

SENY Assembly Meeting Minutes - Approved
Saturday, September 14, 2019
(Hosted by Orange County)

Assembly Opening & Welcome by Jerry R. (Area 49 Chair)

Serenity Prayer, Housekeeping

Spiritual Parliamentarian: John W, Spiritual Vote Getter: Brian, Spiritual Timekeeper: Mel R.

Approval of June 15, 2019 Assembly Minutes: Motion to accept, seconded, minutes approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate - Jane E.: (delegate@aaseny.org)

Thanks Orange county for welcoming us to the assembly and anyone who is at their first assembly.

I made a mistake at our last Assembly, a member asked how to find out when the next Assembly is, and I should have answered right then instead of turfing to the Chair's report after lunch. Are you here? I'd like to make amends. (I regret I did that!). Here's where you can find the info: aa.seny.org (usually on the banner, but if not, scroll down), & SENY online calendar are shown on screen. In addition, the next Assembly is on the bottom of the Agenda, normally found in the LINK.

"From the delegate" page a new SENY page created by our Webchair to disseminate more information to more members, is updated frequently.

Whenever you email me at delegate@aaseny.org, the from the delegate link is right under my signature to make it easy to find new info!

General Service Conference Final Reports (69th, 2019) are here to be distributed. That final report has a ton of information in it; and says it better than I can. I encourage you to read it! Please read my Link article too.

In 2018, we (AA as a whole) were about 73% self-supporting through our own contributions. We have never been fully self-supporting through our own contributions. The shortfall is derived from literature sales. On the way to my second Assembly my DCM informed me that if we were fully self-supporting, we'd be giving Big Books away for free. I'm not sure that's entirely true, but imagine if our contributions did cover all expenses, and we could sell all our books at cost. How many more alcoholics would we help?

From the GSC Final report:

"Corporate poverty is more a state of mind than the balance in our bank account". The bulk of contributions comes from little amounts from lots of groups, individuals and what we call "specials". Specials are entities which are not groups such as Intergroups, Areas, Conferences, & Conventions.

I wrote to GSO that I focus on the recurring contributions but just mentioned \$8.06 Challenge on 8/06 which a member had asked me about. As usual, GSO got right back to me.

Here's the reply: Thank you for focusing on the recurring contributions, Jane. While the 8.06 challenge is a great idea and it's nice to see members embrace it, our office is also focused on the recurring contributions as a long-term solution strategy for self-support. Recurrent contributions can be made online by members only, at aa.org starting at \$5- a month. More than any other thing, many small contributions from large amounts of members have helped us to get closer to full self-support. This speaks to Concept IV, the right of participation, as well as the responsibility of participation.

Reminder that if you were recurrently contributing prior to the new ERP implementation last month, you will need to reenter your information. GSO did not lose your information! The new system requires that it be reentered.

There are a ton of resources at aa.org. It's great to bookmark it on the phone and navigate around. Did you know all of our PSAs can be found there?

It's come to my attention that there is some confusion about the Google grant. The grant from Google is to allow AA to come up higher on a search than it does now. The intent is to help alcoholics. An argument could be made that this grant falls into the same category as airtime that that TV and radio stations have given us for decades to air our PSAs.

Meeting Guide App info. You can find this in full on the from the delegate page or aa.org.

2021 GSC Theme and Presentation/Discussion Topics (handouts here)

The Workshop Summary (page 42 of the final report) is a great resource for leading Topic meetings, and to spark the imagination for the request for ideas for 2021 conference Theme, Discussion Topics, and Workshops.

I invite Groups, districts, and counties to discuss and send in suggestions! The form is there, and you can always email me for it.

Concept IV: The right, and responsibility of participation.

2020 Theme and topics are in my LINK article.

We're encouraged to use the Theme and/or Topics for Conventions and other AA events, let's get the conversation going!

