

## **SENY Assembly**

**Sunday, January 23, 2022 10am - 3:30pm**

GSR Forum, DCM Forum 9am - 9:45am

Serenity Prayer, SENY Statement of Purpose

Approval of November Assembly Meeting Minutes

*Accepted minutes as written because there were no corrections*

### **Reports:**

#### **Treasurer's Report - Rich S. - [treasurer@aaseny.org](mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org)**

December & Year End Report:

- We received 106 contributions during the month totaling \$11,269 which increased total contributions for the year to \$123,527, an increase of 24% over 2020 and 8.6% above budget.
- The 7th Tradition basket from our December Committee meeting of \$187 and literature sales of \$447 increased total income for the month to \$11,905 and for the year to \$134,033.
- Revenues for the year were significantly higher than the previous year and well above budget
- The expense side remained below budget:
  - Total expenses for the month were \$11,917 with \$1,259 in re-imbursements to officers
  - \$1,500 for our usual office rent
  - \$1,186 in Tech and Website costs
  - \$2,488 for Spanish Translation and Interpretation Services
  - \$2,000 for our accountant's annual fee being the major costs.
  - Our Accessibility and Treatment Facilities Committees joined together to provide 2 Grapevine and 1 La Vina subscriptions to each of 13 facilities located throughout the Area at a cost of \$1,568. This was a great example of an innovative project which allowed us to reach out and carry the message to the alcoholic in spite of the obstacles which the Covid pandemic presented.
- Income for the month was essentially breakeven
- For the year- income totaled \$69,071 after total expenses for the year of approximately \$70,000
  - This was less than half the budgeted amount with nearly every budget line at or below the projected budget amount.

- As a result, our operating cash balances grew to \$89,003 with another \$127,000 in our Prudent Reserve, \$6,000 in the Special Event Account and \$10,738 in the Convention Account.

We had a strong year with Contributions well above the projections and minimal expenses. As a result of Covid, we were limited in our ability to reach out and carry the message in our traditional manner.

*Motion to accept December financial report - Passed 114 yes , 8 abstentions, no opposed*

### **2022 Budget:**

- Since we are a not for profit organization, we are supposed to project a balanced budget and we include the opening operating cash balance in the revenue section since it represents funds which were budgeted but not spent in previous periods and are still available to fund our operations and services. As a not for profit, we should not be accumulating and carrying large surpluses.
- Covid continues to disrupt our normal routines and create uncertainty. We know for sure that our Assemblies will remain virtual through March and that our Committee meetings will be virtual all year.
- For budget purposes we are assuming that Assemblies will be virtual for the first half of the year meaning through June. We don't meet in July and August. We are projecting that the Assemblies in September and November will be in person or hybrid/unified events. We have an Ad Hoc Exploratory Re-Opening Committee studying all this so nothing is cast in stone in this regard.
- The resulting budget is our best estimate of how 2022 will unfold.
- Group Contributions are conservatively projected at \$112,450
- Contributions from Counties, Districts and Intergroups and from Individuals- projected at \$2,250 and \$5,280, respectively.
- Total 7th Tradition Basket Contributions of \$3,460 are slightly below last year's budget
- Literature and Grapevine Sales are projected at \$3,000 each
- We include our opening operating cash balance in the revenue section of the budget. The number this year of \$89,003 is well above previous years due to the large surplus revenue from last year.
- So, total budgeted revenue is estimated to be \$218,479 as compared to \$144,593 last year and \$200,185 in 2020.
- How do we anticipate spending all of this? Officers and Standing Committee Chairs all received the amount requested in their budget submissions. Most of them requested approximately the same amount or less than last year's budget baseline figure. Total

Officer expenses are projected at \$26,650, an increase of \$5,000 over last year as our Delegate and Alternate Delegate expect to do more travel within the Area and to other Service Events.

