



<http://www.aaseny.org>

**Approved
SENY ASSEMBLY MEETING
MINUTES**

*SENY REUNIÓN DEL ASAMBLEA DE ORDEN DEL
DÍA*

**Saturday February 6, 2016 (9:15am-3:15
PM)**

ACTION:

(9:15am) Service Workshops (Talleres de Servicio)

Meeting called to order 10:15 am

- Serenity Prayer Rick W., Chair
- Daily Reflection (*Reflexión Diaria*) – Jamillah A., Bronx
- Preamble – group / Preambulo - Maryanne N., Bronx/Luis P. Bronx
- Tribute to Boyce - Preston W. / Richard S.

Introductions (*Presentaciones*)

- New GSR's, DCM's and DCMC's (*Nueva de GSR, DCM y DCMC*)
- Why I'm Here Today (*Por eso estoy aqui hoy?*) – Laura G., Bronx
- Statement on Service Sponsorship (*Patrocinio Servicio*) – Colleen R., Bronx

General Housekeeping –

- o GSR's DCM's and DCMC's vote
- o Roberts Rules of order and 2/3 unanimity

Approval of Minutes from Previous Assembly Meeting (*Aprobación del Acta de la reunión anterior del Comité*)

- Motion made and seconded
- Corrections made to minutes
- Yes = 125 No = 0 Abs = 10
- Motion carries as amended

Officer Reports

Delegate: Jim W., delegate@aaseny.org

Received information from GSO that background materials will be available on or about Feb 12. Next I will prepare the delegates questionnaire. It will be translated to Spanish and then sent out to all GSR's. The delegate's day of sharing was scheduled for Saturday March 26th. Rockland County will host. We will notify once the location has been confirmed.

Position for non-trustee director for Public Information is available. If you know of anyone interested, please see me and I will direct you to how to get more information about this.

At the committee meeting in January I spoke about "AA for the Troops" and some controversy regarding that. I have found out more information. I just want to be clear that while we commend "AA for the troops" and their purpose, they are doing some things that are violating AA Traditions so therefore they will no longer be part of the SENY Convention. They put together a packet (paid for by an outside entity) to send to troops that endorses an outside program and reproduces a flier with an AA article that they did not have permission to reproduce. They also are attending certain meetings and taping them not always with the knowledge of the people at the meeting. This violates AA traditions.

Questions?

- Wasn't there a statement that they make a donation to GSO? - Yes but GSO has emphatically stated they are not accepting donations from AA for the Troops
- How do we get them to conform or stop using the name AA? – What was suggested was that they meet with GSO. They have met with GSO last week and we are waiting to see if they are now going to conform.
- I believe you mentioned they are not a registered AA Group? – That is correct, they are not a registered group
- Are we doing something else as SENY or through GSO to carry this message? – Yes, GSO has a desk with this in mind
- Delegates Day of Sharing do we have more than one item to discuss? Right now it seems like that would be the case. We may also have people speak to the conference process.
- Recording speakers: Do the same guidelines that apply at conventions apply at the Bill W dance? – yes
- Do the non-trustees get a vote at conference? - No they do not
- If they are “pirately” recording, what can be done? – It is every groups responsibility to speak to them and ask them to stop recording
- Timeline for or questionnaire? - I receive Feb 12th, I think within a week it should be ready to be sent out. Two weeks after delegate's day of sharing will be the preconference assembly that will be the deadline for returning the questionnaire as well.
- Will the SENY email be used to send this out? SENY email, SENY website, Snail mail and inclusion in the Convention packet.

Challenge: Each GSR that is here, please bring a new GSR in April!

Alternate Delegate: John W., altdelegate@aaseny.org

Since January 1...

We had our first Service Participation meeting of 2016 on January 14. There was a terrific turnout with DCMCs and alt-DCMCs from 10 of 13 our counties represented. It's truly a privilege of my service this rotation to get to spend time with this group of trusted servants. We discussed challenges and tradition breaks that individual counties are facing, we discussed ways to incorporate the theme and topics of the upcoming GSC into county share-a-days and service workshops, and we discussed how to use the three-year inventory report on the GSC as a service tool.

And on that note, if you haven't had a chance to read or at least review the report, I urge you to do so. I found it inspiring and humbling and even wrote about it in this month's Link. District 602 invited me to come talk about it last month as well.

