual elections for our Panel 71 officers (2021-2022)! We held the first virtual Area elections in the US and Canada, so we had a lot of visitors from many other Areas who wanted to see what we did, and so SENY served AA as a whole. What an honor for us, we're grateful to be of service.

I invite you to turn to the [From the Delegate page on aaseny.org](#) (review)

The GSB has determined that another 1.5 million will be withdrawn from the prudent reserve to continue operations for 2020. When physical meetings stopped, our literature sales dropped significantly.

The result is a gap between our income and our costs of roughly \$700,000 each month. We have never been fully self-supporting through our own contributions, is it time for us to stop relying on the sale of literature to make up the shortfall? This brings to mind some additional questions: "Will we embrace "I am responsible" and finally become fully self-supporting through our own contributions? Will members grow in love and tolerance of those members who cannot give of time, but can give generously of dollars? Will COVID 19 hold us finally accountable to our Seventh Tradition? Is there a silver lining here?"

(To help develop an informed conscience, members may wish to review Concept 12 in our [AA Service Manual](#)).

All 2021 Regional Forums will be held on a virtual platform; all 2020 regional forums were canceled due to COVID 19. With that in mind, please save the following dates for "make up" virtual 2020 Forums, 2 in number, times have not yet been confirmed, but the dates are confirmed.

Saturday, December 5 9am – 8 pm US/CAN EAST

Saturday, December 19 9am – 8 pm US/CAN WEST

[aa.org](#) has not yet been updated to reflect these virtual events.

SENY Convention contract for 2021-23, you may remember that the 3-year contract was signed before the start of COVID. We (John W. P57 and I) worked with Marriott corporate. Our delegate-elect Tom graciously sat in on the last round. Negotiations were successful and the 2021 part of the hotel contract is cancelled without penalty.

NERAASA (virtual) 2021 Due to COVID-19 and Safety in AA, the first ever virtual NERAASA will be February 26-28, please save the date! All three scheduled IRL NERAASAs have been pushed forward a year. First, it was determined to cancel the in person 2021 NERAASA, then an ad hoc committee was formed to come up with options for a 2021 virtual NERAASA, the outcome of which was 1) to have the usual bidding by Areas, or 2) to have the six Panel 69 Delegates not involved in the upcoming in person NERAASAs join to form the 2021 virtual NERAASA committee. I voted for the first option, but the 18 seated Northeast Regional Delegates voted with substantial unanimity to choose the second option. Therefore, six Panel 69s are the 2021 NERAASA Host Committee, I am serving as Registration Chair. I felt it appropriate to serve in a role more behind the scenes because of our small tradition in SENY regarding immediate past delegate

etiquette. The Committee is meeting twice a month. The special workers we used for the GSC and the SENY elections have been contracted for the event. There will be a registration fee, amount TBD once a budget is established. See NERAASA.org.

Delegate's Activities (all online): Since we last met, I've been privileged to attend and speak at many Area, County, District, Committee, Tradition, Concept, Open, Closed, and numerous other workshops and meetings. I attended the NYSIW hosted by Area 50 and felt so good about SENY and the workshop presentations made by our Standing Committees.

2020, what a year indeed! Normally the delegates meet with the Trustees at the annual GSC, and if a delegate happens to be one of the 14 Conference Committee Chairs, as I was, meets one other time during their rotation in their second year at the January Board meeting. In 2020, these 14 delegates met several times with the Board again once it was decided to have a virtual GSC, and in addition, this year, all delegates met with the GSB two other times. I've noticed the GSB reaching out a lot to hear and get input from the delegates (who represent the Fellowship as a whole). This year is different than any other year since the GSC started. And all because of the pandemic, which will make us stronger than ever, *provided we practice our 36 spiritual principles*.

There was a meeting of delegates and the GSO and GSB in August, where we received the finance presentation and the budget which had to be completely recalculated due to COVID 19 and the loss of revenue. The full finance report (normally found in the GSC Final Report, but not this year) is on the [From the Delegate Page](#) at the bottom, right below the digital version of the GSC Final Report.