- Total Standing Committee Chairs expense is forecast at \$20,994 which is a reduction of \$1,000 from last year with no significant changes.
- The Office Expense account lines are expected to total \$42,950 which is approximately \$3,000 above last year's budget with increases in office rent of \$1,000 and \$2,000 in additional Tech and Communication expense as contracts for Zoom accounts and e-mail services are anticipated to rise.
- Expenses for the SENY Services accounts show the largest projected increase as they rise to \$54,750 from last year's budget of \$43,925.
- The largest increases are expected in Spanish Translation and Interpretation Services which is attributable to our continuing efforts to be more accessible and inclusive by providing full translations of minutes, agendas, Delegate materials, Handbook updates, etc.
- Lastly we come to the Other Expense category which we increased by nearly \$6,000 to \$23,135 with The General Service Conference Delegate's Expense growing by \$5,500 back to \$8,500 as the Conference transitions back to an in person event from last year's virtual one and on line accounting costs increasing by \$900 as more of our contributions are received via electronic platforms as opposed to by check.
- The single largest change in the budget is the creation of a \$50,000 Covid Contingency Reserve and GSO Contribution line. By way of background, in December of 2020, at the conclusion of Panel 69, SENY made a \$50,000 contribution of excess funds down the triangle to GSO which at the time was experiencing financial stress due to the effects of the Covid Pandemic. As we again have significant excess revenues left from last year, the thought was that perhaps we should consider making another contribution as GSO continues to replenish its Prudent Reserve. However, we are faced with some uncertainty and potential liabilities and costs.
- We will be returning to an in person SENY Convention in April after having canceled the 2020 event and hosting a virtual one in 2021. Our contract with the Marriott calls for us to guarantee the booking of a certain number of room nights and banquet reservations. To simplify, if we fail to meet those guaranteed targets, SENY is obligated to make up the shortfall. While we are hopeful and expect a great turnout, we can not be certain that people will be willing to return to such a large in person event or that the situation won't take another turn for the worse which will impact attendance. So, if things go south we potentially could be faced with a major liability.
- Also, as we endeavor to return to in person gatherings, particularly Assemblies, and try to ensure safety and accessibility for all by conducting hybrid/unified events, we may

need to purchase new audio visual and computer equipment and/or contract with outside tech support. We may also face increased facility expenses if we need to secure fixed venue space.

- In view of all this, it was decided to hold funds in reserve in case these liabilities and expenses materialized. Once we have a better grasp about all of this, we will contribute any remaining balance held as reserves to GSO.
- The end result of all this is a balanced budget which allows us to carry on our activities in support of the group and which we now propose to you for adoption.
- Questions?

Robust Discussion about \$50,000 to be contributed to GSO.

Motion to accept SENY Budget for 2022. Motion 2nd.

*Motion passes- 128 to accept, 1 opposed, 4 abstentions*

*No Minority Opinion*

### **County & Hispanic District Reports**

#### **Laura G - BxUM DCMC- min 20**

- Took a vote and will continue having our meeting virtually.
- Next Committee meeting is Feb 9th. Committee meeting are always on the 2nd Wednesday of the month on alternate months
- Joint workshop with Westchester county- will have more info soon
- As of December we do have some openings on the committee

#### **Jeff P - DCMC Sullivan County**

- Did not meet in Dec or Jan
- We will be meeting on 3rd sunday of Feb which is Feb 20

#### **Marty - DCMC Nassau County**

- Nassau County is Hosting: SENY "Joy Of Service " March 19.
  - The flyer has been sent out to all DCMCs, Websites and Newsletters! It's being translated into Spanish. Translation will be available at the event.
- Our Grapevine Chair Linda D. has purchased 60, 2 year subscriptions to be dispersed to our 60 County Libraries. It was in coordination by reaching out to the Director of the Nassau Library System. The Grapevines were purchased @ \$21.95 each.
- NGSG at our December Reps meeting offered 3 scholarships for NERAASA.

- December 18 we held a Hybrid Big Meeting.
- General Service and our Public Information committee have been collaborating on advertising on the NICE (Nassau Inter-County Express) Buses. We have a poster and have asked the Hispanic Intergroup permission to include them.
  - We received permission from the designer of the poster. Daniel C. from UK. His campaign has been successful in UK, on the tube and in bars.
- We are utilizing mailchimp & the local Intergroup Newsletter to keep our local AA members informed

#### **Eric - DCMC Orange County**

- PI committee is active
- Meet 3rd Tuesday of the Month
- Currently planning live spiritual breakfast mid May

#### **Kevin - DCMC Westchester**

- Had a bunch of new GSRs attend last meeting
- Rose from convention committee attended our meeting
- Had to cancel our NYE's event
- Did have a great NYD alcahan
- Scheduling another traditions workshop with Bx Upm
- Sat Aug 27th we will have our BBQ - committee is already starting