I was also grateful to be able to attend the Sullivan County General Service Meeting on January 17. As a city-slicker, it was really helpful to hear about the service challenges that they face and to see how they overcome them. I want to thank William, Gheb, and everyone else for making my visit such a wonderful day.

I joined Jarrett and the rest of the convention committee in Tarrytown for their planning meeting last weekend which took place at the Marriott. I was invited to be part of the tasting for the banquet's menu. If you haven't registered yet, hurry up and do so - the convention is going to be great and the meal options are all delicious!

I want to apologize to Sally and the rest of Westchester County for missing their spiritual breakfast because of the blizzard. I'll confess that in my youth I didn't let a little thing like a state of emergency and closed roads keep me from getting to the local liquor store, but I have become decidedly less reckless in sobriety.

Lastly, in the coming weeks I'll be attending EACYPAA in NYC the weekend of 2/19-21, NERAASA in Springfield MA the weekend of 2/26-28, and NERD in Nashua NH the weekend of 3/11-13. And then

finally the SENY convention the weekend of 3/18-20. And a little plug...please be sure to come visit me up in the Lyndhurst room, which is conveniently located on the second floor, around the corner and then down at the end of the hall on the right. I'll be showing some amazing historical videos including Bill Wilson talking about the origin of the Traditions and giving out candy!

Thank you all for the privilege to serve Area 49.

Questions?

- none

Registrar: Fred M., registrar@aaseny.org

- This is my first full Assembly as Registrar. I wasn't able to run registration because I was giving a presentation to DCMCs & county Registrars / Secretaries, so a big thank you to Bill T. for filling in. I've noticed a few improvements we can make for next time. If your information was not in there, or incorrect, please stop by during lunch.

- Sent out my first mailing - huge shout-out to Frank G, DCM from Queens, and Kristen G, a GSR from Manhattan, who I couldn't have done it without. Raise your hand if you expected to receive the mailing. Keep your hand raised if you did not receive it. Ok, so that's what I'm going to strive to eliminate for next time by continuing to clean up the data, and to send the mailing sooner. See me during lunch if your hand was raised.

- Two items of good news re. the mailing:

1. this is the first time we've translated the minutes into Spanish using translators instead of Google Translate, and we also sent our first Spanish-only email. I think there are other ways we can better support the Hispanic Districts, which is something I intend to work on.
2. It looks like we can save at least \$250 every mailing by using a tool offered by the USPS instead of the tool we've been using. It looks like we may also be able to save some money on printing.

- Several issues with our database:

1. Vulnerable to data loss
2. Technically difficult
3. Database was a mess
4. Already wasting tons of time due to the set-up of FNV

So I was looking for another tool, and I found the best fit for us: Airtable

1. robust privacy policy
2. affordable
3. extremely easy to set up and maintain
4. very active release schedule, so they're always updating the tool

Often the first experience a new GSR has with their position is registering themselves. We're making a terrible first impression.

- The county, Area, and GSO, and often the district, are all maintaining separate records. It's confusing who to register with, how to register, and what the purpose of registering is.
- It's perceived as extremely inefficient and duplicative, to the point of being dysfunctional. One of the very first observations a new GSR makes is this process makes very little sense and could be a lot better.

- It's a distraction from them thinking about more substantive ways to engage on behalf of their group.
- The process also often leads to incomplete, inaccurate, or outdated information being used, and making corrections can take a long time to filter to every service entity, if it ever does at all. This translates to delays in mailings and new GSR packets.

At the workshop earlier this morning, I discussed with the DCMCs and their Registrar / Secretary the possibility of counties using the same tool & database as the Area. It was received very positively which I think speaks to the pain points in registering and maintaining these records.

I also can now publish links to real-time views of slices of the database which I am making available to DCMs. What we used to do is email them a giant spreadsheet. Now they have something they can easily pull up on their phone to be used as a field tool when visiting groups. And unlike a spreadsheet, if the link falls into the wrong hands by accident, I can terminate the link. If you're a DCM that would like this visibility into the Area database on what we have for your district, please email me.

