

**SENY AREA 49 ASSEMBLY MINUTES
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2017
(9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.)
Hosted by Orange County General Service**

9:00 a.m. Service Workshops

10:00 a.m. Jane E. (SENY Chair)

Meeting Called to Order

Serenity Prayer and Preamble

I'm Jane E and I'm an alcoholic. I am grateful to serve as Chair for SENY. I've heard that "There are no big shots in AA, there are no little shots in AA, but, one shot, and we're all shot."

General Housekeeping

Michael M. will be our Parliamentarian today

Mitch will be our Spiritual Timekeeper

Speakers are times to 2 minutes; 4 minutes if a translator is used.

Please, if you have not already done so, review the minutes from the June Assembly

[The body reviews]

If you are a GSR, DCM, DCMC, Standing Committee Chair, Officer, or Past Delegate, you may vote. Alternates, you do not have a vote unless your primary is absent.

I'd like to introduce Michael O, our new recording secretary.

If you are a new GSR or trusted servant, please come to the mic and introduce yourself.

[Introductions Made]

Are there any corrections to the minutes?

[No corrections]

Motion to Approve Minutes Made and Passed by Acclamation

We're going to reverse our normal practice and start with Committee Reports

Committee Reports

Jamie [Al-Anon Liason]: "The Discovery Convention – It Takes a Fellowship," at the Renaissance Westchester, 7/14-16/16, was a huge success, with over 85 participants and 7 meetings in Spanish

Anthony [CPC]: Went to NYS Information Workshop, which was a great time

Richard [Archives Chair]: Went to Share a Days in Brooklyn & Manhattan, interested in oral histories of AA

Mike D. [Corrections]: We've had 6 requests from bridging the gap; our next meeting is 10/12 (Edgecome)

Bianca [Public Information]: We have Video PSAs available for speaking at non-AA meetings. Attending and will have table for a non-AA addiction event sponsored by NYS for National Recovery Month on 9/22 from 9-4.

Kathy [Treatment Chair]: Working to increase participation in bridging gap, creating lists of people to help discharges and provide AA packets and help. We are having a meeting at meeting and hope that each county sends a representative

Chris [CPC Manhattan]: Process of planning Manhattan Share a Day 2018

Nellie [Special Needs]: Work on accessibility issues, meet first Friday of each month, need help

Laura G. [Grapevine]:

Amy Lynn [Staten Island Corrections]: We continue to pen-pal with prisoners, working on the Staten Island Spiritual Breakfast, tickets are available, and I'd like to thank SENY

Michael [Ad Hoc Finance Committee]: Met on August 6; requested that the Treasurer and Chair involve Committee more, proposed that they serve 4 year terms rather than two, developing written protocols and creating an education program for 2018, conducting financial workshops on Tradition 7 and developing stand-alone courses

Sally [Service Sponsorship Chair]: Like to welcome and reach out to GSR's, had new GSR training today, we meet on October 2, wants more training for new GSR's

Derrick [Literature]: Attended Al Anon Discovery Convention, Staten Island Share a Day, conducted 2 workshops on Safety and Common Welfare and SM 196; plan on attending NERAASA.

Mike C. [Convention] : We are preparing for our next convention, our 50th, from March 23-25, 2018, in the old spot. Upcoming planning meetings on 9/17 and 10/22, at SENY

Derrick [Literature]: Added that we have the yellow “Safety in AA Card” for your groups, please get.

Jane E: Thank you and bless you all

John W. Delegate Report

We are going to pass the basket

Looks like I have an hour and 20 minutes for my report

With regard to Literature/Archive, my commitment, the Board & Staff work on literature 51 weeks a year; the delegates have 1 week to review, repeat, 1 week. There are 60 pages of minutes. We voted on some stuff, particularly the book “Unity in Action” that is moving forward and might see a vote at the next Conference. There is a lot of work: “Too Young” will be redone, we are revising the pamphlets “AA for Women” and “AA for Gay & Lesbian,” and we are moving forward with changes

Final Conference Reports are now available; we have copies and it is also on the SENY website. What’s wonderful is there is a 1-page index. I’d like a shout-out to SENY office manager Richie for a great job