All conference members met with the GSB in September to review and provide input on the revised GSB Strategic Plan. We had breakout rooms to provide input on how we can meet the goals, with a focus on inclusivity, accessibility, improved communication with the Fellowship, internally, with professionals, and, on anonymity. For example, Goal 6 of the strategic plan is as follows: The GSB will act as a role model in promoting the critical importance of our Traditions, including anonymity as discussed in the Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions. P6.1: The trustees will continue to discuss and inventory their own actions regarding anonymity with respect to both the Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions. P6.2: The GSB will share with the Fellowship the importance of anonymity as discussed in both the Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions through Regional Forums, the General Service Conference and all other available methods.

Anonymity and Roll call at the first ever virtual elections: Roll call at the SENY elections always uses the full name of the eligible candidates, and although every effort was made to stay as close as possible to in person elections, I did omit that one standard. I used my 11th and 3rd Step, collaborated with others, and gave much consideration to thoughts such as "Could this be a pivotal moment to embrace the 11th and 12th Traditions by emphasizing that anonymity is about member's last names and pictures at the level of public media? Would using last names of eligible candidates reduce the confusion many members have about what anonymity is and is not? An Assembly is like any service event, last names are used". In the long run, I decided to use last initials so as not to detract from the practice of Concept IX. I felt that using last names could distract from our primary purpose: to elect a delegate to the General Service Conference (See the [AA Service Manual](#))

The Language of the Heart: I recently purchased the MP3 from [The Store on AAGrapvevine.org](http://TheStoreonAAGrapvevine.org) and it's been a terrific addition to my daily walks. I'm excited to report that [the Bookstore on aa.org](http://theBookstoreonaa.org) is now much easier to order literature for yourself, and your group.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our SENY workshop on Saturday 10am-1pm. 2020: What a Year!

Thank you for my life.
Are there any questions?

Jane
Area 49 Panel 69 SENY Delegate 10/5/2020

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

Good evening / Buena Noches... I have the privilege and the joy of serving as your alternate delegate.

We are now 7 months into the pandemic. All of us here, as well as A.A. as a whole, have experienced change and upheaval in 2020, yet we've also learned to use new tools and new approaches to make sure that A.A. continues, no matter what. These range from the use of our "colossus of communication", namely virtual and electronic meetings, to the General Service Conference looking for the best ideas to move Alcoholics Anonymous forward.

And now we have another consideration: SENY is nearing the end of its current rotation, and we will need a new group of trusted servants to stand for the important positions of county officers and committees, DCMs, and of course, GSRs. Encouraging participation has always been a lively topic of discussion in A.A., and it will be especially challenging in this time of personal isolation.

On whom does the task of this "encouragement" fall? On all of us here, of course! And when I try to provide the incentive to serve A.A., I rely on two primary tools. I imagine most of you join me in the first one: sharing my own experience, strength and hope in the joys and satisfactions of doing service, and doing so with enthusiasm and a smile – "attraction, not promotion".

But sometimes I forget the second tool: the guidelines, the "how-tos" we received when we started our own service journeys. I'm referring, of course, to our SENY Service Handbook and the A.A. Service Manual. I'm a pretty big fan of going to the literature, and now it's more important than ever. So let me give you some of the pages and passages that first helped me with my journey. And by the way, your potential successor can look at both of these on line: aaseny.org/resources and aa.org (search service manual).

Let's look at our SENY Service Handbook first. Maybe you can point to page 4, "Structure of the Conference", or page 6, "Evolution of an Advisory Action" to show them what their part will be in the bigger picture. For the person considering standing for GSR, point them to the first four paragraphs on page 7, so that they can see just how vital that role is. And make sure they understand that GSRs are chosen in part because they understand the essence, the heartbeat of their group – they are truly trusted servants.

Make sure the next DCM (or DCMC) understands their critical part in giving silent groups a voice, and the crucial role they play in bringing the challenges and rewards on page 40 to life. And if your friend is interested in committee work, let them look through the position descriptions on pages 18-30 – who knows, maybe they will find their passion there?