My objectives:

- Reduce the Area's vulnerability to losing all our data
- Make it easier to properly maintain the database, which has a couple of benefits:
 - It makes the Registrar's work more efficient and therefore impactful - frees up a lot of time to invest in more service or balance
 - It improves data accuracy — GSRs are more likely to get mailings
 - It improves turnaround time — GSRs are more likely to receive new GSR kits quicker
 - Both of these things also lead to GSRs having a more positive experience, especially when checking in
 - Expand the pool of people that can do a good job as Registrar - opens up a service opportunity to more people, AND means we won't be as susceptible to the inevitable fluctuations in competency that come along with volunteer resources and spirit of rotation
- Provide better support for counties and districts

Attendance today: 86 GSRs or Alternate GSRs, 194 people in total

Questions?

- What is included in the mailings? – The unofficial draft minutes from the previous Assembly, and fliers if there's room. We're limited to 5 double-sided pages.
- Have you spoken with GSO or other Areas regarding the database situation? Also, how easy is it to provide administrative access? – I am part of an email group with other Area Registrars. Some only use FNV, some use their own platform as well like we do. I have been reviewing FNV to make suggestions. Administrative access is straightforward.
- We tried to bring the agenda and minutes on the phone this morning and it came to my attention it expired. Can that be fixed? - Something to direct to the Web Chair or Agenda Chair.
- When you were talking about the minutes, I just want to point out that the minutes are important and should not be taken lightly.

Lunch

Chair: Rick W., chair@aaseny.org

First, I received a call from a trusted servant asking me to see if anyone knows of an AA special interest group for members who are pharmacists. Like the "Clipped Wings" meetings for pilots and many others that are available, if anyone knows of an AA meeting for pharmacists, I would appreciate it if you could let me know so I can get back with them and let them know.

Next, our Ad Hoc Publications Review Committee met last week for the 1st time in 2016 and is

putting together a plan of action around the revision of the SENY Handbook and the SENY History book. As soon as I have more information, I will communicate that to you.

Next, the officers have completed the Area Inventory final report and have made it available for you today. Copies of it are on the registration table and we will also email it out to the body shortly. I can share that from our review of the report, we have developed 25 different action items that will begin to address such things as declining attendance and increasing GSR & DCM participation at our Area Assemblies, just to name two of them. One way we started implementing that was today, we created a new workshop for our morning workshop series called "Newcomers to Service" moderated by area GSR's (or Alt. GSRs) and have reached out to all of the County DCMC's asking them to submit names of GSR's who they would recommend to moderate these workshops through the remainder of 2016. I have two (2) already filled but need three (3) more. So GSR's, if you would like to moderate one of these workshops, please email me at chair@aaseny.org.

Next, one of the other action items from the area inventory that we are implementing is to create a new service commitment for SENY called "spiritual timekeeper" that we'll have for all committee meetings and assemblies for the remainder of this rotation. I used Concept 3 and my *Right of Decision* to create this new service commitment. I am happy to introduce the trusted servant who has taken this commitment, Mitch K. from Brooklyn. So what will Mitch be timing? He will be timing all discussion sessions during any vote that we need to take, and we will be asking those who are sharing to keep their comments to 2 minutes max per share. During the new GSR Forum session at each assembly, he will also be timing GSR's comments to the same 2 minutes per share. And finally, he will also be timing our committee chairs and DCMCs when they are providing updates on their committee or county, which we will ask them to limit their updates to 2 minutes max per committee. There is a lot of business going on in SENY and this is one of several things we will be doing to help better manage our time - while ALSO respecting YOUR time.

Next, please take a moment to visit the committee tables lining the room. The committee chairs are there to talk to GSR's and DCM's about the work that they and their committee are doing. So, stop by and let them talk to you about how their committee may help you and your home group learn more about Corrections, Treatment Facilities, Archives, etc. just to name a few.

Next, our host DCMC, Colleen, let me know that as soon as our assembly is over today, the facility needs to get in here and setup for a basketball game, so we need your help to get this room torn down as fast as possible. Our office manager Kevin, and Colleen can help direct you with what needs to be done. Thank you.

Next, I wanted to highlight something that is going to happen later this afternoon in our Assembly. You will notice on the agenda there is a GSR Forum. As part of the actions we are taking to provide more value for our GSR's time at our assemblies, we have created this forum in direct response to shares from our area inventory where GSR's can bring before the body questions they may have about challenges in doing their job or things that may be going on in their home group that they would like to get another GSR's experience strength and hope on. So GSR's, be thinking about what you can bring to the mic this afternoon to share with the body so they can help you!

