

Brooklyn County Meeting September 16, 2015

Opening by Richard Preamble by Amy Daily Reflections by Rich Tradition 9 by James
Secretary sub.- Jenni G.
Registrar quorum met- Desiree F.

Minutes from last meeting on June 17th reviewed

Correction: John W.- Service rotation and alignment was a reference from the Conference Charter & stated that the county should be concurrent with the Delegates term. Panel 65 started a 2 year term on January of 2015 which will end December of 2016. All counties are concurrent with this rotation except for Brooklyn.

Richard S./ DCMC report

- Went to the service structure workshop in June & learned a lot!
- In August Brooklyn county did service at Long Island Spirituality through Service (LISTS) including registration commitment & several panel speakers from Brooklyn County. It was packed & was lots of fun!
- Suffolk County will host for next year.

Mel R./ Alt. DCMC report

- Enjoyed being a panelist at LISTS. It was similar to a mini workshop or a mini Share-A-Day. Great opportunity to get involved & get to know folks!
- Acknowledged the correction announced by John W. At this meeting we will be discussing our need to sync with the Delegate's term in light of conformity.

Adam S./ Treasurer report, 7th tradition passed.

- Unable to print out latest report, but will email soon. We currently have a little over \$4,000 in the bank. We collected \$3,500 over the summer, we have approx. \$2,000 in unpaid checks waiting to be cashed, we have approx. \$300 in bills due, & our \$1,200 liability insurance payment is due in October.
- Share-A-Day cost us \$3,725, we took in \$363 for the 7th tradition, group donations were \$1,600, & total contributions received was \$1,963.

Evelyn R./ Spiritual Breakfast Chairperson report

- Spiritual breakfast will be on Sunday December 6th at the Dyker Beach Golf Course. Tickets are now on sale! Deposits are already in & money is owed so Evelyn & Deborah will be reaching out & collecting money as it comes in. Request that any monies not collected between now & the next county meeting, please bring it to the meeting. Based on a recent survey there is an unusually high interest in the Spiritual Breakfast this year. Last year we sold out & were unable to accommodate everyone who wanted to come. Some people have begun purchasing groups of tickets to fill a table (table seats 12) for the event. Reserved tables will be set up around the perimeter of the room as there were some concerns about all reserved tables being in the front. Tables in the front will be available on a first come first serve basis.
- First Spiritual breakfast committee meeting is at 4pm on September 20th at OPSC. Please come to help & share your experience on doing service for large AA events.

Preston W./ SENY CPC Chairperson & Nissa/ PI Chairperson report

- On October 13th at St. Francis College the Cooperations with Professionals Committee & Public Information Committee will be hosting a public information session for professionals such as clergy, doctors, legal & law professionals, & human services providers or students, as well as the general public for a Q&A about:
 - 1) what AA is & isn't
 - 2) why anonymity is important
 - 3) how AA cooperates with professionals.

Each topic will be presented in a 20 minute session beginning at 6pm. Doors will open at 5:30pm & this is a catered event. This is a great interactive alternative to going to an open meeting to learn more about AA!

Please spread the word with professionals you know & feel comfortable speaking to about AA so we can expand the potential scope of 12th Step work in our community & help the public to understand who we are, what we do, & how they can be of service to help! The committee is reaching out to courts in the area.

The info session held by district 412 had a great turnout. Someone shared how the pastor from a church who rented a basement to us came & was very grateful to hear, learn, & understand what was happening in our meetings.

This is not a meeting & if you attend your anonymity will not be broken unless you break it. You can feel free to share information in a general way.

Ads can be found in *The Brooklyn Junction* & *The Link*. You can also email Preston for more info at cpc@aasenyo.org

Ronnie L./ Standing Committees Chairperson:

Mary Martha/ Accessibilities & Special Needs

- Not too much happened this summer, but she did attend Queens Share-A-Day where there was a Q&A session on Special needs. She was the only one in attendance & learned a lot!
- The next Accessibilities & Special Needs meeting is on Wednesday September 23rd, 7pm at 307 7th Avenue on the second floor. She plans to bring up the concerns she learned about & start a conversation on having an Accessibilities & Special Needs workshop since there hasn't been one in two years.

Joe/ Archives

- Not much to report. Thanks to all of those who stopped by at BCSAD! He is available to set up tables at anniversaries & other AA events.

Morgan/ Corrections- nothing to report.

Mitch/ Grapevine

- Not that eventful outside of his table at BCSAD. Thanks to those who showed support! He had a few sales & gave away some back issues to some newcomers.
- Our sales for the Grapevine contest have increased to 12.67%, but we can do better. We're Brooklyn!!! Suggested to buy a subscription for your group, a new comer, or an institution. Online subscriptions are only \$20!
- Also, feel free to share your experience, strength, & hope by submitting an article to Grapevine! They are currently accepting submissions about relapse. For a full list of topics & submission deadlines go to aagrapevine.org, click on resources, then newsletter, or email Mitch at mitchk1968@yahoo.com.

