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FINAL APPROVED SENY ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

SENY REUNIÓN DEL ASAMBLEA DE ORDEN DEL
DÍA

Saturday June 11, 2016 (9:15am-3:15 PM)

ACTION:

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

Meeting called to order 10:31 am

- Serenity Prayer Rick W., Chair
- Daily Reflection (*Reflexión Diaria*) – Reggie J., DCM 620, Manhattan
- Preamble / Preamble - Yvette, GSR Manhattan/ Dennis E. DCM

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?*) – Teri G., GSR-NuGarden Group, Manhattan
- Statement on Service Sponsorship (*Patrocinio Servicio*) – Michael S., DCMC, Manhattan

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
- Yes = 99 No = 0 Abs = 8
- Motion carries as amended

Officer Reports

Delegate: Jim W., delegate@aaseny.org

-General Service Office informed us of a letter sent to Karen K to thank her for serving as a trustee for Public Information. She has been invited to serve for another year as. Congratulations Karen. 12017 Vacancy for trustee at large. It has been forwarded to all past delegates if they are interested in making themselves available for this position. We will hold a special election at November assembly to select. There is also a vacancy for non-trustee director at AAWS available at 2016 conference. Searching for an appropriate candidate for this position. Resumes be submitted by Friday July 1, 2016.

-From Chair of trustees literature committee call for stories to update pamphlet Young People in AA. Seeking current sharing from young people. Please encourage young people from the area to submit their stories. Stories should reflect in a general way what we used to be like, what happened and what we are like now. It should be 500-800 words double spaced in 12 pt type face. The words "Young People in AA" should appear at the top of the first page of the manuscript. The author's name and address email and telephone information should be included with the submission. Submissions should be emailed to literature@aa.org with "young people in aa" in the subject line of the message. Or mailed to Literature Coordinator General Service Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 deadline 12/30/2016. Anonymity of all authors will be observed whether or not they are published.

-Saturday Sept 17th Area Elections at Cross Hill Academy. As per our service manual, qualifications to consider: 5-6 years of continuous sobriety, ability to make and take

suggestions and criticism, experience in chairing meetings, knowledge of AA affairs, of where to find correct information, a thorough familiarity with steps, traditions and concepts, open minded and sit down with people. If you are thinking about standing for a term ask yourself these questions: How well did you do as a GSR, as a committee member? Did you enjoy your responsibilities? Were you active? Have you discussed this with your family and your employer for the amount of time needed for this? Are you familiar with this manual, with AA Comes of Age and of course with the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts? Have you talked with past Delegates and other past officers to get an idea of the time and effort required and the sort of work you will need to do?

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Assembly

- NYS Information Workshop will be held 7/29-31 hosted by Western NY in Buffalo, NY. An email has been forwarded to the committee chairs who are on the committee program. They are expected to attend the workshop. If for some reason you are not able to attend the workshop, please contact nysiw@aa.org and advise them of that information. If you are not going to attend and have someone on your committee that will attend for you, please let the Western Committee Area know.

Questions: The information about the pamphlet where can I get that from? Provide me your email address and I will send it to you.

Details about the elections can be found at the bottom of the agenda.

Treasurer: Manny A., treasurer@aaseny.org

Financials for May were distributed

Motion to accept was made

Discussion: Question about prudent reserves- clarified

Question about Online accounting Fees – That is the monthly subscription for Quickbooks.

Question about Online contribution fees – we have the ability to make online contributions, but they charge a fee for these contributions.

When did we start paying online accounting fees? – About 6 years, it became an issue of how to transfer records in a protected way from treasurer to treasurer. They are maintained by Quickbooks.

What is the status of our taxes? They were submitted to the accountant at the end of March and at the end of May were signed off with all paperwork. We should be all good.

Yes = 97 No = 0 Abs = 2

7th Tradition Report (7th Informe Tradicion)

\$245

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

Highlights from the Alternate Delegate – June 11

Since we last met on April 9...