Next, I wanted to give you an update on the Joint SENY/NYIG meeting of trusted servants to discuss the work being done by both groups in the area of Treatment Facilities, Corrections, Public Information and CPC that I am affectionately calling "Operation Cooperation". We met for the first time on Sunday January 17th to begin the dialogue and had a lively discussion. We realized a few things at that first meeting: 1.) We don't want to change anything that's currently being done unless it will help those trusted servants better do their jobs, 2.) We need to involve ALL of the Intergroup's in Area 49 in this conversation to have the most informed dialogue possible and 3.) Finally, that the work we are doing will likely take more than one meeting. We are planning on meeting again shortly - and as soon as we have some concrete information to share with you - I will communicate it out to you.

Next, I need to let everyone know that our Grapevine Chair, Mike D., has submitted his resignation. If you will allow, I would like to read you his resignation: *"It saddens me as I regret to inform you that I can no longer keep my service commitment of Grapevine Chair. I am working a full time job and attending school full time and I'm already spread too thin. I've been trying to figure out a way that I can do all three (school, work & the commitment), but I just can't. Also, it wouldn't be fair to the Area as I would be doing it a great disservice and taking away an opportunity for someone else who wants to do it and has the time for the service position. Again, I am very sorry."* So, with that said, I would love to hear from anyone who would like to learn more about the position and I would encourage everyone to spread the word and let them know I will be appointing a new Grapevine Chair as soon as possible. I would also ask everyone's patience around their Grapevine needs until we can get someone in that position.

Lastly, I want to say a special thank you to our Morning Workshop moderators, Linda McG., John T. and Manny A. Thank you for your service and for your great workshops. Additionally, I want to thank all of our readers for today's assembly, our new spiritual timekeeper, Mitch K, and Modesto who graciously did our Spanish translations in Edwin's absence while he is on vacation. We are grateful to each of these trusted servants for your service and participation. I also want to provide a very special thank you to all of the trusted servants from our host county today, Bronx-Upper Manhattan for the amazing job they did in working with me and our Office manager Kevin to get this assembly setup and ready for you today. And finally, I also would like to say a special thank you to Kevin McH., our SENY Office Manager. Kevin works tirelessly to setup ALL of our events and we could not do the good work we do without him. Kevin - thank you!

That's it for me – Questions?

- None

Treasurer: Manny A., treasurer@aaseny.org

- Final financials 2015 were distributed
Motion to accept was made and seconded

Discussion: None

Yes = 102 No = 0 Abs = 9

Motion carries

- Budget for 2016 was distributed
Motion to accept was made and seconded

Discussion: None

Yes = 123 No = 0 Abs = 10

- Financials for January were distributed
Motion to accept was made and seconded

Discussion:

Yes = 127 No = 0 Abs = 11

7th Tradition Report (7th Informe Tradicion)

\$ 434

County DCMC Reports

- Queens Coutny – Next Assembly 2/29 at usual location
- Manhattan County – General Service meeting Tuesday 2/16. If you are looking to help out with assembly in June, please see me
- Nassau County – Group Inventory Workshop Feb 20 at Intergroup office May 14th
Grapevine/LaVina workshop
- Suffolk County – Thanks to Nisa and Preston for presentation on CPC and PI. Unity breakfast is in 4 weeks 3/6 tickets are \$25

- Westchester County – Thank you for the intentions of coming to the breakfast. We made decision to still have it with volunteers still there. Lots of God moments in the blizzard. Looking forward to second Annual Westchester Breakfast next year. Westchester will be hosting the Big Meeting in June at NY Hilton. Kick off meeting will be tomorrow
- Sullivan County – Thank you to John W. for coming up to our general service meeting last month. Spoke on the spirit of service and went to any lengths to carry this message.
- Staten Island – Trying to create guidelines for special events that will occur in Staten Island. We would appreciate information from other counties on how they handle special events. We would also like to have a dialogue with other counties regarding treasury issues. Please see me. We had two really good workshops in Staten Island this year. We intend to hold another this fall. Thank you for your support
- Brooklyn County – Hoping to report we had a location for next assembly. Unfortunately, we are having a tough time finding a place that is wheelchair accessible. We had a successful Spiritual Breakfast. We have had an increase in GSR participation
- EACYPAA – Feb 19-Feb 21 in NYC, check out www.eacypaanyc.org for more information. Looking for Panelists and for volunteers. Please see me and come enjoy!