2020 IC Update given, 2020 IC FAQs were mailed to members from GSO and are on the From the Delegate's Page and aa.org

- Registration opened Monday; we have time to register
- I reached out to the international Convention Secretary Julio, to confirm and There are plenty of rooms left, just not in downtown Detroit. All the hotels in the room block in the nearby areas outside of downtown will have access to shuttle busses, with a ride of 30 to 45 minutes max to the convention center or stadium.
- The Hospitality Room requested for SENY by me at the International, we will find out about at the end of the year. If we have a room, DCM Melissa & Suffolk Literature Chair Scott will serve as the co-chairs for the Hospitality Room. After Julio contacts Melissa later this year, Melissa and Scott will be the ones to see about volunteering in the hoped for SENY Hospitality room.
- NER Hospitality Room? (explain)
- At the IC, we traditionally have a few workshops with non-AAs who work with AA in their professions, traditionally "friends of AA". For example, if they were alive, I could submit Dr. Silkworth and Fr. Dowling. I've submitted 2 friends of AA for consideration by the Trustee committee on IC/RF. They are getting more submissions for non-AA speakers than they can possibly use. I'll remind everyone that we AA members are encouraged to always keep our eyes open for potential future Class A Trustees.
- Who here saw the play at NERF about the IC?

Reported on Board weekend and our new Northeast Regional Trustee (NERT)

"Highlights from AAWS" and the "Remote Communities Communicator" among many other items, were disseminated to the DCMCs to pass on, whom I'd like to thank! There is so much information coming to keep us informed that I'm regularly reminded that our board and office are taking seriously the results of the communications audit (which can be found on the delegate's page) and that we can do together what I cannot do alone, Thank you for sharing information, DCMCs!

2019 final conference Report, request for stories from people who got sober later in life, see "From the delegate" page.

How an idea becomes an Agenda item:

Proposed Agenda items are sent to the conference coordinator at GSO to be reviewed, and then the item is assigned to the appropriate trustees committee, where it's discussed, and recommendations are made to the full GSB for inclusion. All potential agenda items are reviewed at the Winter Board meeting by the Board to determine the final list of agenda items. There is no corresponding Trustees Committee for the Grapevine to correlate with the Conference Committee on Grapevine, those proposed agenda items would instead be sent to the Grapevine Board to discuss and then pass on their recommendations to the GS Board. Please remember, that even if an idea becomes an agenda item, it must first be discussed by the relevant conference committee and then approved by that committee for discussion and vote by the full conference.

Any AA member may propose an agenda item for the Conference but proposed agenda items which are supported by more members are likely to be given greater credence by the Board. If several *Areas* send in items which are similar in nature, the "expressed need" is more evident. If an item is supported by the Area, the delegate, who is a member of the

Conference, (but not the Board) will send the item in. If an item is not supported by the Area, it may still be sent in by an individual or an AA entity which supports it (for example, group, district, county). All of our Spiritual 12 Concepts, including IV and V are practiced well by the GSB.

For more on this, see the diagram on Page 6 of the SENY Handbook and/or our Service Manual (hold up), especially in Concepts 6 and 7, chapter 8 and the Current Conference Charter.

More on the Final report, members encouraged to read it.

During SENY Summer vacation, I was blessed to go to lots of events: District 620 and Westchester Bar B-Qs, Bronx celebration of 75 years of AA in da Bronx, LISTs, NYSIW, an Officers' meeting, an Informal Technology Meeting. I spoke at a variety of AA Tradition and other meetings, events, & led inventories, I reported on the GSC in General Service of Suffolk County, the Hispanic Distrito, & Queens County. I've been invited and will report on the GSC in general service of Manhattan, Nassau, Sullivan, and Westchester. I am available. Thank you for my life

Alt Delegate – Tom B. (altdelegate@aaseny.org - “How important is your Group”?)

The first subject is this year's Final Conference Report. This report reflects the ideas, thoughtful conversations and prayerful consideration of all 93 Delegates in the US and Canada, as well as the Trustees, Directors and GSO employees who made up the 69th General Service Conference this year. So, what will you find in these pages?

Let me start you with a quote from Dr. Milton Maxwell, former Class A non-alcoholic board chair, in his address to the 6th World Service Meeting in 1980 [read – page 7]. Wow – sounds like Tradition 5 to me. How important is your Group?

