

JANUARY 13, 2018 SENY ASSEMBLY

10:00 a.m. Meeting called to Order by Jane E., Chair, SENY

Preamble & Serenity Prayer (English & Spanish)

Thanks to Staten Island for hosting; please make sure you have a chance to pick up and read the minutes

Housekeeping Matters [Voting explained; time for questions explained, Ask-It basket]

Mel, DCMC “the Brooklyn County”, is Parliamentarian; Mitch K, of the Greenwood Group, is Spiritual Timekeeper; Nisaaa & Heidi are our Spiritual Votekeepers

Clyde volunteers to help an attendee with ASL translation;

If you have questions for the treasurer about the 2018 Budget, please ask them in New Business; when the Treasurer presents her report please limit questions to report

Two Introductions; First, I’d like to present, John C. who will be Al-Anon Liaison, and Saadi, Postal Mailings Coordinator. In addition, although not present, Ira B. is rotating in as Finance Ad Hoc Chair and Michael M., Email Update Editor

Introduction of new trusted servants

Thank you, a lot new people. When I became an alt-GSR I was told that 97% of the people who get into service below the Group level stay sober, and I liked the odds. All the things we do are important, but I was also told that my most important role as GSR was to come to the Assembly, which is where my Group’s voice is heard.

Motion to Accept Minutes; Seconded

Correction: The Suffolk Unity Breakfast is March 4, 2018, in Wading River

Minutes Accepted as Corrected

Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Area Corrections (Mike D., Chair): The latest 459 has an article from GSO of N. Cal. About video meetings for prisons, which could be the future. We have a couple of volunteers for Taconic and Bedford. Locally, we are still looking for groups to take meetings into Manhattan prisons, which are men’s prisons (Taconic, Edgcombe), but women’s groups can take the commitment.

CPC (Anthony D., Chair): CPC reaches out to with the professional community. We meet on last Tuesday of the month at Intergroup, we have a call-in # for counties that

can't be there in person. On 12/13 we were in Dobbs Ferry for the Youth Coalition, set up a table; great presentation by Chris H., a basketball player. Upcoming, will have a table at LBQT convention, see me or Bianca

Al-Anon (John C. Chair): Discovery Convention will be 8-24 to 8-26 at Renaissance in Harrison, will ask for volunteers when agenda takes shape. It's a power weekend of recovery for both sides of this disease

Clarified that as per Robert's Rules minutes are not voted on, they are accepted

Jerry, DCM 601: With Accessibility and Special Needs will be hosting a workshop on 4/21/18 on lower east side, will have flyers in a few days

Agenda Chair (Jeanne C.): Should have gotten list of assembly and committee meetings when you came in; if you want an event listed on or there is an error in SENY calendar of events for January and February email agenda@aaseny.org

Convention (Mike C., Chair): Chair, 50th SENY Convention, please pick up flyer or it's in Link, they have all pertinent information. At request of Ben, our publicity chair, if you're a DCM or GSR and you know of dark districts or groups, please drop off flyers at those places. We are currently at 231 room-nights, and our commitment to hotel is 550; to date we've received only 64 registrations and 32 banquets, and our contract requires 245, so I think we're lagging behind

Archives (Richard S. Chair): Attended Joy of Service workshop, the SENY budget meeting, and Brooklyn Spiritual Breakfast. There's a copy of the original Big Book Manuscript at Table outside if you would like to see it

Link (Tom B. for Domi E. and Steve): If you want individual copies, they're on bench outside. We have county boxes that are labeled, please pick up

Translation (Eddie D., Chair): Rosa and I are part of Translation Committee, happy to come to events or translate events, contact us at translation@aaseny.org. Good news, we have a 4th person on Committee who is dedicated to translation of documents (will not attend events); we have a few events lined up, please contact us for help

Service Sponsorship (Sally B.): Welcome to GSRs and DCMs, great attendance at workshops this morning; we also have DCM orientation and workshops at Committee meetings; I'm here for any questions

No other reports made

Q&A clarified that some had concerns about the Link editing process, but the Chair is not present to answer; for CPC, Intergroup's CPC is jails, while SENY is prisons

Delegate Report

Hi: I'm John W., Panel 67 Delegate for Area 49, and I serve on the Literature and Archives Committees. SENY is Area 49, and Panel 67 means that my first year as Delegate was the 67th General Service Conference, which was last year, and I am preparing for the 68th GSC. I am Chair of the Literature Committee, and service on Archives.