I participated in 17 events in 9 of our 13 counties:

- Rockland County for their Spiritual Breakfast on April 10.
- Brooklyn for a District 401, 403, and 411 service workshop on April 16.
- Bronx for the Asamblea on April 17.
- Manhattan for District 620's annual service workshop on April 23.
- Suffolk to participate at an ESCYPAA traditions workshop on April 24.
- Orange County's Spiritual Breakfast on May 1 and then back to Manhattan for their Share a Day that afternoon.
- Manhattan to chair the Service Participation Committee meeting for DCMCs on May 12.
- Westchester for the Corrections Connection workshop at Sing Sing on May 13.
- Back in Westchester, in Tuckahoe, for the Joy of Service workshop May 14.

- Third day in a row in Westchester - Asamblea on May 15 in Mt. Vernon and then at NYCYPAA in Manhattan in the afternoon.
- Brooklyn for their General Service meeting on May 18.
- Queens, out in the Rockaways, for a District 312/313 event on May 22.
- Suffolk County on May 23, where I facilitated the ESCYPAA inventory in Amityville.
- Manhattan speaking at District 601 Concepts meeting in May on Concept 5 and again in June on Concept 6.

And while not part of my duties as your alternate delegate, I spent the week of the April 18-22 serving as part of the hospitality committee for the General Service Conference. That comprised of ensuring the guests of the delegates enjoyed their time in New York. We did lots of sightseeing and touring around the city. I'd encourage you all to think about helping next year.

In the coming weeks, I'll be at the Share a Day's hosted by Brooklyn, the Hispanic Districts, and Staten Island, and I will be attending NYCPAA's boat party on July 16. Tickets are \$30 and you can purchase them at www.nycypaa.org. And I want to announce that the next Joy of Service workshop will be on Saturday, November 5 in Point Lookout, Nassau County.

Lastly, I want to update you on the April 9 vote at the assembly to hire someone to provide Spanish/English translation. Rick asked me to take on implementing that decision. I had lots of conversations with lots of people. After consulting with my fellow SENY officers, I hired Rosa who provided translation on May 2 and June 6, and is here today. I am booking her for our fall dates as well.

It's going to cost SENY about \$60/area committee meeting and about \$150/area assembly. Because we haven't had an active translation committee, and assuming we continue with this arrangement through the end of the year, this shouldn't result in more than a few hundred-dollar variance with the current budget line.

It was helpful for me to reread Tradition 8 from the 12&12, which is summarized in the essay's closing sentence: *"Our Twelfth Step is never to be paid for, but those who labor in service for us are worthy of their hire."* I hope you all give Rosa a warm welcome.

As always, I am grateful for the privilege to serve.

Questions?

- Translation equipment will be housed with Alfredo L. the DCMC from the Hispanic Districts. If you need to use that

Registrar: Fred M., registrar@aaseny.org

For those of you who were at this past Monday's committee meeting, this will be almost all stuff you've already heard - bear with me.

The rollout of support for DCMs continues to go well. As a reminder, DCMs can now see what groups and GSRs within their district are registered with the Area. You can pull it up on your phone or computer, and it's real-time data, so it's always up-to-date.

I announced this in February. By March, we had 8 DCMs participating. By April, we had 12. By the May Committee meeting we had 16. Today we're up to 23 DCMs!

For those DCMs who haven't requested "views", or if you have them but haven't used them to send in updates yet, please take advantage of them. If you're an interested DCM, please email me at registrar@aaseny.org.

If you're a DCM uncomfortable using your phone or computer, please still reach out to me so I can provide you with support as well, through print-outs.

I'm going to continue to be a broken record about this. We've made incredible progress as an Area with the transformation of our data. For any DCMS not yet taking advantage of this and chipping in,

please consider just reaching out to me so we can speak one on one. Both my email and phone number are in the Link.

The rollout of support for counties has taken a huge step forward. Queens County is now the first to integrate fully with the Area database. It's already making a big difference. The information for both the Area and Queens is more accurate, and the turnaround times for updates has been dramatically reduced. Queens also now has a database for the first time.