A little bit further on, you'll read about the Advisory Actions, brought forth from the Committees, voted on in substantial unanimity, and made legal by the Board of Trustees. And then you'll read about Committee Considerations, items not accepted, and you will read why they didn't become Advisory Actions. You see, Alcoholics Anonymous strives to be transparent, to the GSRs, to the Groups, and to every AA member, because each Delegate brings their Groups' voices to the Conference. How important is your Group?

There are reports on workshops, presentations, financial data, staff reports – basically, you the reader can see most everything that went on at the Conference. Read the Area Service Highlights (Jane's is in there!) – it will give you a great sense of AA as a Whole. As next year's theme says, the General Service Conference provides “A Clearer Vision for You”.

I never get tired of reading this: AA Service Manual, page S-20, Bernard B Smith, 1954 GSC [read paragraph 1]. How important is your Group?

But it's not enough for the Trustees and GSO to send out a yearly report. They want all AA members to have the chance to get up close and personal. Here is the final Northeast Regional Forum Report [aa.org, soon on aaseny.org]. If you were there, it will stir your memories; if you weren't, this is a taste of what you missed... [read]

This is the base of the upside-down triangle of AA General Service at work. These are the people who give countless hours and limitless passion, so that the Groups have every tool, every piece of literature, every bit of support they need for their members to stay sober and help the next suffering alcoholic.

I am available to facilitate Group and County Inventories, and to speak at meetings or workshops on Traditions or Concepts. I would love to come visit your County, your District or your Group, just to be available for any questions you might have. 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.

Chair – Jerry R. (chair@aaseny.org)

Three open positions: Office Manager, Translation Chair, Archivist – see me if you are interested.

New Book: Our Great Responsibility, Bill W's Conference Talks.

Attended Al-Anon Discovery Convention, NYSIW, National Archives Workshop in Detroit

Next Assembly: Sunday, November 10th, Rockland County

Next Committee Meeting: Monday, October 7th, Bronx. 2020 Calendar is on the table.

Ask It Basket is out

Treasurer - Joanne M.:(treasurer@aaseny.org)

June Financials: Motion to accept, seconded, minutes approved.

July Financials: Motion to accept, seconded, minutes approved.

August Financials: Motion to accept, seconded, minutes approved.

Thanks to groups for contributions either on line or by check. If on-line, please ask your treasurer to put group's name/GSO number. On checks, please add group's full name/GSO assigned number.

7th Tradition: \$377.00

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

Will be attending National AA Tech Workshop in Bowling Green, KY. After the convention I will be writing a LINK article, and hopefully doing a presentation on what I've learned at a future assembly. Last month we had an informal SENY tech meeting. Discussion at that meeting of a potential new position at Area level, something along the lines of a SENY Tech officer. More info on this in the future. GSO deployed their new system of ordering literature and also their database. I do not have access yet so there will be a delay in registering new GSR's and also getting new GSR packets. If you are a new GSR and have not received a kit, e-mail me at registrar@aaseny.org. In the new system, groups have a group number. Each group will get a new number, a NetSuite number. More info on this in the future. If you are a DCM or a DCMC and would like a link to the info for the trusted servants in your district or county, e-mail me and I will send you a link to that information. Anyone can sign up for area postal mail or email.

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

Convention will be held March 26-29, 2020, at the Tarrytown Marriott. Theme of 2020 Convention: A Vision for You. First planning meeting: Sunday, 10/22 – 11:00 a.m., SENY office, 1231 Lafayette Avenue, Suite L2, Bronx - There is plenty of opportunity for volunteer employment. SENY Convention Treasurer is Maria, Suffolk.

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

Thanked the body for the honor of this service. We had a great workshop, August 2-4 at the Spiritual Life Center in Garrison. The venue and food were fantastic. Sister Mary, the executive director, could not have been more accommodating. Our speakers, Joe S, past delegate from Central New York, and Julio E (coordinator of 2020 International Convention) shared their stories and experience.