Welcome to all the new trusted servants! I've heard from GSO that there have been some delays with the packages that go to new GSRs, so if you have registered and not gotten it you should soon. When I joined AA, I was promised a life as big as I worked and service has been an important part of that

I've been updating you all on the manuscript litigation since June. As of this moment, the AAWS board has filed paperwork to withdraw its complaint seeking the return of the manuscript. There are still some loose ends that need to be tied up before this is over. The next dates are in February.

I heard from the GSO just yesterday about a Ukrainian speaking member who's doing outreach to the Ukraine community in Brooklyn. If you happen to speak Ukrainian or know a member that does, please see me at the break.

I hope you all booked your rooms for NERAASA, as the host hotel has sold out. There are overflow hotels, so don't let that stop you. It's in Cromwell, CT, which is about 3.5 hours away, so a day trip is certainly doable as well. For those not familiar with NERAASA, it's a gathering to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the areas of the Northeast Region.

January begins a really exciting time for general service. The General Service Board meets the last weekend of the month, and among other things, finalizes the agenda for the upcoming General Service Conference. I'm excited to say that I am one of 14 delegates that get to attend. Each of the 13 conference committee chairs does, as does the delegate chair. We are invited to observe any of the Trustees Committees as they deliberate.

As chair of the Conference's Literature Committee, I actually get to participate as a member of the Trustees Literature Committee, though I don't have a vote. In preparation for that meeting, I receive 200 pages of background material, which I am slowly reading through.

On the agenda for the meeting are:

- i. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet "Too Young?"
- ii. Review draft pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" - "A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic" - "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Mental Health Issues" and "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services"

- iii. Review subcommittee report on the revision to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
- iv. Consider request to add an endnote to Bill W.’s story in Alcoholics Anonymous, acknowledging co-founder, Bob S.
- v. Consider request for a subtitle change to the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.”
- vi. Consider request to develop a new pamphlet for the Spanish-speaking woman alcoholic
- vii. Consider request to add an Appendix to Alcoholics Anonymous referencing the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”
- viii. Consider request to add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”

The real fun starts after the board meeting!

The final list of all the agenda items for the 68th General Service Conference will be sent out to conference members by February 15. I’ll put together our Delegate’s Questionnaire. Assuming we can match the quick turnaround of last year, we’ll get it out by email, snail mail, and post on the SENY site within 48 hours, and you’ll have two weeks to view the questions before the DDoS on Saturday, March 3.

Just a reminder – that’s when there will be presentations to give you the background information to help better inform your groups. You will have 5 full weeks before pre-conference assembly, so there should be ample opportunity for your Groups to reach an informed group conscience and help inform me as your delegate. This is time of year when we see strongest connection to Concept 1, that the final responsibility and ultimate responsibility of AA World Services should always reside in the collective consciousness of the fellowship as a whole. But that only works if you and your groups participate.

Happy to take questions, and I’d like to flag something for new business.

Q&A clarified that the Atheist and Agnostic pamphlet that we voted on at last Assembly. Items that are sent to GSA as possible agenda items are sent to Committees that oversee that area. The idea for a pamphlet was already sent in over summer, and at October 4 meeting Literature decided to docket it. In January we will decide whether to docket the items I discussed, which is when final agenda will come out. So, the pamphlet is already on agenda

The manuscript: the manuscript is in private hands and that person is trying to resell it at license. The person who owns it licensed it for a photo image book. I don’t know about

copyright issues, but we lose copyright to 1st and 2nd edition. But, there are 21 trustees on General Service Board, 14 are Class A (non-alcoholic), are Class B (alcoholic) several of whom are lawyers. 2 Trustees are judges, including a federal judge, so we certainly consult with lawyers

AA's policy is not to buy archival documents so we probably won't enter auction.