I'm still waiting to hear from the other counties, either about their opt-in status, or from their Secretary or Registrar to actually execute the transition with me. In the meantime, the DCMCs all have "views" into the Area's records for their county.

I sent out the May email newsletter for both English and Spanish. It had an open rate of 37.8% and a click rate of 5.6%. We're continuing to outperform the list averages. Even before we added 600+ stale addresses in March, the baseline open and click rates were 32.2% and 4.1%. The fact that we've seen steady progress even since then is really encouraging.

I found a new voicemail system for the Area which will save us approximately \$85 every month, make the Registrar's work more efficient, and dramatically cut down on our response time. We will also be able to receive text messages. I can also take calls directly when free.

Questions? None

Chair: Rick W., chair@aaseny.org

Literature Chair – Should anyone require literature, please contact Michele G. She apologizes for not being able to be here today.

- **Announcement:** 2017 Convention Chair - Janice M. – Westchester

- Thank you Rick for the appointment. I am honored and challenged. I am looking forward to facilitating the meetings. Please take the fliers which have my contact information. John W will be the Treasurer for the 2017 SENY Convention. Tuesday will be the first walk through with the treasurer and the SENY Chair I look forward to one of the best Conventions yet! Our new venue will be a challenge but will be an opportunity for us.

- Three dates are possible for the first planning committee meeting: Saturday June 25th (which conflicts with Brooklyn Share A Day), Saturday July 2nd or Saturday July 16th. The chairs will be elected at that meeting. We want to have the meeting as soon as possible. Treasurer is not elected, it is appointed by the Convention Chair. We will do the straw poll today and Saturday and see which date works best for people

- 6/25 = 8
- 7/2 = 11
- 7/16 = 43

The date will be July 16th.

***Update on action items from the area inventory: Meeting with John W Monday to go through the list and updates will be coming shortly.

Old Business:

Area Delegate- I have requested this time under Old Business to put forth some concerns that have been brought to my attention by various members, as well as some of my own.

Asa your Area Delegate, I have a responsibility to keep the Area informed in regards to same as stated in the AA Service Manual, page S50 as follows: "...if an area committee is not functioning effectively the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation..."

1. At a recent Service Participation meeting, several DCMCs asked the Alternate Delegate as to the status of the Area Handbook. We have not had a revised Handbook in 4 years yet we keep hearing that the ad hoc Publications Review Committee is working on it. In February of this year when you introduced Chris B., you informed the Area that we would be given a

progress report in May. To date, there has been no report and it is also my understanding that the committee chairs have not reviewed the handbook/submitted their summaries to the committee. It would seem relatively easy for a committee of 5 members to split up those chairs who are delinquent and contact them by phone and email and ask them to provide the information requested so this long overdue project can be completed. It was further suggested that is the committee seemed unclear as to the direction it needed to go that they call upon the immediate past Chair, John W., to assist them in that task.