GSO released an updated “Responding to Disasters” pamphlet, explaining how we can help other Areas that are struggling. I was always envious of Anne, the delegate from Area 15, who travels to the Virgin Island, Puerto Rico, and other islands, but now lots of people need help so if you want to help please look at the pamphlet

I’d like to update you on the lawsuit over the printer’s copy of the Big Book; we received a 3 page letter from our trustee, it did not say very much, but AA World Service and the owner are talking settlement. The manuscript is secure

We have an opening for a Literature Committee Member. It would be good to have a background in publishing and several years of sobriety. If you are interested see me for the guidelines

The theme for the 2019 General Services Conference is up for grabs, suggestions must be in by December 15, 2017. Perhaps we can have some GSR brainstorming on this. The theme for 2018 is “AA: A Solution for All Generations”

I will attend the National AA Workshop in Manitoba, Canada. It includes representatives from the U.S. and Canada, so why is it “National?!” no idea. I had no idea where Manitoba was; it’s about 250 miles from Fargo, North Dakota.

The date for proposals to be considered by the 2018 General Service Conference is December, 2017. This is chance and opportunity to put ideas before the Conference. Ideally, ideas should go to the Area first, because a lot of times we’re not sure what is meant and the Area can help with that. You can contact any of the SENY officers or call the SENY office.

Thanks. Also, reminder that Derrick has the yellow safety cards.¹

[Question and Answer Period]

Manny, Alternative Delegate Report

I attended the last Three Hispanic District Asambleas and the 8/20 Asamblea-Hisp. Distritos. Made a comprehensive report on the 2018 SENY convention and secured a Hispanic Districts Liaison to the Convention; disseminated Convention details and made Convention Chair contact information available

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.

Met (along with Jane our Chair & Michelle our Treasurer) with 2018 incoming Delegate for Area 48 to assure that there would be Spanish translation at the 2018 New York State Informational Workshop (NYSIW); Requested liaison to the Long Island Spirituality Through Service (LISTS) Workshop from the Hispanic Community; Ramon the Hisp. Dist’s DCMC (CMCD) is working on it.

I was asked by one member at the Asamblea “what are the guidelines for starting a District; and what is the minimum number of groups required?”

¹ During Q&A the process for General Service Conference proposals was clarified. Any alcoholic or group can submit an idea, but ideally you should talk to John and he will help explain, for example, why you want to change a pamphlet, why this is important, whether it is not presented elsewhere. Once that takes place, it goes to the conference coordinator, who ferries it up. For example, AA United Kingdom uses a pamphlet for agnostics that we do not, because many agnostics feel that AA [U.S.] does not go far enough for agnostic members. The District was able to go to SENY, who helped and did some handholding before passing it along.

I consulted with the GSO, and referred to the AA Service Manual-page S31:

Paragraph 1: A district is a geographical unit containing the right number of groups—right in terms of the committee member’s ability to keep in frequent touch with them, to learn their problems, and to find ways to contribute to their growth and well-being.

Paragraph 2: The number of groups per district varies widely, from as few as five in a rural district to 90 or more in a metropolitan district. Population density and the geographic size of the district, which will affect the ability of the D.C.M. to communicate with the groups, would be key factors determining the number of groups a district will have.

Paragraph 3: LINGUISTIC DISTRICTS: To encourage participation of the maximum number of groups, some areas have incorporated linguistic districts within their structure. These districts are made up of groups that conduct meetings in a non-English language. They usually have a bilingual D.C.M. or liaison. Their boundaries may be independent of the conventional geographic district boundaries.

Introduced and made available information on GSB, and AAWS Highlights and the GSC Online Anonymity Protected Final Report in Spanish and English

Spoke briefly about on the using the 2018 GSC Conference theme, “A.A.: A Solution for All Generations.”, as a service tool to highlight service in 2018 and as vehicle for discussion in 2018.