Ideal timeline for Delegate's Questionnaire is that you receive by 2/16-18 electronic questions, probably 6-8 questions on the items I am focusing on, usually on the Committees I am on. I read your answers and vote my conscience; if I go with SENY, that's easy; if otherwise, I explain why and what I learned at conference that made me vote a different way. On March 3 there will be presentations at school in Manhattan.

We are developing safety-related language that could be inserted in multiple pamphlets

The average cost of sending a delegate to the GSC is around \$8,000, but GSC asks only for \$1,800; SENY usually sends twice that (to be addressed in new business)

Alternate Delegate Report

My Name is Manny, I am an Alcoholic and I thank you all for the privilege to Serve you and The Area as your Alternate Delegate. Since our last Assembly I spoke, reported at, and/or attended at multiple events, including:

- i. Nov 12 SENY 2018 Convention Planning Mtg @11-1pm, SENY Office-Bronx, NY
- ii. Nov 17 Hisp Dist 314 26th Anni /Wkshop-Presentation-Safety in AA@8-10pm, Queens, NY
- iii. Nov 18 Sober Feelings Group-Made Traditions Presentation @ 3-4pm, Queens, NY
- iv. Nov 19 Hispanic Districts' Asamblea @ 9:30-3pm, Huntington Station LI, NY
- v. Nov 19 NYCYPAA Steering Cmte Mtg-Facilitated Yrly Elections @4-6pm, Manh, NY
- vi. Nov 22 Grupo Reencuentro-Spoke Sefety in AA-Seguridad en AA @8-9pm, Queens, NY
- vii. Nov 22 Grupo Alfa Omega-Spoke Sefety in AA-Seguridad en AA @9-10pm, Queens, NY
- viii. Nov 25 XXXVII Hispanic Convention of A. A. Marriott Hotel, Melville, NY
- ix. Nov 26 Staten Island Spiritual Breakfast: Spoke on Love & Tolerance@9:30-1pm S I, NY
- x. Nov 26 XXXVII Hisp Conv of A. A.-Spoke on Love & Tolerance@2-10pm Marriott Hotel
- xi. Dec 2 LISTS-Long Island Spirituality Through Service Wkshp@8:30-1pm Queens, NY
- xii. Dec 2 Bklyn Cluster Dist-401,403,411: Movie/Discussion-Bill Discusses the Trad's@2-4pm

- xiii. Dec 3 Brooklyn County Spiritual Breakfast @9:30-1pm
- xiv. Dec 4 SENY Cmte Mtg @7:30-9:30pm, Bronx, NY
- xv. Dec 9 SENY 2nd 2017 Joy of Service Workshop-MC @1-4pm, Bronx, NY
- xvi. Dec 10 SENY 2018 Budget Planning Mtg @10-1pm, SENY Office, Bronx, NY
- xvii. Dec 14 Service Participation Ad hoc Cmte Mtg @7-9pm, Manh, NY
- xviii. Dec 17 Hispanic Districts' Asamblea @ 9:30am-3pm, Hempstead, NY
- xix. Dec 17 NYCYPAA Steering Cmte Mtg@4-6 pm, Manh, NY

If anyone would like a full copy of my report; please email me your request at altdelegate@aaseny.org. I am available for: Group Inventories, Group Sharing Sessions and showing of AA videos. Thank you all for the privilege to Serve you and Area 49

No questions

11:18 Recess taken

11:26 Assembly called to order

Chair's Report

The SENY handbook was first published in 1991 and was revised every 2 or 3 years until 2011 when the area chair determined to appoint a committee instead of a single editor to revise the Handbook. It's not been revised since. It's good to try new things, but this one didn't work. The handbook is now being edited and my hope is that moving forward, we'll return to the practice of assigning one editor and revising every two years to keep the Handbook current.