2. At the start of this rotation, the ad hoc Finance Committee was tasked with reviewing the Area Budget and Convention Guidelines and to report back to the Area their recommendations. Mike S., the chair through 12/31/15 was prepared to make such a report in December, 2015 and was told they were not on the Agenda and it would have to wait until January 2016. At that point, Mike S. had rotated off and you were further advised that Eddie S. asked to step down for health reasons and therefore 2 replacements were needed. In January, Mark S., the senior remaining Finance Committee member, showed up to make the committee's report and was never called upon mainly because we labored over another lengthy and repetitive website discussion. Some of us were informed that the report would be made in March. To date, no report has been made and a committee sits in limbo waiting to do so while also waiting for two new appointees, one to replace Mike S. for 4 years and one to replace Eddie S. for the remainder of this year. Additionally, had this committee been able to make its report back in January, the \$250 given to a county in May who has workshop monies built into their budget and excess monies in their operating account would not have been granted simply because it is not in keeping with our Tradition of Self-Support.
3. The Translation Committee started out in the mid 90's as an ad hoc committee and then ultimately elevated to standing committee status in 2008. Throughout its history, prior to this rotation, there has not been a problem securing translation volunteers or a chairperson. An individual WAS APPOINTED IN 2015 AS Translation Chair with a grand total of 6 months away from a drink, said 6 months was only made known to various Officers after the individual was terminated for not showing up on a regular basis. A person with only 6 months is not the type of person to be put into an area position when they haven't even gotten their feet wet in a home group. Further, the Service Manual even suggests a greater length of time for Area service, more in the realm of two years or more. The end result is that we now have to pay for limited translation for our committee meetings and assemblies so that we can do the right thing for the Hispanic Districts in SENY.
4. The progress reports sent out in regards to tour Area Inventory are seriously flawed in terms of where matters are actually at. Additionally, items that could have been more readily addressed in the inventory have either been overlooked or ignored up to this point.
5. Lastly, since the beginning of this year our assemblies have been totally geared towards the GSR with no other workshop participation for DCMs, DCMCs, Standing Committee Chairs and other non-GSRs in attendance. We no longer have a Concept or a Traditions meeting or other topics of interest.

One may or may not hear an appropriate response or even a response to these concerns today but this area needs to know as a matter of transparency that the area is not being served as best as it can be. It doesn't need all the glitz, the glamour and savoir faire is the necessary actions aren't being taken along with it.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these concerns to you.

Questions:

Does the delegate have any specific recommendations regarding any of these items or is it being brought up for discussion? I made recommendations in what I just read

Response from Area Chair:

Regarding the updated handbook: The officers and standing committee chairs have received requests for updates for job descriptions from the Ad Hoc Publications Chair. Which many of us have already sent in. There are other pieces which have been sent over throughout the year for the publications review committee to consider adding to the handbook. For instance, at the Sullivan Assembly, the body was asked for communication information and based on that approval, a

recommendation was forwarded to the Ad hoc Publications committee that we only include communications about General Service AA related events not all events AA related.

Recommendation was made to give out the handbook for review at the September Assembly and then vote at the November Assembly. The reality is we can't pass out a complete revised handbook. I am going to ask the committee to create a document of changes that we will pass out.

Regarding Ad Hoc Finance Committee meeting: They were poised to present at January's committee meeting and did not get to do that and I have apologized to Mike S. I have invited him to come back to make a presentation at another meeting but he has not as of yet. I will follow up with Mike S. to remind him of that invitation.

Regarding Our Assemblies being geared to GSR's – They are. One of the items in the Inventory was that we needed to have more communication for and by the GSR's at the Assemblies so you could have a better sense of why you were here and what you could take back to your groups. Whether that was in the form of education and training or information with the GSR forums. Yes I have geared our assemblies toward the GSR with a foundation of the Traditions and the Concepts in all the things we do. My right of decision was based upon what you told us. According to our SENY Statement of Purpose, our primary purpose is to meet the needs of the groups of Southeast New York and to make more information, resources and service opportunities available. Just because I have the Right of Decision to do that though, if you as a body felt it is not meeting your needs, I am more than happy to hear you and to make whatever changes need to be made because this is not my assembly it is your assembly I am here to facilitate. I also say that if for any reason you as a body are not happy with the job I am doing or feel that I am not doing my job, I encourage you to ask for my resignation. My job is to serve you and if you feel I am not doing that, I will step aside so that you can have someone who you feel will do a better job for you. My goal has been to serve you.

Comments:

- I tell GSRs that it is more important for GSRs to attend assemblies then the county meetings GSR is important. That is what being here is about, the most important commitment in AA is GSR.

- As past Special Needs Chair, this facility is not equipped for people with Special Needs and I think that should have been addressed. Assemblies have very little communication with Committee chairs. New GSRs might want to work on a committee, but they don't know what the committee is working on. Suggestion that instead of two GSR orientations, that the other workshops that used to be offered be offered again

RESPONSE: When this facility was booked, we were told it was ADA accessible, when we arrived here today was when we found out it was not ADA accessible.