#### **John L - DCMC Putnam County**

- We held a hybrid New Year's Alcahan
- Putnam County has had activity in our Accessibility, Archive, Grapevine/ La Vina, Bridging the Gap, CPC/PI, Intergroup Rep, and Treatment/Corrections committees.
- Putnam County's website, [putnamcountynyaa.org](http://putnamcountynyaa.org), is updated with meeting information, county contact info, other AA links, and upcoming events

#### **Bert - DCMC Queens**

- Please visit our website <http://qcgisa.org/> - we have a lot of open positions
- GSR bootcamp this Monday at 7:30pm
- Next Saturday on the 29th at 11am - Queens share a day committee meeting
- Committee meetings are always the last Monday of even months
  - We will be discussing future of hybrid committee meetings

#### **Brian C - DCMC Staten Island**

- Unfortunately Brian is stepping down and he's moving down to Virginia

- Feb 13th we will be having an election
- Because of our redistricting - we need 3 new DCM's . we now have 7 districts total.
- We are still meeting hybrid
- A couple new GSRs
- We do have open commitments

#### **Larry W DCMC Manhattan**

- Started GSR virtual coffee hour, that our alt DCMC Sherry set up
  - Initial meeting on Jan 2 and it went well. Virtual coffee hour will be the first Sunday of the month. Open discussion on what it means to be a GSR, we are getting different speakers to participate
- Worked on the 2022 Manhattan county budget and was approved by the body
- Attended a couple service sponsorship meetings

#### **Melissa, DCMC Suffolk County**

- Unity breakfast on March 6, 9am -12pm, \$32 a ticket
  - <https://aasuffolks-ny.org/blog/event/2022-unity-breakfast/>
- PI chair got hooked up with a local TV person, and got free PSA announcements
- Approved our budget, which included increases to send some of our committee chairs to NERAASA
- Trailing hybrid - we have a physical location... we will be doing a soft opening in Feb

#### **Jorge - DCMC Hispanic District**

- The Spanish-speaking groups meet in person, at the times published on our website
- Our assemblies are in person
- Our districts are holding service workshops to motivate new servers
- December 5 will be the 30th Hispanic Districts Committee Service Anniversary

#### **Deborah - DCMC Bklyn**

- Changed format of orientation to an open forum.

#### **Standing Committee Reports**

##### **Hank - T&F Chair**

- Face to Face Meetings at many of the treatment facilities in our Area are on and off again when a COVID outbreak occurs. There are many facilities in our counties that are in need of Virtual AA speakers on the Zoom platform.
- Contact your county Treatment facility chair if you care to help out.

- Note: In Most counties in Area 49 intergroup delegates facilitate bringing meetings into TFs.
- The Treatment Facilities Committee of Area 49 meets virtually, the 4th Sunday of every month for 2022 using the on the Zoom platform. The ID and Passcode are on the SENY website calendar.
- Our A49 TF Committee and Accessibilities Committee has purchased 39 Grapevine and La Vina subscriptions to treatment facilities in Southeastern New York.
- Bridging the Gap requests have been somewhat low for the past month
- Bridging The Gap is a temporary contact program for the alcoholic going from a treatment program to his or her first meetings from that facility.
- If you want to help in BTG you can contact Hank [tf@aaseny.org](mailto:tf@aaseny.org) - Join us in this great 12 step work.

#### **Jeff P - Archives Chair**

- Meet every Friday of the month
- Trying to preserve old documents and putting them in a database

#### **Christine - SENY Intergroup Liaison**

- Queens is creating a meeting book from the meeting list- only for in person meetings. They will update their meeting list 4 times a year. Queens had their virtual speaker exchange.
- Brooklyn said outreach is going well, donations are up- big increase in subscribers for group email. They had their first Healthline workshop, if you want more information about that you can contact Micahel at [information@bigaa.org](mailto:information@bigaa.org). They are also rewriting their by laws.
- Nassau is in the process of rewriting their by laws too
- Suffolk is going to print meeting list for the first time in 2 years- about 20,000 are going to print.
- NY Intergroup are in the process of merging remote and in person meeting list.
- All links and information are on my webpage on the SENY website.