I especially want to thank the SENY Committee. It took too much time to catch up on the changes which occurred over the years. Thank you!

The SENY Committee decided that the registrar will no longer send out the postal mailings or the monthly email update. Do not be afraid! Both will occur: I've appointed Michael M. to send out the Email Update, and Saadi to coordinate postal mailings. Archival note: the registrar used to take the minutes; that was changed decades ago.

The former Archives Ad Hoc Committee will be renamed the Archives Advisory Group, and the Publications Ad Hoc Committee has morphed into the Link Editorial Board. The Ad Hoc Finance Committee has been tasked with straightening out the Staples Accounts, making a recommendation regarding a SENY debit or credit card, and reviewing and revising as needed the 2012 SENY Spending guidelines.

Save the date! The NYSIW will be held at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica July 27-29! More info to come.

Since I last saw you I've been to the Bronx, Brooklyn, Hispanic district, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, Suffolk and Sullivan events and am available to facilitate group or county inventories and speak at Tradition, Concepts and AA meetings.

Any feedback, objections, or questions? I'm available by text, phone, email and live! Thanks for allowing me to serve and stay sober.

No questions

Registrar's Report

Hey everyone, Fred alcoholic. John mentioned that there was a delay with new GSR kits. If you registered within the last two months and you still don't have your kit within the next few weeks, please email or call me

Here's what I've been working on: Most of you probably noticed a new sign-in process. Instead of having to find yourself in the correct binder, which can be a hassle, now all you have to do is provide your name to one of our sign-in volunteers. They can quickly look you up and if you're missing any information, they'll redirect you to me and I'll make sure we get your record fully up-to-date. If there's no missing information, they'll ask you if your email, phone, or mailing address has changed recently. As long as it hasn't, they'll sign you in and you'll be all set. I know there was a backlog today in waiting for me – everybody helping me got together briefly and we captured what we could improve on for next time. We will have a "Start Here" sign or someone directing foot traffic, I will have a second person helping me with the referrals from the beginning, and I have a few bugs to fix. The good news is we definitely collected information we've been missing for a while that we haven't been getting with the binders method

If you have not signed in yet, make sure you do so before leaving – I'll keep it open during lunch

As Jane mentioned, the Area Committee passed the motion I submitted to remove mass mailings from the Registrar position. In keeping with that conscience, I've handed off the monthly email update and am in the process of handing off the postal mailings. I've created documentation and videos to make the transition as smooth as possible for our new Email Update Editor and Postal Mailings Coordinator.

Sullivan County is now part of the shared database system. The only county not yet participating is the Hispanic Districts, and I am hoping to connect with them about it by next month

We've exceeded 5,000 rows in our shared database, so I upgraded to the Pro plan. Fortunately, the next upgrade required is after 50,000 rows, so we should be set for many years to come. One of the immediate benefits is each county can now create their own sign-in sheets for county meetings with just a few clicks. Before it was a few minutes of

work using Microsoft Word, which was tricky for some. Now it's just a few clicks within Airtable.

If your group doesn't have a group #, you can now register for one at aaseny.org/register. If you're not sure whether your group has one, you can see for yourself at aaseny.org/groups

It was a super boring project, but I'm happy to report I've been able to simplify the set-up of the shared database system by at least 50%. I'm already looking ahead to the end of 2018 to make sure everything is handed over in great condition to make the rotation as smooth as possible

And finally, the Alternate Delegate of Area 8 in California has asked for my support in their trial of Airtable. I helped them get set up – I'm looking forward to seeing where they go with it

Ok, onto two ideas I'd like your feedback on. I'm trying to get as much input as possible to decide whether they're worth pursuing. As always, all of these projects are intended to strengthen the connection between groups and the general service structure. Would it be helpful to receive a personalized text message reminder for each Assembly? A text might read: "Hey John. As the GSR of the You Can Do It Group, hoping you can make the Assembly on January 13th" followed by a link to the calendar event. Again, the text would be personalized for each recipient. Texts would only be sent to members of the Assembly who opt in