- Handbook – It needs to get completed sooner rather than later. The first revision come sooner. That should be reviewed at the Service Participation committee to review with the DCMCs and then come up with a final draft to present at the September meeting. I don't see how we could have the final version ready for the next rotation coming in in January. The next Service Participation meeting is July 14 then October. We meet in months when there is not an assembly, so maybe it happens electronically. The purpose of the Service Participation Committee is to increase service participation and the Handbook is an important tool for that, so we should not skip over that step.

- Question about Hispanic participation and the handbook. Clarification from DCMC for the Hispanic Districts: We have our own handbook some stuff is the same, but some stuff is different. At the beginning of the year, there was talk of trying to work with the SENY handbook.

RESPONSE: We need to make sure that this is accessible to the Hispanic Districts as well, so let's have a conversation about that please.

- I miss having the Concept Workshops.

- I would like more information about the connection between GSRs and DCMs DCMCs. That connection is important.

- I like the work for the GSRs and I know other GSRs who never come to the Assemblies so I am wondering how other DCMs can encourage other GSRs to come here.
- I have a recommendation that we alternate Concepts study at our SENY meetings. Also, I make a recommendation that the Chair has an Alternate. Your position is very extensive.
- I am a member of the Ad Hoc Finance committee and I would like to make some clarifications: we currently have no chair since Mike S rotated off and we have two vacant seats on the committee.
- People who fit that bill to serve as the capacity for the Ad hoc finance committee should be asked to serve on this committee. Has anyone asked? Maybe we need to ask.
- I was a GSR but did not want to give it up, I had someone from my group who I encouraged to come. . I went to the corrections workshop this morning and was inspired by the enthusiasm to possibly do this.

New Business:

GSR – Motion to formally establish a position of Alternate Chair

- That is a change to the by-laws and needs to get to the Ad hoc Publications committee, they will consider it and then bring it back to the committee.

LUNCH

Post Conference Report and Area Discussion- Area Delegate Jim W. 66th General Service Conference April 16-23

Why do we need a General Service Conference? An excerpt from Bernard Smith's opening talk at the 1954 General Service meeting (page S20 of *The A.A. Service Manual*):

"...We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics, who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life...."

- There have been 33 Delegates from SENY who attended the General Service Conference, 32 are Past Delegates. Of the 32 Past Delegates, 12 are currently living, the oldest Panel Delegate is Mike F., a Panel 37 Delegate from Suffolk County. Some of those still living are not in the best of health. In the past 3 years we have lost four Past Delegates to their Eternal Reward.

Not much is known about our Past Delegates. It would be a worthwhile Archives undertaking for the remaining Past Delegates to be digitally archived regarding their Conference experience and regularly digitizing each subsequent rotating Past Delegate thereafter.

-Groups and Districts throughout SENY drop off their Questionnaires at the Assembly while others e-mail and send U.S. Postal mail up to the April 10th deadline and beyond. A total of 294 Questionnaires were received. 73 more than last year.

-At the Northeast Regional Luncheon bids were awarded for:

NERASAA 2018-Maryland

NERD 2018-SENY (last hosted 2004)

NERF 2019-SENY (last hosted 1997)

NERASAA 2017 and NERD 2017 were awarded to Area 11 (Connecticut) last year.

Committee Reports

Corrections: a new video entitled "A New Freedom" was approved to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell"

Grapevine: the committee reviewed the 2016 Grapevine Office Report on Audio Strategy and requested that the Grapevine office provide an updated status and financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and plans for the future to the 2017 Conference Committee on the Grapevine.

Policy/Admissions: approved the request for two observers from A.A. in the Ukraine to attend the 2016 General Service Conference. I had the privilege on Thursday of spending time with Mykhailo (Mike) and Yuri as they were interested in knowing/learning about how things work in SENY. In turn I got to know a little about Ukrainian A.A. Reviewed progress reports on plans for French and Spanish translation of all Conference background and recommended that implementation of Phase 1 of the Conference Translation Project to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French, as described by the 2015 Advisory Action, continue with an estimated cost of \$50,000-\$100,000.