#### **Mary - Link Editor**

- This month's issue of The Link focuses on "The Ultimate Authority" as referenced in Tradition Two and Concept I, featuring a breakdown from our delegate and a personal experience with the group's conscience from our TCO officer.
- This year, perhaps during our break in the summer I will be looking into a more feasible way to mail out The Link.
- Next months issue will be on "Safety in AA"

### **Annabel - Accessibilities Chair**

- Primary Purpose: to carry the message
- USE YOUR VOICE!! If you or your group has not yet completed the Accessibility Survey, please do so on the Accessibility Committee page for [aaseny.org](http://aaseny.org).
- We meet 2nd Thursday of every month 7:30 – 9:00 p.m – virtual until further notice
- 4/14/22 - Virtual Workshop/Discussion addressing accessibility needs of AA members
- Virtual accessibility – be mindful of your background and your behavior during virtual meetings, as distractions may make AA unattractive (and less accessible!) to people who need AA
- JOIN US TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

### **Kimbley - Grapevine/La Viña Chair**

- Available for any events to attend to sell Grapevine literature
- We met for the 9th time in January
- Please go to [AAGrapevine.org](http://AAGrapevine.org)
- If you want to contact me please email me at [grapevine@aaseny.org](mailto:grapevine@aaseny.org)
- Shipping for the month of the Feb will be free
- Tune into the Grapevine podcast
- Current issue is called “Getting through tough times”
- We plan on doing writing workshop in May
- Thank you to Hank for distributing those Grapevines to T&F
- Please help me get this inventory into the hands of those that need it most

### **Kingsley - Literature Chair**

- Changed the look of [aa.org](http://aa.org) website - be mindful
- It's better if you make your order directly with bulk because you get a lot of discounts
- I will be at a Unity Breakfast and the Convention.
- I will be making a large order. Please give me a call I'm available

### **Lucas - Corrections Chair**

- Last meeting was held on Saturday, January 15th at 3pm.
- Bobby I, our newly appointed Suffolk County Corrections Chair joined and we discussed engagement in the Area and constructive communication to encourage County reps and Intergroups to follow-up in order to effectively share information and carry the message throughout Southeast New York.
- Our Committee intends to focus on making sure Grapevines are distributed throughout our Area to facilities wherever possible and that we communicate with Intergroups,



regional coordinators and local program coordinators to learn the status of our programs in order for AA county reps and volunteers to be ready to carry the message when called upon as stated above.

- We continue to receive requests for outside volunteers to be connected to members on the inside and have sent those to our Corrections desk.
- Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 3pm - <http://events.aaseny.org/event/seny-correction-committee-meeting-virtual/2022-03-19>
- Please visit our landing page for SENY Standing Committee Chairs: <https://www.aaseny.org/corrections>
- I was able to visit Suffolk County's Big Meeting on December 4th to discuss our services and meet fellows interested in Corrections service. I also joined our CPC and Treatment Chairs in fielding questions on Area service and hosting a breakout room in SENY's "small service effects - BIG REGION EFFECTS" virtual event on December 11th.
- As reported at our Committee meeting in December, I attended the National Corrections Conference in New Orleans from November (12th -14th) and brought back some valuable information from the experience. You can listen to all of the presentations by going to the link below and clicking on that link to listen to the audio recordings or visiting site archive menu: <https://nationalcorrectionsconference.org/>
- I welcome all interested in Corrections service to attend the National Corrections Call this Saturday at 11am ET to get more information about new information regarding national issues regarding Corrections service. ID:239 990 5603 PW: 765110

#### **Keith P - Sponsorship Chair**

- Thank you everyone who attended our forum this morning, we had Tom B as our speaker
- You can find all our information at my landing page <https://www.aaseny.org/service-sponsorship>
- Beginning Sunday, January 9th from 4 - 5 PM Eastern on Zoom the Service Sponsorship Committee will be hosting a 12 week continuous study of the NEW A.A. SERVICE MANUAL combined With The Twelve Concepts Of World Service. Each week will concentrate on a Chapter with a speaker + Open Forum.

#### **Paola - PI Chair**

- We got one request from a tv station to do an interview about AA. Explained traditions and are coordinating when the interview will take place.
- We are planning a series of forums in English and Spanish about how to write your story for the new editions of the big book.