The second idea came was requested by a DCM: adding to the database when GSRs and their Alternates are rotating out. This would be something DCMs and DCMCs would be able to see in their Views. Additionally, this would allow us to send a personalized email a month or two before the rotation. It might read something like "Hey John. Reaching out because we have you down as rotating out as GSR of the You Can Do It Group soon. Just wanted to see if that's still happening and, if so, can you ask your replacement to register at aaseny.org/register? Whether you're continuing on or rotating out, thanks so much for your service!" The hope is this would help DCMs know which groups to reach out to make sure groups don't drop off as dark, and this email might be helpful in making sure we get information for incoming trusted servants.

I've gotten some positive feedback so far as well as a concern that this might encourage people to step down even if there is no replacement. For both of these ideas, I'd really like to hear from as many people as possible before fully implementing either. Please email or call me – my info is in the back of The Link.

Q&A clarified that people can choose more than one method, email and text. Within our budget to send.

Treasurer's Report

First is the 2017 Assembly Final Report, the 4-page document, which was explained. Q&A clarified that Line 49990 is checkbook balance, required to reflect said in budget

Motion to approve Treasurer's 2017 Final Report; seconded; explanation of who can votes and that proxies cannot vote

114 For, 0 Oppose, 2 Abstentions

2017 Treasurer's Final Report **Accepted**

New Business: The 2018 SENY Budget

Motion to Accept 2018 SENY Budget; **seconded**

Floor opened for discussion; *Clarified* that discussion and questions should be directed to Chair, who will direct questions to Treasurer.

Checkbook balance was \$52,485.91, which is 2017 checkbook balance less outstanding checks, but we have to call this uncategorized income because that is the required accounting term for audit purposes.

Special events (\$3,000); although we did not use it last year, it's addressed more fully in SENY handbook. Special events is a line item for Committee Chairs whose attendance at events such as NERAASA is not part of their regular duties (thus, attendance costs are not already in their budget) so that they can attend one event per rotation. The Handbook puts a maximum of \$500 per Committee Chair.

The Area Inventory Consulting fee used to be under Chair's budget, but accountant said it's a consulting fee; we can drop it to a nominal amount when we do not anticipate taking an inventory, but we have one this year; also, this allows us to better flag expenses going forward, because we generally need to pay for someone to travel from outside the Area for our inventory

Although we received about \$98,000 in contributions last year, we budgeted at \$92,000 because we should not estimate too high and if we cash-heavy we can disburse money. Treatment was increased because Kathy will be attending a workshop and we were able to budget for that at budget meeting. 2018 tax changes probably won't affect us, can ask accountant

Jane E. (Chair) clarified that the inventory was not listed on 2017 budget under Chair's line, and it should be kept on the budget as treasurer outlined so as not to get missed in the future.

Jane E.: Thanks to Mitch for staying on as timekeeper

Motion to Approve Budget as written

132 For, 0 Opposed, 1 Abstention

2018 Budget **Approved**

12:06 Lunch

1:07 Assembly called to order

Seventh Tradition was \$413.12

County Reports

Hispanic Share a Day will be June 10, 2018, at a location TBD

Suffolk County (Tom, DCMC): alt-DCM Jim working very hard on upcoming BB workshop, which is sold out, sending emails to those who registered, please see Jim

District 620 (Eric, DCM): Service workshop on April 21 this year, flyers will be forthcoming

Manhattan (Scott M., DCMC), tentative location for delegate day of sharing, P.S. 41, Greenwich Village School, 116 W 11th Street 10011; Manhattan Share A Day, Park West H.S., April 7th, 50th and 10th, have flyers

Queens (Joanna, DCMC); Queens Share a Day this Saturday 1/20, flyers outside, Tri-Community H.S., 145-00 Springfield Blvd; also, on Feb 10, 2018, 7-9 p.m., District 305-313 will present Sponsorship Game Skit, a recovery play