Reported on the New Yellow Card on Safety in AA from GSO

Since my last report to the Assembly I’ve attended 4 NYCYPAA and discussed the need for a NYCYPAA liaison to SENY & the SENY 2018 Convention, today’s Assembly, tomorrow’s SENY Convention Planning Committee Meeting, open service positions for Sub-Committee Chairs, and the new yellow card

Attended, Reported at, Presented, Spoke at:

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

7/16 Hispanic Districts’ Asamblea, Manh 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 Biling Wkshp-Safety in AA, Westchester, [NY](#)

8/4-6 New York 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

Will be attending the 9/17 Hispanic Districts' Asamblea & NYCYPAA Meeting, possibly the SENY Convention Planning Committee Meeting
[Question and Answer Period]

Thank you all for the privilege to serve you and Area 49

Jane E., SENY Chair Report

I'm a grateful alcoholic and my name is Jane E.

I've confirmed that the SENY Office will remain open on the weekends. Thank you, Antonio Alternate GSR of the Gratitude Group and Brendan of the Bronxville-Asbury Group for serving with me on the Search Committee; the venues we found which met all our needs were exponentially more expensive than our current office and I'm grateful that we don't have to move.

We usually have an Area Inventory every two years. Our last Area inventory was in November of 2015, and some of the things we do now as a result are 1) we have a Spiritual Timekeeper 2) we have 3 workshops here instead of 5 3) we have a Parliamentarian and 4) we generally end on time. I've asked Rich, the Northeast Regional Trustee to facilitate our inventory in November at the Assembly. If you've never been to an Area inventory, it's healthy, and it's like a tenth step for the Area.

The June Assembly has been changed to June second, I'd like to thank Emma the DCMC and all of Westchester County for flexibility. It occurred to me this month that to have an Assembly on Founder's Day weekend was not the best choice and could interfere with other entities' events.

What I did on my summer vacation: I was privileged to speak with other trusted servants at the District 601 workshop on how to run an AA business meeting; and at 3 Concepts meetings at Manhattan's District 601! I attended Brooklyn Share a day, Manhattan, Queens, Rockland, and Westchester General Service meetings, the Asamblea, YPAA Unity Day, the Nassau Roundtable Concepts Series, Queens GSR Bootcamp, District 814's Safety Workshop, some SENY Committee meetings: Accessibilities, Web, Convention, and

Treatment Facilities, & also met with an ad hoc Finance Committee member and the Chair of the Publication Ad Hoc Review Committee, ate up a storm at the Rockland General Service Bar B Q, spoke twice on the 8th Tradition at the New Life in Sobriety Group in Manhattan, and Bayport Middle Road Group in Suffolk, spoke at a workshop at the AlAnon Discovery Convention, and was a service speaker at the Staten Island Share a day!

My report on the NYSIW is in the LINK.

Did you know that all SENY AA's are welcome to attend any of the Committee meetings? I didn't know that when I was new. They're listed on the calendar.

I am available. I'm available for calls, emails, texts, and also to speak at Tradition and concepts meetings or facilitate group and county inventories. My contact info's on the back of the LINK.

Lastly, the 7th Tradition collection was \$307.00

Any questions?

[Question and Answer Period]

Next are Committee Reports:

SENY Committee Reports

Steve [Intergroup Liaison]: Our quarterly meeting is next Saturday.

Emma [DCMC Westchester]: Attended Spanish Assembly and bilingual workshop. Working on safety in AA, reaching out to dark groups and beginner's meetings. I attended all corrections meetings at the SENY level, we've conducted workshops on relationships and passing it on. Attended NYS Information Workshop, Bill W. Dinner Planning Committee. Westchester Share-a-Day is on October 7, 2017 in White Plains, please pass that on

Ray [DCMC Rockland]: Rockland Share-a-Day is October 1, 2017; there are flyers here

Mel [DCMC Brooklyn]: We had our Share-a-Day in June, December 3, 2017 is our Spiritual Day, and our next General Service Meeting is September 20, 2017

Regina [DCMC Nassau]: We have a continuing roundtable on the Concepts, next are 9 and 10, on November 20, 2017. Our Big Meeting will be on November 5, 2017, at Ethical Humanist Society in Garden City

Tom [DCMC Suffolk]: On August 14, 2017 District 110 had a workshop on safety, with 65 people present; our Unity Breakfast is coming up in November, and each of these are different from county to county

Jerry [DCMC Staten Island]: Traditions Workshop on December 16, 2017; hosting the January 13, 2018 Assembly, tentatively at P.S. 48

Casey [DCM 602]: Safety & AA Workshop on October 21, 2017, in English & Spanish, you can preregister, if it fills up we will prepare a 2nd workshop

Jane E. [Chair]: The Manhattan bus needs at 3:15 p.m.