And there are some very special gems in the AA Service manual as well. I'll simply share a few with you; take what you like, and leave the rest. However, some of the highlights helped me in early service, and all of the following continue to inspire me to this day. I'll just give you a sampling here:

- The Principle of Rotation – S24
- Working with Local Intergroups and Central Offices – S42
- Concept V – the Right of the Minority to be Heard – page 20
- Concept IX – the Leadership Concept
- Concept XII – the Warranties, our A.A. "Bill of Rights".

And there's one more, one that I never pass up a chance to read: page S20, "Why do we need a Conference?" It's why we're here, and why we serve.

If we use the tools we have, and make service attractive, then even a global pandemic can't keep A.A. from its Primary Purpose; and everything we do in service below the groups enables those groups to keep reaching out to the alcoholic who still suffers. Let's inspire the next rotation of trusted servants!

I remain available to facilitate Group and County Inventories, help with meetings or workshops, and to talk about Traditions or Concepts. I would love to visit your group. And beyond being available, I am 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. Questions / Preguntas?

CHAIR'S REPORT (Jerry R.) chair@aaseny.org

Concept of the Month- Concept X

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description, or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

It's hard to believe we have not met since our last committee meeting June 1st and our last area assembly June 13th (Election Assembly September 12th).

I hope everyone has had a safe and sober summer

Since then I have attended many SENY area, district, committee, and county meetings and workshops, all of them virtual, and very informative.

The NYSIW in August, put on by Area 50, was exceptional. Many workshops regarding safety and guidelines for the opening of meetings were also held, keeping us informed.

For anyone visiting the SENY office, there is a sign up sheet to fill out, and a temperature log by the community manager, Inmarie Garcia.

For the safety of Area 49, the Area committee meetings, DDOS, and assemblies, will be virtual through June of 2021.

Dates to remember:

October 11, 2020 – Virtual service fair put on by Brooklyn County, from 11:00 – 1:00 – ID #358-577-6033, pw: service.

November 2nd - S.E.N.Y. Committee meeting.

November 14th - S.E.N.Y. Inventory Assembly.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Joann M.) treasurer@aaseny.org

The treasurer screen shared comparisons between 2019 and 2020 income versus expenses to show that income decreased during the same periods compared to last year. More obvious was that during the 3rd quarter of 2020 it was half of what it was last year during the same period. Also noted was that expenses were less than half of what they were last year during the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2020.

January - June 2020 Treasurer's report -accepted

January - July 2020 Treasurer's report – accepted

January – August 2020 Treasurer's report – accepted

January – September Treasurer's report – accepted

TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: (Mike D.) registrar@aaseny.org

Thank everyone who participated in cleaning up the Area database prior to the elections assembly.

The SENY Tech committee hosted a workshop in July on hybrid meetings, Zoom security settings, and digital 7th tradition. In addition, Manhattan County hosted a Tech workshop on October 3rd on upcoming changes to Zoom security preferences. Information for both of these workshops is posted on aaseny.org/tech.

If you are interested in joining the Tech committee you will find the login info on that page.

Our next committee meeting is December 3rd at 8:00 p.m. We urge anyone that is interested to attend.

In the next couple of weeks committee members will get a link to a tech survey. Please let us know what worked/did not work during your rotation.

To facilitate onboarding the people that succeed you, I will be sending out an email with a link where you can give us the email address of the person that will be replacing you.

Phishing: There have been issues where people with SENY emails will get an email from someone you know, but it is just a link in the email. Beware of any unsolicited emails, even from people within the SENY organization, if it seems suspicious to you.

GSO is starting to solicit feedback from area registrars on building their new database. I have filled out a survey for them, and will be participating in user acceptance testing for their demo, probably starting in September.

I would like to continue to promote the technology in AA forum. If you have questions about technology, I would suggest creating an account and surfing the website.

DCMC's, as soon as you find out who your new registrar is, please reach out to me. I will be sending out an email to all DCMC's soon. There will be a series of trainings for new registrars.