### **Vicky - Agenda Chair**

- SENY calendar posting procedures:
- All countries, districts monthly meetings, events, workshops, and area standing committees and or events; can be posted by emailing [agenda@aaseny.org](mailto:agenda@aaseny.org) or visiting the SENY website go to standing committee see Agenda page
- Please view SENY calendar to avoid overlapping events and follow the suggested template

Day of the week

Date: MM/DD/YYYY

Time: starting - ending

Duration/Recurring: monthly, bi-monthly

Venue: Virtual ID and Passcode/Password **and/or**

Venue: In-person full address including zip code

Flyer (*optional*): Accepted formats are PDF, JPG, or PNG

### **Kristen - CPC Chair**

- Acting as CPC chair person for Nassau County because position is empty
- Have been reaching out via email to all DCMs in our area to make sure I can connect with CPC chair. I am happy to join you at your district meeting or create a flyer to increase participation
- We are going out and speaking on a monthly basis
- Meet 4th Monday of every month 7pm-8pm virtually.
- Please feel free to email me with any questions.

### **Jeannette NYSIW**

- Will take place last weekend in July. NYSIW is a place where all of NY can meet and discuss Service
- Our next committee meeting is Thursday the 27th at 7:30pm - we will be voting on the venue. We're going to decide if we are going to do it in person or hybrid.
- Tech people are very much needed to update the NYSIW website.
- Please we need help. If unable to attend please reach out to Jeannette at [NYSIW@aaseny.org](mailto:NYSIW@aaseny.org) or call her at 917-530-2132

### **Maureen O - Rockland County**

- We had an alcathon from Christmas Eve to Christmas day - was in person and hybrid
- We meet 3rd Wednesday of every month
- Actively working on by laws, and close to finishing
- Spiritual breakfast - Pearl River Hilton- more info to follow

### **Jessica - Recording Secretary**

- Please send reports to [secretary@aaseny.org](mailto:secretary@aaseny.org) or submit on website: <https://www.aaseny.org/recording-secretary>

### **7th Tradition - 5 min break**

### **Conference Hospitality Committee - Rich & Sherry**

- Conference will be in Brooklyn - we act as tour guides, etc because most of these people are not from NY.
- We do need volunteers to help shepherd people around, talk to them and let them know what's going on
- We met briefly with a group, and we are working on an informed group conscious. We sent a letter to General Service to make sure we have the right of decision on how this committee works. We heard back from them immediately and were given that right. We want to make sure everyone is safe and can do the service as they feel is safe for them.
- We'll be meeting again in a couple of weeks.
- General service wants to invite volunteers to attend the dinner the first night which is an awesome opportunity
- If anyone is interested in helping, contact Rich [treasurer@aaseny.org](mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org), 914-447-5156 or Sherry P [sherry.p.inservice@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.p.inservice@gmail.com)

### **Convention Chair - Mel R**

- All subcommittees have chairpersons.
- We are progressing at a good pace
- Now we have to get people to attend, and making sure we are following safety protocols
- Registration is open on SENY website
- We need to get the word out about the convention we haven't had in 2 years!
- Convention will be April 1- April 3rd
- At this time, we have between 180 - 190 rooms booked, 118 registrations and 52 banquets purchased

### **Questions:**

1. Registrant requirements are online but not on hard copies? Do we have an actual plan to enforce? As far as accessibility - what are we doing to be accessible to those that cannot attend.

- We are hoping for the best for social distancing, and masking. We are hoping that folks will hold themselves responsible.
  - No plan in place for virtual component - factors were financing and hotel guidelines
2. Is there an agenda yet of topics and meetings, and are you still looking for volunteers?
    - We are still looking for volunteers
    - Workshops are in place
    - Program chairperson has been handing out commitments to all DCMs etc
    - It hasn't been posted yet because there are a few more edits
  3. How do we go about volunteering?
    - Email is [convention@aaseny.org](mailto:convention@aaseny.org)
  4. As a GSR, is this convention something that I can approach my group to be sponsored to attend?
    - Mel says to bring it to your group and ask.
  5. On the registration link - there was nothing about proof of vaccination. Is this correct?
    - This call is not up to us. This is up to exploratory committee
    - At this point, the hotel does not have a vaccination mandate at the hotel