Staten Island (Jerry, DCMC): April 14, 2018 Group Officers Workshop, tomorrow night is our county meeting, we have a new website; John W. will be at our March meeting

Brooklyn (Heidi, Alt-DCMC): Brooklyn will have a 7:30 a.m. bus for Convention on Saturday, \$25 (does not include registration); June 23rd will be our Share-a-Day; will have LISTS this fall and a Joy of Service workshop this October; Spiritual Breakfast on 12/2; and on 6/20 we will do an inventory at county meeting

Reminder: Brooklyn, Rockland, boxes of Links outside; Eric will take Intergroup's box to Intergroup

District 405 (Charlene DCM): 1/28 and every 4th Saturday, reading AA Comes of Age, Old Park Slope Canton, 3:30 – 4:40

AGENDA RE-ORDERED

New Business

Motion to Specific Line Item of \$3,600 for GSC expenses; **seconded**

Discussion; even though this is in 2018 budget and approved, we vote on this because it's traditional to do so at SENY, as is practice of having a past delegate, usually most recently past, thank the current delegate at June Assembly

114 For, 0 Opposed, 2 Abstentions, **Approved**

Convention Chair (Mike C.), supplements his report: SENY has a contract with hotel, where we commit to 231 room-nights over the weekend; we're at 231. About a month before, if we're not meeting our numbers, we can reduce the rooms, but the rooms will be released and the SENY rate might not be available. So if you know you are going, please register. Our contract has us committed to pay hotel over \$14,000, which comes out to about 244 banquet covers and we have 32; there is no out clause in budget

Q&A clarified that room night is each night in a room; historically we make our room night numbers but people cancel and we go below, so we either pay for rooms or pay assessment fee, whichever is better for us. Can register here or on line. Convention is Open event, open to anyone who wants to attend; we will have AA meetings, Spanish, Al-Anon, possibly Al-Anon in Spanish. If you need to cancel at last minute, please let us know and we can see if someone needed a room gets it. With regard to online registration, the Marriott website not great for code, but call Marriott directly. Will put up special link on website for hotel reservations which needs no code

The \$14,000 comes from registrations; SENY-Convention has its own bank account. Can't earmark funds but can purchase registration.

Jane E. (Chair) thanks Nisaa and Heidi, our spiritual votekeepers, and the GSRs, the most important role in AA

Ask-It Basket

- i. Manuscript lawsuit fees come from General Service budget (operating expenses)
- ii. It would be outside our purview to bring in an attorney to SENY
- iii. Substantial unanimity v. majority clarified; addressed in Service Manual Concept XII. One of warranties is that important matters require substantial unanimity with discussion, vote, and if possible substantial unanimity. At SENY we use substantial unanimity for budget and elections. At the GSC each committee and year is autonomous and first vote is on what standard to use
- iv. Anonymity on internet is addressed in a pamphlet, Understanding Anonymity; aa.org has Guidelines on internet anonymity, and the GSC the conference has affirmed electronic anonymity

- v. A dark district or group is an informal term for a district without a DCM or a group without a GSR, such that the groups/district are not well connected to AA as a whole
- vi. Concept X is that every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority,” so that we don’t have to vote on everything. Each trusted servant has the authority to do what she is responsible for, which is within their conscience. So, archives can make decision to put the AA manuscript on table with disclaimer next to it that it’s clear it’s not conference approved. We’ll get a Concept shade
- vii. If someone can’t hear Robert’s Rules of Order allows them to make a “Point of Information” and it is acceptable to interrupt to let the speaker know. Going forward we can try to have multi-directional mics and have the Chair remind people to speak into the mic
- viii. A burning desire is a thing you want to do very much, so it’s a matter of Group consciousness. My home group it’s that someone who really needs to share

Jane E.: Thanks to Mitch for staying on as timekeeper. Lastly, I encourage standing committee members to write Link articles

Motion to Close; seconded

Close with Unity Declaration

2:00 p.m. Assembly **Closed**