Public Information: Recommended that a proposal for implementing a Google-for-Non-Profits be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference Committee for review. Passed with substantial unanimity. Recommended that a proposal for implementing a Twitter account be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference Committee for review. Passed with substantial unanimity. Recommended that the P.S.A. video "I Thought" be discontinued. All in favor; there were no dissensions.

Literature: Recommended that the pamphlet "Young People In A.A." be revised. This was a Delegate's Questionnaire item wherein the Area was 91% in favor, 2% against and 7% had no opinion. Recommended that the pamphlet "Twelve Traditions Illustrated" undertake a complete revision in terms of text and illustrations. This was a Delegate's Questionnaire item wherein the Area was 69% in favor, 21% against and 10% had no opinion.

-The committee considered a request to develop a plain language version of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action. While sympathetic to the spirit of the request, the committee agreed that developing a plain-language Big Book was not appropriate at this time. This was a Delegate's Questionnaire item wherein the Area was 21% in favor, 75% against and 4% had no opinion.

-Progress reports were reviewed on the pamphlets "A.A. for the Woman", "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" and look forward to reviewing draft revised pamphlets at the 2017 Conference.

Finance:

Recommended that the maximum annual limit for individual contributions to the General Service Board from A.A. members be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000. The recommendation failed this year by a greater margin than last year with the general consensus being that the increase would do virtually nothing to GSO's bottom line as historical information shows and that what really needs to be looked at is the continuing decline in group contributions and what needs to be done there.

Reviewed the maximum one time limit of \$5,000 for individual bequests from A.A. members and took no action.

In regard to "The Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet" (F-203) the committee suggested that GSO consider additional ways to convey the financial message using technology. One suggestion was offered to create a PowerPoint presentation of the flyer and make it available for download.

Requested that the General Service Board/A.A.W.S. consider measures that would assure that all future International Conventions are self-supporting through registration activities and to also consider the feasibility of a separate ongoing Convention Fund, transportation requirements, hotel accommodations, cut off dates, and other items.

Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities:

Recommended that the term "Special Needs" be removed from the name of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and throughout the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure. The new name of the committee will be the Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities. Passed with substantial unanimity with only 9 opposed. This was an item on the Delegate's Questionnaire with 75% in favor, 19% against and 6% had no opinion.

As an aside, the merging of the two committees and a subsequent name change by the Area might want to be considered.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC):

Recommended that a new section on A.A. and medications be added to the pamphlet “If You Are A Professional” with the following text: A.A. Members and Medications: A.A. does not provide medical advice; all medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified healthcare professional. The suggestions provided in the pamphlet “The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs” may help A.A. members minimize the risk of relapse. Passed with substantial unanimity with only 2 opposed.

Considered a request to discontinue the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” and took no action. The committee noted that the information in the pamphlet was outdated and did not accurately or appropriately describe the A.A. program of recovery for C.P.C. use, but agreed that the pamphlet may have value to A.A. members as a marker of historic A.A. moments. In light of this, the committee suggested the trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment/Accessibilities committee continue to discuss the value of keeping this pamphlet available to the Fellowship.

Report and Charter:

Recommended that a new section on “Local Forums” be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, after the “Regional Forums” section. Approval was unanimous.

Recommended that the text regarding women workers in the Concept Eleven essay on page 58 of *Twelve Concepts for World Service* be removed. Passed with substantial unanimity.

Further recommended that endnote 10 on page 59 be revised with language noting that the two paragraphs have been removed from the essay and are available upon request from the G.S.O. Archives Department as a reference to A.A. history. Passed: substantial unan.

Reviewed slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. and recommended the slate of trustees for election. Passed with a unanimous vote of 132-0.

Various other election considerations also passed with substantial unanimity.

