SENY Assembly Meeting Minutes

September 21st, 2025 | 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Area Officers	
Raj B.	Chair
Nisaa A.	Delegate
Vacant	Alternate Delegate
Ray W.	Technology Officer
Justin K.	Registration Officer
Tom B.	Interim Treasurer

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am

- Serenity Prayer
- SENY Statement of Purpose
- Approval of Minutes from June Assembly
    - Motion to accept, seconded, minutes approved

Area Officer Reports:

Treasurer | Tom B.

- **IRS Audit & Financial Filings:** The IRS audit, which began in April, appears to be concluded, and the Area is currently awaiting the final decision from the IRS.. Medical issues had temporarily delayed the completion schedule.
    - The 2024 financial records are being sent to the CPAs this week for the filing of Form 990. These filings will be publicly available online through ProPublica, ensuring transparency.
- **Expense Reimbursement Updates:** Zelle is now the preferred method for expense reimbursements due to a previous check fraud incident.
    - Zelle is operational through TD Bank with a $1,500 daily limit, larger reimbursements can be split over multiple days.
    - To submit an expense, please contact the Treasurer at Treasurer@aaseny.org or (631) 260-0693 (text before calling).
- **SENY Financial Position & Budget**
    - The current bank balance is $122,000 (excluding special events and convention accounts).
    - We experienced a $23,000 year-over-year loss in 2024, which is considered a normal fluctuation based on contribution patterns and expenses. The Area maintains several hundred thousand dollars in accumulated excess funds.
    - Detailed financial reports covering 2023, 2024, and the first nine months of 2025 are available in PDF format, including line-item breakdowns for full transparency.

Tech Officer | Ray W.

- **Website Critical Deadline:** Two-factor authentication (2FA) is mandatory for email admins by October 22nd, contact Ray before October 1st for assistance.
- **Migration Progress:** Staten Island is complete; Manhattan and Brooklyn are transitioning to the SENY email and website platform.
    - Failure to migrate county email to the SENY system will result in the loss of that email address by October 22nd.
- **Benefits**: The transition eliminates hosting/domain costs, provides professional hosting, and improves security. County websites maintain their content autonomy and will remain active even if aaseny.org crashes.
- **Office Hours:** Fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM.

Registration Officer | Justin K.

- **System Enhancements:** Test runs were completed, and attendees were provided with **voting paddles** (red/thumbs-down, green/thumbs-up).
- **GSO & Contacts:** Efforts are underway to simplify GSO registration. The officer requested continued submission of group contact registrations.
- **GSR Kits:** As GSO no longer sends manuals, SENY is creating its own GSR Kits (including the service manual and bylaws) for distribution at assemblies.
- **Text Alerts:** A text alert system is being implemented to reach members without email, sending links to content via smartphone.

Chair | Raj B.

- **Summer Activity:** Raj, covering both Chair and Alternate Delegate roles, reported an extremely busy summer with extensive service work.
- **Unity:** The Hispanic District successfully moved the date of their *Asamblea* to avoid a scheduling conflict with the Area Assembly.
- **Events Attended/Registered:** The Chair attended the NY State Information Workshop (NYSIW). Northeast Regional Alternate Delegates Meeting (NERAD), and North American Alternate Delegates Meeting (NAAD),, and is registered for Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly (NERAASA) and the Northeast Regional Forum (NERF).
- **Grapevine Support:** Raj is temporarily covering the empty Grapevine Chair position, reporting $500–$600 in sales to Hispanic Districts and placing a new $600 order for literature.

Delegate | Nisaa

- **Summer Service Highlights & Resources**
    - The Delegate spent the period in a "Summer of Service" , attending events including the International AA Convention (July 3-6) , Queens Share-a-Day (August 2) , and the Bronx Share-a-Day (Sept 13).
    - The Delegate's webpage (aaseny.org/delegate) is regularly updated and provides resources, including a direct link for Spanish translation and sections for Delegate Reports and PAI Information.
    - Balance of fun, service, and taking care of your mental health was emphasized.
- **GSB Service & Conference Updates**

    - The 2025 International AA Convention finished with a modest deficit but was stressed to be a "huge success" for the Fellowship.
    - Quarterly updates on Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) are now being shared with all Conference members.
    - Conference members are now meeting virtually at least twice a year to foster unity, trust, and transparency.
    - The search for Class A Trustees and Non-Trustee Directors is underway, with emphasis on finding "the best obtainable for each vacant post".
- **. General Service Board (GSB) Q3 Financials**
    - **Prudent Reserve**: The fund is at $11.9 million (6.4 months of expenses).
    - **Authorized Drawdowns:** Two drawdowns were approved, totaling $2.45 million: up to $2.1 million for a necessary GSO office retrofit project and $350,000 for Grapevine operations.
    - **Reserve Fund Status**: After the drawdowns, the reserve will stand at $9.5 million (5.1 months of coverage).
    - The Finance Committee emphasized the need for self-support to rebuild the Reserve Fund.
- **Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly (NERAASA) 2026**
    - The Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly (NERAASA) will take place February 20–22, 2026, in Portland, Maine.
    - SENY has a scholarship program for the event, which will be led by the new Alternate Delegate.

Preview of November's election - Tom B. & Nisaa A.