2021 SENY CONVENTION CHAIR – Kathy W.: (convention@aaseny.org)

The 2021 convention will be virtual. I have done a lot of research and found out that the NYSIW was relying on a 7th tradition contribution to cover expenses. They raised \$740.00. A EWYPAA event raised about \$2,000. I would expect revenue that we may be able to raise from a SENY convention to be somewhere between there. Based on preliminary communication with a special worker team that has served SENY in the past, the tech cost would be around \$8,500 to put on a convention which includes licensing and tech support throughout. Additional expenses include interpretation, printing, postage, and entertainment, bringing the total expenses up to around \$11,000. That leaves us with a shortfall of around \$9,000. We currently have \$3,000. available in seed money. With this information, I would like to hear from the committee with thoughts on how we should proceed. The committee said that they would not want to charge a fee for the convention. We will be asking for 7th Tradition.

Next convention virtual committee meeting is October 12 at 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Info is on SENY website.

Standing Committee Reports

Accessibilities - Sally B.: accessibilities@aaseny.org We met on Tuesday, September 22nd. We discussed the amazing initiatives that have surfaced for the accessibilities community with the inception of virtual meetings. We also kept in the forefront that although we encourage virtual meetings for people with accessibilities concerns, we still have a responsibility to insure that now that our rooms our opening up, that they remain accessible for those that choose to attend in-person meetings.

Over the summer our Area hosted two workshops. One in Rockland and one in Manhattan.

There is a call for stories for the pamphlet "AA for the Older Alcoholic". The deadline has again been extended.

I am serving on the 2021 SENY convention committee as part of the Accessibilities Chair commitment.

Treatment – Ed M.: (tf@aaseny.org)

First let me say thank you to our incoming SENY Offices ! I am sure our Area Rotation is in good hands.

Our committee has been meeting monthly. Jane, our delegate, attended our meeting and gave us a concise report on the last conference as pertains directly to Treatment and Bridging the Gap. Our committee had lots of questions, and Jane had all the answers plus more ! Thank you Jane.

Before COVID we put a high priority on having a presence at all the county Share a Days. We can no longer set up a

table of course, but I do attend as many as I can.

There are some Treatment Facilities which are allowing physical meetings in. I had the privilege of speaking at St Charles in Suffolk and was able to speak with the staff about Bridging the Gap.

They were unaware of the program and we are certainly excited to start building a relationship

Suffolk has received two calls concerning Bridging the Gap, and we are excited and hoping to build new relationships with Treatment Facilities.

As the number of Covid cases drops from catastrophic levels, most of the hospitals in SENY are reopening detoxes and rehabs. So I think for now we may be coming back to an equilibrium. Of course I am not making any predictions of what will happen next.

There are physical meetings and virtual meetings happening not sponsored by any 9 tradition committee, whether InterGroup or county. We are contacting them and offering our help.

We are not making any physical presentations to professionals at this time, but have contacted several facilities in our Area about Bridging the Gap. We may not be able to bring physical meetings in, but there are certainly clients being discharged.

Our committee sent suggestions for service literature and guidelines based on our experience to General Service. The General Service Staff sent us a list of questions for areas where they are looking for input. These questions will be discussed at our next monthly Treatment Meeting and will be forwarded. If anyone here has any ideas concerning service literature please contact me at tf@aaseny.org. I would love to talk treatment with you!

I have attended meetings over the summer at county meetings, workshops, NYIG Corrections and Treatment, Queens BTG, and Suffolk BTG. I also attend a weekly Corrections Call, to gather any info that may be helpful in Treatment Facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Archives – Hank G.: (archives@aaseny.org)

We are continuing to have virtual archive meetings monthly. Planning on updating history book. Counties are sending in updates. We have a deadline for Oct. 15th. Books should be out early 2021. We are also planning on a workshop on Saturday, October 20th, 10 am – 1 pm. ID #87856094835 PW 18525. Speakers include GSO General Manager, Senior archivist, the SENY archivist, NYIG rep, DCMC's, several SENY officers including our Chair and Delegate.

Corrections – Eddie D.: (corrections@aaseny.org)

As of today, no corrections facilities in Area 49 are open to incoming, or virtual, meetings. Our efforts continue to be responding to release requests. Received four of them after months of not receiving any. Members of our committee have been asked to participate in a review of the corrections workshop. This was requested by a couple of Trustees for updating Corrections workbook.