Michael [DCM 601]: 601 holds a monthly concept meeting on the first of each month, which has moved to East 9th Street.

Ryan [Queens DMC]: Next Meeting is on October 31, 2017; Districts 305 & 313 are having a Joe Comes Alive Workshop, we have flyers for the Queens Spiritual Breakfast on October 29 2017

Jennifer [DCM 620]: September 20, 2017, is our Dinner/Dance; moving district meetings to 2nd Wednesdays of month

Jane E. [Chair]: The Financial Reports are going around; please review

Michael [DCM 603]: October 28, 2017, we will have a Grapevine workshop, Grapevine needs your support

Terry [DCM 608/605]: November 18, 2017 Workshop, how to speak to non-AA, we have flyers.

Mitch [Acting DCM 412]: Greenpoint is celebrating its 40th Anniversary, please come.

Sherry [DCMC Orange County]: Thanks for being here, I see many new faces, we are going to be taking a county inventory at our next meeting

Ramon [DCMC Hispanic District]: We had our first Safety in AA Workshop for the Hispanic Districts, attended the Hispanic Asamblea in Mount Vernon, SENY's Hispanic Convention is on November 25 & 26, 2017, at the Long Island Marriott (Melville)

Audrey [DCM 410]: Had the Brooklyn County Alkathon

Harold: Suffern's 70th Anniversary will be October 14, 2017

Treasurer's Report [Manny presenting for Michelle]

Explanation of June

Explanation of July

Explanation of August

Pages 3 and 4 are the Detailed Report

We have 8-9 months in our prudent reserve

Questions?

[Question and Answer Period]

Jane E. [SENY Chair]:

MOTION to accept all three Reports

Seconded

Yes: 70

No: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION PASSED

Reminder of ask-it basket; We will conduct new business after lunch

[Lunch]

1:04 p.m. Jane E. (SENY Chair)

Meeting Called to Order

Introduction of Isadora D, Past Delegate Panel 47 (1997-98)

Michael O [Recording Secretary]

If you want, please send me written reports for the minutes

Fred [Registrar]

I've just come back from the National AA Tech Workshop, but I'm waiting for the recordings to be able to review them before reporting back. It was a great event though

At our last Assembly I reported that my next big project would be to improve online registration. That new registration experience is live at aaseny.org/register. In addition to "I'm here to register", you can now choose:

I'm here to register someone else;

I've already registered, but I need to update some of my info;

I don't have a general service position, but I want to sign up for email updates

It also takes into account your previous answers when showing you your next question. So now, for example, if you say you're in Orange, it won't ask for your district. So if you're a DCM submitting an update for someone else, or you ever need to register or submit a change, go to aaseny.org/register. And if you don't have anything new to send us but you want to check it out, feel free to play around with it – just don't press "submit"

At our last Assembly I presented on an idea to make non-identifying group information more easily accessible to everyone. People often ask me and my county counterparts for their group number, and for their district number. In the lead-up to the directory deadline, we also had a lot of people asking whether their group would be listed. I've also noticed that when people find out their group doesn't have a contact, they frequently volunteer themselves. I can't think of a reason why this information shouldn't be more accessible, because it's anonymous and it can help groups become more connected with general service. So my idea has been to put this anonymous information up on our website so you guys can access it directly.

[showed what it might look like] You'll notice the group name, group #, district #, whether they have a GSR or contact or neither, and whether the group will be in the directory or not. All of the information here is just sample data — in other words, placeholders, not real information. So I made this sample data accessible at aaseny.org/sample, and at the last Assembly I asked for people to send me feedback over the summer. I also asked for feedback in the email update for July, August, and this month. One person thought the idea was "alright", but felt the presentation of the idea could be improved. Everyone else was positive - to give you a sense, here's one quote: "That is very clear and I am in agreement. Seems helpful to have that info readily accessible on the website!" If anyone else has any feedback, feel free to grab me afterward or give me a call – my number is in The Link.