- **Introduction**: A frank discussion on electing future leaders and trusted servants, highlighting Concept IX's emphasis on good service leaders and appropriate methods for choosing them.
- **Discussion of the Treasurer's Role**
    - The Treasurer's primary duty is to be a trusted steward of the area's money, which currently amounts to $222,000. This is a very hands-on position requiring a commitment to checking the bank site regularly (recommended daily) and managing the accounting in QuickBooks Online.
    - The most important qualification for the role is a willingness to learn the technical aspects and, most importantly, a willingness to ask for help when needed. A certified QuickBooks Online Pro Advisor is available as a resource to support the new treasurer
- **Discussion of the Alternate Delegate's Role**
    - The Alternate Delegate assists the delegate and must be prepared to step in if needed. This role has its own important responsibilities, including:
        - Chairing the committee for the Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) bid.
        - Scheduling and formatting service workshops, such as the "Joy of Service," which rotates through different counties.
        - Serving as a liaison for the Hispanic District and Young People in AA (Y-Pods). This involves attending their monthly assemblies and events to maintain strong communication and support.
        - Facilitating "ad hoc service participation" meetings for DCMCs to provide a space for them to share experiences and find solutions to common issues.
- **Discussion on Officer Elections**
    - Tom presented a series of questions for attendees to consider when voting for new officers. These questions are designed to help voters choose a candidate who is not only a good person but also the best fit for the role. The key questions were:

1. Is the position spiritual or spiritually technical?
2. Can the candidate focus on only one AA service position?
3. Is the candidate both a servant and a leader?
4. Is the candidate truly available, possessing the necessary time, passion for the role, and effective

Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) I: Safety Training Presentation

- Lloyd F., the alternate DCM for District 618, presented a motion to review safety training videos from District 22 and Area 93. The purpose was to ask Area 49 to support Area 93's proposed agenda item to have the General Service Board develop official AA safety trainings in English, Spanish, and French.
- The videos covered several key points on creating a safe meeting environment for all members:
    - The training discussed the use of the AA Safety Card for minor issues like crosstalk, and how to handle major disturbances by remembering that anonymity is not a cloak for unsafe behavior.
    - **Three Suggestions for Challenging Situations:**
        - **Remove Yourself:** The fastest way to safety is to leave an unsafe meeting.
        - **Contact Authorities:** It is appropriate to call 911 to report a disturbance or illegal behavior.
        - **Report and Support:** For issues outside of meetings (e.g., stalking), reporting to authorities helps prevent future harm.
    - **Inclusivity and Safety:** The presentation emphasized that AA traditions encourage unity and inclusion, and that no one should tolerate discrimination. It also covered how to handle emergencies and ensure safety in virtual meetings.
- **Discussion on the Proposed Agenda Item:** Following the presentation, a discussion was opened. The Hybrid Host clarified that the vote was to support the PAI, not to approve the video's final content.
    - **Concerns and Feedback:** Members offered a range of feedback, including concerns about the video's synthetic narration, technical wording in the motion, and references to California law. One member worried that the guidance could be misused, leading to people inappropriately involving authorities.
    - **Support**: Many members spoke in favor of the motion, noting that the video would provide much-needed guidance for groups and help clarify that bad behavior is not protected by AA traditions. They emphasized that it was an educational tool, not a mandate.
- Motion received the required supermajority (two-thirds) to pass.

Proposed Agenda Item II: Non-Trustee Director (NTD) Ineligibility Period

- **Motion**: To institute a one-to-two-year ineligibility period for Non-Trustee Directors (NTDs) before they can become General Service Board (GSB) Trustees.
- **Goal**: The motion aimed to prevent individuals from serving up to eight consecutive years at the board level.
- **Background**: The proposal was rooted in principles of rotation and humility, referencing a 1977 advisory action that required a one-year waiting period for Delegates.
- **Discussion Highlights**
    - Delegate Nisaa (as the Trustee Committee Conference Chair) provided a detailed explanation of the current nominating process.
    - **Key debate points included:**
        - NTDs still must apply through the same nominating process as other candidates for GSB Trustee.
        - Concern was raised regarding shrinking the pool of willing servants versus the benefit of preventing burnout.
        - The motion presenter stressed the need to reduce excessive service burden on individuals.
- **Outcome**

- **Vote Result:** The motion failed (74 No, 9 Yes, 13 Abstentions).
- **Minority Opinion:** The minority opinion was primarily focused on the potential benefits of the motion in reducing individual burnout.

Standing Committee Chair Reports

- **Treatment & Facilities | Rob M.:**
  - **Pamphlet Changes & Guidelines:** The F-183/F-184 pamphlets will change in January, leaving the local entity contact section blank, and new Bridging the Gap guidelines are expected soon.
  - The committee is circulating a survey on cooperation between groups and institutions after attending the NY State and Bridging the Gap conferences.
- **Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) | Annabelle:**
  - The committee co-hosted a workshop in September, scheduled service tables at spiritual breakfasts, and announced the next workshop: "Anonymity vs. Confidentiality" on March 15, 2025.
- **Archives | Ed:**
  - The Archives Committee will host a workshop titled "Why is Archives Important?" on October 25th.
- **Accessibilities | Matt F.:**
  - The committee is exploring the formation of a Deaf Access Committee and recently chaired the Manhattan Share Day on October 12th.

Assembly Logistics Motion | Justin K.

- **Motion:** To create an ad hoc committee to evaluate the logistics of rotating assemblies away from the current Westchester location.
- **Committee Composition:** The committee will be chaired by a past delegate (to ensure neutrality) and will include DCMCs from each county, the Hybrid Chair, and a Finance member.
- **Purpose:** To assess logistics, costs, and accessibility before making a decision on the return to rotating assembly locations.
- **Key Considerations:** Discussion highlighted challenges in post-pandemic location availability, the need for extensive hybrid technology setup (the team arrives 3+ hours early), and the need for more hybrid volunteers.
- **Outcome:** The motion Passed with strong support (98 Yes, 2 Abstentions, 2 No's).

Motion to close. Seconded. Meeting adjourned with AA's Declaration of Unity

Special Note of Gratitude:
The Recording Secretary extends sincere gratitude to Alex K. of DIstrict 410 for taking and compiling the detailed notes used for these minutes.