Agenda - Jeannette K.: (agenda@aaseny.org)

I am doing my best to keep our calendar up to date with all changes. Please include virtual information when updating your events even it is the same as the previous month, so as to avoid searching and confirming if it is correct. Please review your events on the calendar as we still show meetings in person which is believed inaccurate. We wish to offer everyone current and accurate information.

PI – Mike D.: (pi@aaseny.org)

Attended workshops in our area and around the country over the summer, Interesting to see other areas.

Was a panelist at NYSIW talked about area accomplishments this rotation. Also read my article for next rotation, AA and the Public about the cause of public misconception and what we can do about it

Welcomed new NY I/G Chair and supplied some documents to help get started

Did an orientation at the NY I/G committee meeting followed with a Q+A for new NY I/G PI Chairs

Discussed General Service Conference actions. No CPC actions were taken

PI It was recommended that:

All A.A.W.S. video titles be adjusted for search engine optimization (SEO).

SEO was a topic at some of the workshops I attended

WE read the Considerations section of G/S Conference report to see what might be coming for our committee. It is on the From The Delegate section on aaseny.org. For example:

The committee reviewed and accepted a draft plan to create video shorts based on A.A. pamphlets. The committee noted the important role of short video content to carry the A.A. message and looks forward to receiving a report at the 2021 meeting of the Conference Committee on Public Information

This is a big deal. This topic was raised at several non SENY workshops over the summer. We are in the digital age and paper pamphlets may not be the most effective way to carry the message today.

Grapevine – Sherri A.: (grapevine@aaseny.org) (read by Chair)

Sept 29 we held our first virtual committee meeting.

Area 49 Virtual workshop will be on Sunday, December 6th, 2020, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., details to follow.

Next Virtual committee meeting Tuesday, October 27th, 7:30 p.m., (info on SENY calendar)

October issue: Money and Sobriety

LV issue: AA Around the World

Feature Book of the Month: NO MATTER WHAT (dealing with Adversity in Sobriety)

Daily Quote Book has a new cover and is now available in Spanish and French

New pub edition of AA Grapevine Magazine replaces GV App

Audiobook: Language of the Heart, mp3 download \$9.99 or CD \$10.50 also available in Spanish and French
store.aagrapevine.org

2020 Carry the Message Project continues. Learn more aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message or
youtube.com/aagrapevine

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

LINK – Jim S.: (link@aaseny.org) (read by Chair): - Cutoff date for link articles for our November 2nd committee meeting is 10/14.

Suffolk – Christine D.: (dcmc@aasuffolks-nyorg) We have county elections on October 16th. We have Tom facilitating.

Created flyer that is going out on our website tomorrow to let the GSR's know that elections are coming up.

Big Meeting is December 19th. More info to follow.

Manhattan – Mike O.: (dcmc@manhattan.aaseny.org)

We had our county elections on September 15th. 602 is having a meeting/workshop on the 14th. County will have a How We Meet, How we Pay for Space, Plan for Future Meetings Workshop on November 7th. Info will be on agenda.

I sent an email to GSR's and asked How is Covid effecting contributions in groups? Most groups that responded have a reduction of below 50% in contributions.

Queens – Burt, Alt DCMC: Elections will be on October 26th. Having a Share-A-Day on October 24th from 9 – 2, virtually. Next planning committee for that is October 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Nassau – Annabel B.: - (dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org)

Nassau County is doing pretty well. Last month we hosted a Third Legacy workshop. Former DCMC's talking about their experience in that roll. Our county elections are on October 19th, virtually. During the Pandemic, Intergroup and General Service continue to work really well together. We will have a county inventory in December.

Putnam – John L., Alternate DCMC: Next scheduled event will be the New Year's Eve Alkathon on December 31st.

Flyer should be out in the next month or so. Half of the meetings in Putnam County are in hybrid format. There will not be a Unity breakfast this October.

Westchester – Rich S.: (dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org) Did not meet over the summer, but had our September meeting. SENY officers attended. Our elections will be in November. Launched our new website. Working on a New Year's Day Alkathon event.

Close with AA's Declaration of Unity – 10:04 pm

Next Committee Meeting: November 2, 2020 - Virtual – 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Details TBD

Next Assembly: November 14th, 2020 – Virtual - 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.