Onto participation analytics. Here is where we were at overall in terms of general service representation at the June Assembly [graph displayed]. We knew of about 2,000 groups. Of those ~2,000 groups, ~1,500 had a point of contact. 1,145 of those points of contacts were

GSRs. Only 240 of those GSRs had attended an Assembly over the last five, a full year's worth. And of those 240, 125 have attended more than once in the last year

So now let's look at that in terms of "conversion metrics". [Graph displayed: 75% of groups have points of contacts; 77% of those points of contacts are GSRs; 21% of those groups have had a GSR or Alternate at an Assembly over the last five, a year's worth; 53% of those groups had representation a second time out of the trailing 5 Assemblies; 59% of those groups had representation a third time; 57% of those groups had representation a 4th time; 27% of those groups had representation every time over the last 5]

To connect this with the last slide, we know of 2,000 groups, 1,500 of which have a point of contact. In other words, 75% of groups have a point of contact, the first bar. Of those 1,500 points of contact, 1,145 are GSRs, or 77%, the second bar. But then of those GSRs, only 21% have attended an Assembly over the last year! And then of those GSRs that do attend at least once, only 50% return for another. And so on

Now we have two data points using this new format – April & June – and we can see how things are changing. Everything stayed more or less flat, except we did see a net increase in GSRs who have attended more than once. [Graph displayed: 0% change in groups with a point of contacts; 1% increase in those points of contacts being GSRs; 0% change in those groups having had a GSR or Alternate at an Assembly over the last five, a year's worth; 6% increase in groups having representation a second time out of the trailing 5 Assemblies; 5% decrease in groups having had representation a third time; 7% increase in groups having had representation a 4th time; 1% decrease in groups having had representation every time over the last 5]

Remember this is only over a period of two months. Over time, this will become more useful, and if we have the courage to change like it says in the Serenity Prayer, we will hopefully see significant improvements in participation. If we stay the same, so will participation.

So here is our biggest opportunity — the 79% 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

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's 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 it's going to 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.

[Question and Answer Period]

Jane E. [SENY Chair]

Ask-it Basket

[Question and Answer Period]

NEW BUSINESS

John W. [Delegate]

With regard to the 2019/20 SENY Convention Location, we had a 3-year deal in West Harrison but opted out for 2018. In Tarrytown we have a good deal for 2018, but need to know about 2019 and 2020:

2018: The deal is \$129/room & \$ 70 for banquet, all inclusive. We have a room block of 550 and must make 85%, or 487 room-nights. The banquet is 15,000, and we must sell approximately 200 banquets or pay a penalty.

2019: Goes up to \$134/room & \$ 70 for banquet, all inclusive. Same room block and banquet terms.

2020: Goes up to \$139/room & \$ 70 for banquet, all inclusive Same room block and banquet terms. 15Grand food, app. 200 banquets

In all 3 years, and this has changed, we are paying \$1,500/day for meeting space.

[Question and Answer Period]²

MOTION to allow John to move forward and finalize negotiations with Tarrytown Marriott for 2019 and 2020

Seconded

² During Q&A John clarified that we would like the Convention to be self-supporting but that is not the goal. However, in 2015, we lost \$1,400; 2016, broke even; 2017, a profit of \$10,000. In previous years our penalty for not meeting our numbers was to pay for meeting space at \$1,500/day, but this isn't happening. We have not always had the Convention in Westchester, but it is proximate and central in the Area. John will keep trying to negotiate better terms if we move forward.

Yes: 85

Oppose: 7

Abstain: 7

[The minority opinion is heard]

No change in voting

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION that Area 49 request that AA World Services withdraw from lawsuit to recover and acquire the printer's copy of the Big Book manuscript with prejudice

Seconded

[Discussion]

[Debate closed and the question is called]

Yes: 10

No: 69

Abstain: 19

[The minority opinion is heard]

No change in voting

MOTION DEFEATED

Jane E. [SENY Chair]

Next Area Meeting is October 2, 2017. The next Assembly will be November 11, 2017.

Thank you Orange!!

Buses are outside

2:47 p.m. Meeting Closed