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. Working on finances now and will report on these at October committee meeting. We had Spanish translation available on site. Treatment and accessibilities panel Friday night was particularly good. Our Delegate, Jane, will be sharing their reports with the General Service Conference committee on treatment and accessibilities. We had reported that we were celebrating our 40th anniversary. This was incorrect. This was our 39th anniversary.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

SENY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Corrections: Eddie :Next meeting at NYI office this Saturday between 3-5. Orange county corrections chair left. Some members have received credentials for Rikers and other facilities in NY city. Some will attend National Corrections Convention. Please sign up for pre-release program.

Grapevine/La Vina - Sherry A.: (grapevine@aaseny.org) New Grapevine La Vina catalog. La Vina's new on-line store lvtienda.aagrapevine.org. Upcoming stories for Grapevine: due 9/15 share your examples of Emotional Sobriety, due 10/15 share about your home group, due 11/15 share about your experience getting into general service, due 12/15 annual prison issue. Grapevine paid position opening: Outreach Coordinator (see me for details). Upcoming events: 9/21 Grapevine writing workshop in Nassau County, 10/19 Grapevine bilingual workshop in Manhattan.

Archives – Hank G.: (archives@aaseny.org) Just got back from Detroit, made a lot of contacts and learned a lot. Archives is updating history book and asking counties to hand in text for updates for last ten years. Call or Contact Hank. Next Archives meeting is 10/23 at NY Intergroup. Archivist position is open – 6-year commitment. Richard and myself are doing histories on past delegates

Public Information – Mike D.: (pi@aaseny.org) Attended La Vina Workshop in Port Chester and Assembleia here in Middletown. Panelist at NYSIW, hosted by SENY, also LISTS. Chaired P I workshop at Orange County Share A Day. Assisted in moving CPC/PI meeting to SENY Office. Some of the things our PI Chairs have done are tabling at community health fairs in the area (Bronx Harlem), a safety event in Westchester, had table at a Unions against Addiction picnic in Queens, Workshops at Share A Day Manhattan and Orange. Orange's P I chair has an adapt a library police station for Lit Program.

Accessibilities - Jan: Next meeting Tuesday, 9/17, at the SENY office at 7:00 p.m. Tabling at Bronx Upper Manhattan SAD on 9/28 and at Westchester SAD on 10/5. We received an e-mail from the secretary of the Trustees Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities committee. They are seeking shared experience on cooperation with the elder community activities fellowship. Also interested in receiving copies of CPC literature that you used to work with. Please send to access@aa.org, deadline 12/15. The pamphlet "AA for the Older Alcoholic" is being revised and there is a call for articles, deadline 12/15.

Website – Ray W.: (web@aaseny.org) Accessibilities committee e-mail address has been changed to access@aaseny.org. aaseny.org is now fully encrypted. Gerry will be doing a workshop at next assembly dealing with "safety on the internet". I will be joining Mike on a trip to Kentucky next week.

Intergroup Liaison: Mel R.: (liaison@aaseny.org) Our last meeting on June 23rd was well attended. Next meeting 9/22, SENY office at 1:00, hosted by Bronx/Upper Manhattan. All are welcome. IG seminar in less than two weeks

Agenda – Malini M.: (agenda@aaseny.org) If you would like your event added to the SENY calendar, please e-mail me the name of the event, the date, the location, and a graphic as a PDF or a jpeg. If you send me something and do not get a response, or do not see something on the website that should be there, please nudge me.

Service Sponsorship – Richie N.: (sponsorsip@aaseny.org) Please look for a service sponsor. SENY service handbooks will be available at the next committee meeting and assembly.

Treatment Facilities – Ed: (tf@aaseny.org) – Get BTG requests different parts of the country and try to set them up with Intergroups and trusted servants. Attended NYSIW. Also attended BTG workshop in CA representing area 49.

278 Bid Young Persons committee in NYC area – Mary: Annual elections are 9/22, 5:00 – 9:00, Bushwick. We put together a package and presented it to ICYPAA. ICYPAA will be held in New Orleans in 2020. We want more involvement in Staten Island and the Bronx, as well as surrounding counties.