The committee also encouraged consultation between the trustees’ Committee on Nominating and the General Service Board to identify the skills and background most needed for each opening on the GSB.

The committee discussed the possibility of adding direct questions to the candidate’s resume form that would identify diverse characteristics of candidates and agreed that this was not necessary.

Agenda:

Recommended that the theme for the 2017 General Service Conference be: “Supporting Our Future”. Passed with substantial unanimity by a vote of 125-4.

Recommended that the GSB post to the Conference dashboard, and regularly update, information concerning the status of all proposed Conference agenda items. Passed with substantial unanimity by a vote of 116-11. (Note: this recommendation was put forth as a result of the recent Conference inventory that concluded in 2015.)

International Conventions/Regional Forums:

The committee accepted the reporting on the 2015 International Convention and noted that the financial results of the Convention showed a loss of \$210,431.

The committee also noted ongoing efforts by the GSB and GSO to review all aspects of the 2015 International Convention in order to plan effectively for the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, Michigan.

Archives:

The committee discussed ways of encouraging A.A. groups to write or update their group histories to ensure that historical information is retained by the local areas and districts. (Note: In Delegate areas where a County structure exists such as California and New York it was noted that this is more of a county and district responsibility rather than an area responsibility.)

Floor Actions:

There were 11 Floor Actions put forth, 2 were withdrawn, 4 were declined to be heard and 5 were heard as follows:

Concerning the video "A New Freedom", the floor action did not pass by a vote of 116-12.

Concerning a request that Conference delegates be provided a copy of the final annual approved General Service Office and AA Grapevine budget with the pre-Conference material for all future Conferences was passed with substantial unanimity by a vote of 107—20.

That certain standing agenda items on the Conference Finance Committee be removed regarding contribution for delegate expense, individual bequests and maximum individual A.A. member contributions from the Finance Committee agenda. This failed by a vote of 102-23.

That GSB develop a new policy providing delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items through the Conference process to be brought to the 2017 General Service Conference. This passed with a vote of 114-12 and accepted as an advisory action.

That 2-3 hours be provided in the General Service Conference agenda to permit the Conference to consult on matters brought forward by the trustees' of the general Service Board. This failed by a vote of 89-36.

I found this manner of voting over the 2 year experimental period to be extremely beneficial in that it speeded up the process versus the use of multiple counters and tellers. It also provided for a more accurate and highly visible results on voting matters. Hopefully this experiment has been determined to be successful and will continue to be used in future Conferences. More will be revealed in 2017.

-Farewell Talks by Rotating Trustees John F (Class A), Michele G (Class A) and Andrew W (Class B), West Central Region.

Adjournment of the 66th General Service Conference followed.

The 2017 Northeast Regional Forum will be hosted by Western Pennsylvania in Mars, Pennsylvania

Thank you for your attention and for the ability to be of service to SENY, Area 49.

Questions:

Will this presentation be available on SENY's website? Yes as soon as it is fixed up a bit and I get a translation back from the Hispanic District.

Clarification regarding process for Conference Agenda and materials

Thank you for your service Jim!

Regarding International convention, there was talk about the deficit being more. Was there any communication of why there was a deficit? I was not part of the finance committee. The treasurer made the final report. The initial report that was floating around was rumors. This is based upon actual numbers. You can go the AA website and view that "Around the kitchen table presentation."

Clarification of what a floor action means and voting procedures at the conference

Is it easy to make contributions to GSO electronically? Yes

We are not writing in our publications about where our money is being used. We used to write more about where our money is being used. That might bring more confidence to people in what is going on with contributions.

Motion to Close 2:50 pm

Thank You for Participating and for Your Service!

NEXT AREA 49 COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 3, 2016– 7:30pm – 9:30pm

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

NEXT AREA 49 ASSEMBLY(Elections)

Saturday, September 17, 2016 – 9:15am – 3:15pm

[HOST: Hispanic District]
Cross Hill Academy, 160 Bolmer Ave., Yonkers, NY 10703