Standing Committee Chair

- Service Sponsorship – I will have more handbooks next week. I will distribute them. We will have a service sponsorship workshop at next assembly, we are revamping it.
- Web Chair - Next committee meeting is Sunday 2/14. Looking forward to making progress in making updates and changes. If you want to get in touch with me there is a form on the website with “Get in Touch” form.
- Accessibility and Special Needs Chair - Our first conference call meeting will be 2/10 at 7:30 pm. I sent emails to all DCMC’s. Please see me if you have any questions.
- 2016 SENY Convention Chair - 3/18 through 3/20, fliers are on the table. Preregistration deadline is March 5. If you cancel your room, it hurts SENY. Please find someone to take your room instead. We currently have 305 room nights as of 1/19. Please register and bring fliers back to your home group!
- PI Chair- 1/15 we went to Suffolk County for General Service meeting to talk about how to help. 1/17 met with NYIG to talk about cooperating with each other. A group went to speak with the Boy Scouts. Also, went to Orange County GET FROM MINUTES!!
- SENY Liaison to Intergroup Chair - Successful year for 2015. Decision was made not to have a workshop for 2016. Next meeting in Nassau County Intergroup Office. Will be trying to meet and reach out to outer borough counties.
- SENY Liaison to Al-anon Convention- Setting up a program with the convention and will be looking for volunteers June 2016
- Corrections Chair- Corrections Connection workshop at Ossining Correctional Facility May 13th all day event 9-3. Open to public, AA members. We are planning right now, planning will be Sunday 2/14 at SENY Office at 10am. SENY sponsors this every other rotation.

GSR Forum:

- **I still do not know what an abstention is in a vote and why you would choose to abstain instead of voting yes or no?** Abstain is a neutral vote, maybe they don’t have enough information to vote yea or nay. This is important so that the Chair knows how many people have not committed one way or another
- **Issue surrounding Tradition 5 and 6 and 10: I heard being announced at AA meetings an event that was not an AA event. It was a good event, but it was not an AA event. I felt it was necessary to say something and I did.** Sometimes what our group does. If it is something that the group is ok with, we might post on a bulletin board, but not read it. Remember that all groups are autonomous and they may support something like that. They have the right to be wrong. If you get an official group conscience, you get to hear other opinions. It is important!
- **We do not have an active GSR and it is becoming an issue. As an Intergroup Delegate I am trying to bring information back, but today it seems like we need a GSR that is active. How can we handle it?** Anyone can show up at Assemblies and

bring information back so that the group is informed. You might want to ask someone if they might be interested in being GSR. The delegate's questionnaire is a great time to try and encourage someone to get involved.

- **Two groups that share the same location on different nights. How can we approach this? Resentments are brewing.** We have two groups that meet. Each group is autonomous, has their own locker and supplies. It is when it is sharing that it can cause a problem. Keep everything distinct and separate.
- **GSR Alternate position, how do you keep that position active and motivated? If you are doing a good job as GSR, your Alt GSR may not feel the need to attend.** We will both be attending all events so that we can both be engaged. It helps that we can decide together when voting. We share the position.
- **Group made a group conscience decision to not make an additional contribution to the church. We usually do it a few times a year, but our finances were not good. I am not sure how to address this.** We had an issue similar to this, but some old timers pointed out that we will be breaking our traditions. We may make any contributions we want as individuals, but not as the AA group. AA is not allied with any sect denomination organization or institution. Individuals can do as they wish, but the group cannot. One building we meet in we give extra money in the winter to cover the heat increase. This can be contentious. It was felt it was against traditions.

Old Business: None

New Business:

PI Chair - request for NERAASA reimbursement

Motion made and seconded

Discussion:

- There is a line in SENY's budget called special events that is for exactly this.
- Does it matter where the budget line falls or that we grant it?

Amend motion to be Special Events line be tapped instead of adding funds to PI

Yes - 104

No - 0

Abs - 8

April 9 – Pre Conference Assembly – Brooklyn

June 1 – Post Conference Assembly Manhattan

Sept 11 – Election Assembly – Hispanic

Nov 12 – Suffolk

Motion to Close 2:25 pm

Thank You for Participating and for Your Service!

(Gracias por Participar y por Su Servicio!)

NEXT AREA 49 COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 7, 2016– 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Church of the Holy Family, Mechler Hall
2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472-5402

NEXT AREA 49 ASSEMBLY

Saturday, April 9, 2016 – 9:15am – 3:15pm

[HOST: Brooklyn]

TBD