Alanon Liaison – Charlie B.: Had convention on 7/19 – 7/21. It was very successful.

District 618 – Sheri: Grapevine Workshop, October 19th, 11 – 3, Holy Name of Jesus-Saint Gregory the Great Parish, 202 Amsterdam Avenue, between 96 and 97th Streets

Literature – Christopher P.: (literature@aaseny.org) Reported on events scheduled for SENY literature. Grapevine Writing Workshop, September 21, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sea Cliff, 9:30 – 2:00. If any County is in need of the literature committee to attend an event, please ask. Reported on the 69th General Service Conference Floor Actions regarding literature.

LINK - Jim S.: (link@aaseny.org) Need articles, 350 words or less. Stories must have a link to our third legacy of service. Next deadlines: 9/21 to be produced at 10/7 committee meeting, 10/23 for the 11/10 assembly distribution, 11/20 for the 12/2 committee meeting. We are still taking articles celebrating the Grapevine's 75th anniversary.

COUNTY/HISPANIC DISTRICT REPORTS

Brooklyn – Colleen: (dcmc@brooklynaa.org) Spiritual breakfast 12/21 at Grand Prospect Hall –tickets \$35, county meeting 9/18 at St. Francis College, 7:30

Suffolk – Michelle: Joy of Service Workshop, Bohemia, 11/16, 4-8, True North Church, Bohemia

Nassau – Annabel B.: (dcmc@nassau.aaseny.org) Meet the Delegate, 9/16, 7:30 – 9:00, Nassau Intergroup Office. Bridge the Gap meeting 9/16, 6:00, Nassau Intergroup Office. General Service meeting 10/21, Nassau Intergroup office. The Big Meeting, 11/9, Garden City, details on website. Archives Workshop 11/18, 7:30. Grapevine/LaVina writing workshop, 1/26.

Putnam - Jimmy Z.: Unity Breakfast, 10/20, \$20, 8:30-11:30 Graymoor. Workshop in the spring.

Hispanic District – Raina: Working with committee for Share-A-Day, June 2020. SENY Spanish Convention at JFK Hotel, 11/2 - 11/3. We have rooms available.

Bronx – Zach: – Share-A-Day 9/28, 9-4. Spiritual Breakfast 10/22, 9:30 – 1:30, \$31, Eastchester Manor

Westchester – Rich S.: (dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org) – Share-A-Day 10/5, 11:00-7:00, Memorial United Methodist Church, White Plains. Planning a Unity Breakfast, probably in early spring.

Queens – Burt: Working on Share A Day, dates not yet available. Spiritual Breakfast, Immaculate Conception, 10/20. District 305 Self Sufficiency Workshop on 10/26

District 620 - Manhattan – John: Dinner/Dance, 9/28, 6:00 p.m., \$20

Staten Island – Brian: General Service meetings second Sunday of month, Share-An-Evening, 9/28, 3:00-9:00, New Dorp High School. Spiritual Breakfast, 11/24, 10:00 - 2:00, The Vanderbilt

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion from the GSR of the Transcend Group, Brooklyn:

I make a motion to submit a request for an agenda Item to the General Service Board for inclusion in the 70th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous to request that our trusted servants at Grapevine Inc. change the language of the AA Preamble to as follows:

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of **people** who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."

This motion was supported by The Brooklyn County General Service.

Motion seconded

Discussion

Motion to table

Motion to table seconded

Discussion stops

Vote on motion to Table: 73 in favor, 37 against

Discussion

Minority opinions:

Point of order: Motion to table requires a motion and a second, and is not debatable, needs only a simple majority to pass. No further discussion on the motion until it is brought off the table.

Motion to table passes.

Motion to close, seconded, approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 with AA's Declaration of Unity.

Next SENY COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, October 7, 2019

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Church of the Holy Family

2158 Watson Avenue

Bronx, NY 10472

Next SENY ASSEMBLY: Sunday, November 10, 2019

8:15 – 3:15

Rockland Community College

145 College Road

Suffern, NY 10901