Comment from Annabel (Accessibilities Sub Committee Chair for Convention): Chair of planning committee will be posting spiritual signs at the door. When rooms have filled to their capacity, people will be advised to go to another room. Just want to share that we are all very conscious ... If you want to work on accessibility portions of convention - please reach out to Annabel

Suggestion from Marty: If we could put a fee for virtual registration, that would be a positive, and we could raise money to cover funds of hybrid

6. Group rate is not available for all 3 days. Can you please explain?
  - No more rooms on Thursday
  - SENY is the code for convention code for Friday and Saturday

All Flyers, Registration, Co-Vid Requirements in English and Spanish can be found on the 2022 SENY CONVENTION LANDING PAGE:

<https://www.aaseny.org/2022-convention>

Mel's contact info: [convention@aaseny.org](mailto:convention@aaseny.org) - 347-409-3589.

**Alternate Delegate JoAnn M** -[altdelegate@aaseny.org](mailto:altdelegate@aaseny.org)

- Since our last Assembly, I got to facilitate three group inventories.
- We had our 2nd Joy of Service workshop hosted by Staten Island on November 13. The next JOS Workshop is scheduled for March 19 and will be hosted by Nassau County. The calendar is already updated and it will be a unified event.
- On Nov. 14, I attended the Westchester Distrito 814s 30th anniversary celebration of the Hispanic Districts partnering with SENY. In the afternoon I was invited to speak at a virtual Alanon District 33 service workshop.
- I attended the in-person Spiritual Breakfast hosted by Putnam County, the Hispanic Districts Asamblea, and the NERD meeting of Delegates and Alternates facilitated by our NE Regional Trustee Francis on November 21st.
- We had our 2nd Virtual Movie Night on November 27th where I got to show two more AA films. Participation was low so I am hoping it was only because of the holiday/shopping weekend. I may plan another for early 2022. Thanks, and much appreciation to those who came.
- On November 28, I attended Staten Island's in-person spiritual breakfast.
- I am still waiting for GSR kits ordered from the GSO for the Spanish GSRs. I was informed they are on back order.
- On December 1st, I attended the National Alternate Delegates meeting where we had past delegates share about our literature as a resource for recovery and service.
- I attended the Staten Island virtual Share-a-day on Dec. 4th.
- I spoke at the first virtual Long Island Spirituality Through Service (LISTS) workshop on December 18th. It was a 4 county workshop hosted by Suffolk County.
- I have already registered for the Northeast Region AA Service Assembly (NERAASA 2022) scheduled for February 25th -27th and our 2022 SENY Convention scheduled for April 1-3 are both upcoming in-person events.
- I attended the Brooklyn Virtual Spiritual Breakfast on December 5th and in the evening, another in-person 30th anniversary celebration hosted by the Queens Distrito 314.
- At the Asamblea in December, the Hispanic Districts picked March 6th to have a Hispanic writing workshop for the 4th ed of the Spanish Big Book. District 814 in Westchester is also planning a writing workshop on February 6.
- We had our final 2021 Service Participation Meeting on December 16th and I sent out the meeting schedule for 2022. We only meet in months where there is no assembly. The next Service Participation meeting is on February 17th at 7:30pm and I will send a reminder closer to the date.

- I attended the ESCYPAA 8 bid committee meeting last Monday and offered some suggestions. The Empire State Convention of Young People in AA, (ESCYPAA) 8 Convention will be held in Melville NY from October 28-30 and preregistration is \$20 - <https://www.escypaa8.org> I plan to attend and SENY was asked to lend our interpretation headsets.
- Finally this past Thursday I attended Paola's PI meeting and volunteered to help with the writing workshops and asked for help with the writing workshops for the Hispanic 4th Ed.
- As a reminder, when planning an event please check the SENY calendar to make sure there is nothing already scheduled that will conflict with your event. This will help facilitate participation.
- I am always available for group inventories and to speak on traditions and concepts.

**Technology & Communications Officer (TCO) - Mike O - [tco@aaseny.org](mailto:tco@aaseny.org)**

- Over the last 10 or 15 years, Area 49 has invested heavily in technology to carry the message. Our 2022 budget includes nearly \$10,000 for database and communication tools, which does not include the individual expenses of our technology trusted servants. To better manage our use of technology, about 2 years ago the Area voted to replace the Registrar with a Technology and Communication Officer and consolidate the Area's website, registration, database management, and communication services under one Officer, who also chairs the Area's technology committee. In addition to Vicky and Claire, our other tech trusted servants are Justin K., Registration Chair; Derrick T., Email Chair, and Saadi H., our acting Postal Mailing Coordinator
- One of the TCO's responsibilities is to consider how to use technology to help carry our message of recovery and hope. Area 49 and the Groups within it have been reacting to the pandemic alongside everyone else. We have been forced to quickly adopt technological solutions, often involving tools that many of us lacked any prior familiarity with. And, as a whole, I think we have adapted to our new circumstances well.
- Throughout our entire history AA has sought and found ways to better spread our message. In the 1940's our Founders created Grapevine. GSO created specialized Committees: Accessibility, Public Information, among others. Although it may appear unremarkable now, websites and other internet tools were once considered novel. So, whether you are at home reading the Big Book, texting a sponsee, in a physical meeting, a virtual meeting, or receiving an unstapled letter in a prison cell, how we communicate AA principles does not affect those principles themselves. And, I for one take hope because throughout our history our message of recovery has not been affected by how we communicate; in fact, it has been enhanced.
- It takes time to develop a general conscience on the use of new tools.

- We want to focus on: what are the current general needs of the Groups with regard to tech? Do they differ from County to County, or even District to District? Is Area 49 the AA entity best able to address those needs? If so, how? Are the Area's current structures – including the Area technology committee – adequate to the task in their current form?
- As we move into the second year of Panel 71, I and the other officers and trusted servants would like to know what you think: what do you collectively see as your Group's tech needs and what can we do? Anything from more training and workshops to best practices, to improved or updated guidelines from GSO applying AA principles to online meetings. Whatever you think will help you, the Groups carry the message forward, so that like those who came before us – who I imagine went through a somewhat similar question and solution process - we can consider and decide upon them together.

TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS LANDING PAGE : <https://www.aaseny.org/technology-and-communications> Information on Hybrid Meetings, Technology information and other topics pertinent to Technology.

Questions:

1. Any plan to do hybrid training or workshops?
  - Putnam county did a hybrid workshop last summer, we can certainly repeat that.
  - HYBRID MEETING RESOURCES : <https://www.aaseny.org/hybrid-meetings-workshop>
  - You can certainly come to Tech committee meetings
  - We are asking questions like should we do this at the county level or the area level
2. Can you give us some sense of what the limits are of the tech committee?
  - We are seeing that it's too much for 1 committee to do, so we are discussing restructuring.
  - It's difficult for us to stay focused on our primary purpose when crisis topics come up (like hybrid meetings)- we spend a lot of time doing trainings and focusing on communication tools. I wasn't going into Fellowship connection as much as I should have been- so that is just an example.
3. When we have assemblies, we always register. How do we do this virtually and how do you make sure the right people are voting?
  - When people come into the meeting, we ask people to rename themselves and we tell people who can vote
  - At the end of the day AA runs on trust - and we put our trust in the people.

**Area Chairperson - Nisaa A - [chair@aaseny.org](mailto:chair@aaseny.org)**

- Encourage people to come to assemblies early and participate in the open forum
- Hopefully it's a place where you feel you can participate, and you're not just a spectator
- For the hybrid survey we are doing after my report, we are just doing this to get a temperature check - it's not a motion, or official - just to feel it out for our exploratory committee
- You can be confident the exploratory committee is filled with dedicated/experienced people. We have a past delegate Jane that's on the exploratory committee - Tom B comes ad hoc as Delegate. We have our treasurer Rich. Me, Annabel (to make sure we are looking at accessibilities), our chair is Heidi and Roy, our tech person.
- Definition of DCMC: District Committee Chair Member
- Will be attending NERAASA
- Registered for 2022 SENY convention

Q: September Assembly going to hybrid?

A: Still trying to figure it out, everything is really going meeting by meeting

Q: SENY convention - for reimbursement speak to treasurer

Q: How can you join the exploratory committee?

These people have been appointed. Committee meeting is set with the members that are on it

Q: Is there any material from the exploratory committee that can be shared with my group?

A: Maybe we can get a landing page, but you can also check our minutes

Important SENY (Area 49) events coming up in the next 6 months (open to ALL A.A. Members!):

January 23, 2022 - our next SENY Assembly (virtual);

March 5 - Area 49 Delegate's Day of Sharing;

April 9 - Area 49 Pre-Conference Assembly;

June 4 - Area 49 Post Conference Assembly.

*Virtual Poll about Hybrid meetings*

30 min break

**Delegate - Tom B.**



- Visit our SENY website, as well as [aa.org](http://aa.org), on a regular basis to keep your group up-to-date and fully informed.
- Visit From The Delegate <https://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate>
- On [aa.org](http://aa.org) go to the “What’s new” button, to see what’s going on in Alcoholics Anonymous in the bigger picture. (Note: A.A. website looks different, go to drop down menu for “Inside A.A.” for “What’s new”.

#### AAWS Finance update

- Jan 1 – Nov 30, 2021: all major categories of revenue and expenses are within a few percentage points of the 2021 budget (71<sup>st</sup> GSC Final Report, page 126).
- Are we self-supporting? We’re counting on \$5.6M in Gross Profit from Publishing this year. My personal definition/opinion: if we were truly self-supporting *regarding our AA Services*, we could sell our literature at cost. As a Fellowship, we will have to answer that question for ourselves.
- The Prudent Reserve remains at 8.5 months of the current budget – optimal target range is 9-12 months.
- General Service is recovering nicely from hit of Pandemic in 2020

#### NERAASA-2022

- Scheduled to be live only Feb. 25-27 in Pittsburgh, PA. Register at <https://www.neraasa.org/>, in English or Spanish.
- Tom plan on attending in person, and talks about attending SENY convention in person as well.

#### The 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference:

- April 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Scheduled to be held in person in Brooklyn, subject to the state of the pandemic at that time.
- Side note- importance of the group’s voice - the top of the service triangle, with 93 area delegates their will always be at least 2/3rds of the regional delegates bringing voice of groups to the conference
- Please consider serving on the Conference Hospitality Committee! Reach out to Hospitality Co-chairs Rich S. at [treasurer@aaseny.org](mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org) or Sherry P., [sherry.p.inservice@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.p.inservice@gmail.com) to get involved.

#### Quarterly GSB (General Service Board) Meeting:

- Next weekend, attending. Privileged and honored to serve as Conference Committee Chair of C.P.C. There will be things that will be private and confidential and will share a bit of my experience at the DDoS on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### Proposed Agenda Items for 72<sup>nd</sup> GSC:

- One of the things that will be discussed is the final make up.
- Currently there are 78 total, including 15 under new EDW policy (Equitable Distribution of workflow).
- CPC Conference Comm will have five or six.
- The Trustees and GSO are currently working to determine what additional items will go to each Committee (primarily, but not exclusively, from Literature).

#### The Delegate's Day of Sharing:

- Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>. Virtual. Informational only. Ask it basket for *clarification* of topics. Group views will be solicited, encouraged and desired at the Pre-Conf Assembly on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Expect 13 short presentations (12 Counties and the Hispanic District), with plenty of time for ask it basket Q&A.
- Expect to have final background material by Feb 15. In other languages, by March 1. This will not be on the website but I will give it to those who ask.

#### New-look Delegate's Questionnaire:

- Expanded, based on my experience of the past several years of the desire of all A.A. Members to be heard as clearly as possible. Let's all see how this works together...
- Tom shares screen of what the questionnaire is going to look like.
- My hope is to have questionnaire on website before DDoS so that groups can start reviewing.
- There will be a special PO box if you are mailing in- PO box will be on questionnaire
- Topics I have chosen:
  - Literature
  - Technology in relation to anonymity
  - Outward focused CPC, etc- how do we present ourselves to the world
  - Inward focused- community work- Correction, Treatment, Accessibilities.
  - Big Book - Plain Language Translation.
  - Grapevine - how new Preamble affected your group
- We want to know how you feel, what's missing?
- I want to make sure when I go to the conference I am voicing the area's opinion, not my own.
- I will also have a section where you can tell me what items you care about that I did not include on the questionnaire.

Preguntas / Questions? Robust Discussion

**Old Business - None**

**New Business - None**

**Ask it Basket - Robust Discussion**  
**Declaration of Unity**

**Close**