Ronnie/ Intergroup

- She attended the Quarterly Delegates meeting & although Intergroup is behind in rent, & pulling funds from its prudent reserve to pay their bills, they aren't closing the doors. They may need to downsize at some point though (like not being open every day) if the trend of low donations continues.
- Phones are not being answered 24/7 because of a combination of people not doing service & the phone & electric expenses are high.
- Book sales are down due to people accessing free online downloads & people buying literature from GSO because it is slightly cheaper.
- Rent is \$10,000 & they are two years into a ten year lease.
- The faithful fivers is a great way to contribute individually or as a group.
- Intergroup can also use more volunteer help especially during the holidays. Maybe your group could consider taking a phone commitment or participate in call forwarding. Despite an increased reliance on technology people still do call to get meeting information or to talk to a sober alcoholic.
- Meetings need to be updated!!! There are approximately 31 groups in Brooklyn that are listed, but have not been updated. One group that has been open since 1988 & is still active has never updated its meeting information. Meeting days, times, & topics should be updated as well as group officers who should be listed as available persons to do 12th Step work. Make sure your home group is updated & ask other groups if they have been updated as well. You can submit changes online or print out a hard copy to mail to Intergroup.
- To show its appreciation (not to shame anyone... Check your magnifier...) Intergroup printed a gratitude list in Sober News to acknowledge & thank groups for their much needed contributions this year.
- Want to do service for Sober News? Write an article of 400-1,000 words on any topic or contact them to get information in his to assist with printing, packaging, &/or distribution.
- There will be a workshop on Saturday October 10th at 1734 Williamsburg Road in the Bronx, 10am-4pm to discuss the difference between Intergroup & GSO. The speakers are from SENY & lunch will be served.
- The next Brooklyn Area Forum is on Saturday September 19th at 2pm. They meet every third Saturday of the month at 121 Pierrepont Street b/w Clinton St. & Monroe Pl.

Cathy/ Junction Editor & Brooklyn County website

- 100 copies were made available. It will be posted on the website with people's personal information redacted.
- There is a questionnaire about Safety in the rooms that people should check out & discuss with their home groups.
- The motion to sync with the Delegates term is listed on the back of The Junction.
- Website- no activity with Brooklyn County, but the SENY website will be rolling out its new design & format soon. We need willing volunteers to create a subcommittee to get working on Brooklyn Counties website.

Karl/ Literature- not much to report. Curious about having a table set up at the Spiritual Breakfast.

Beth/ Public Information

- Before the summer began she met with other alcoholics to practice how to speak about AA at non-AA meetings. We really need to spread the word!!! Service for this is not limited to those doing service below the group level.
- Looking into getting Big Books on Brooklyn libraries as well as Family Courts & places like Safe Horizons (they have been invited to the information session). Manhattan & the Bronx were successful at getting Big Books into the libraries, but apparently they would always disappear from the libraries in Brooklyn.....
- On September 24th there is a workshop on how to speak at non-AA meetings from 7pm-8pm at 415 79th Street NY, NY (79th Street Workshop).

Raphael/ Treatment & Facilities- no report

Katelyn/ Cooperation with Professionals Committee

- Proxy Nissa announced that Katelyn needs for people to submit their answers from the safety in the rooms survey that was sent out via email. If you did not receive it please email her for a copy at gsr.nstb@gmail.com

GSR & DCM Reports

David/ GSR Young People in Recovery- there recently was a 5th Saturday in the month & for that meeting the group decided to play a video of The Big Meeting. It was a great turnout! They served lemonade, coffee, & donuts & plan to show AA related videos every 5th Saturday. The next video night meeting will be on October 31st. Come join them!

Mitch/ GSR Greenwood Group

- The district they're in, 412, had a picnic at Prospect Park & it was a great meet & greet opportunity!
- Come support Greenwood's Grapevine meeting on Saturdays at 5pm. Despite it being updated with Intergroup people are still showing up at 4pm. Please spread the word of the change!
- Greenwood's anniversary will be on October 24th at 283 Prospect Avenue b/w 5th & 6th Avenue. Meeting from 4:30-5:30, countdown with a Big Book giveaway for the new comer, 50/50 raffle, & raffle for 2 tickets to the Bill W. dinner dance, & it's a suggested costume party!

Andrew/ GSR Park West Group- 45th group anniversary on *** at 8:30pm at Carroll & 7th Avenue.

Miche/ GSR Clinton Hill

- Meetings need support! Tuesday Living Sober meeting at 6:30 & Closed Discussion at 8pm & Thursday at 6:45pm Step Meeting.
- 39th group anniversary on October 13th from 6:30pm-9pm. Three speakers, food & fellowship.

Karl/ GSR Primary Purpose

- The group is growing! They celebrated their 3rd anniversary on July 24th. Please come check them out on Fridays at 6:45pm.
- They are looking into expanding their service positions & planning to have a group inventory which will be facilitated by Linda M. Also, based on a minority opinion shared at LISS in reference to Robert's Rules, they are discussing the need to have a business meeting protocol workshop. Experience would be appreciated from those who were involved in the business meeting workshop that was held in Williamsburg.

Lee/ GSR Lafayette Clinton Group-The group started out small, but has really grown from only a few people to almost 30 people! They meet on Wednesdays at 7:15pm at 300 Vanderbilt Avenue in the Queen of All Saints Church.

Cathy/ DCM District 405- there was no September district meeting, but planning to kick things off and gather the district 405 GSR's together in October.

Paul/ DCM District 402- their annual beginner's workshop will be on November 14th from 9am-1pm at Grace Church in Brooklyn Heights. The theme is about getting through the holidays & on doing service.

Joe/ DCM District 404- Thank you to Richard & Nissa for coming to their last service workshop!

Beth/ GSR Bay Ridge Group

- 70th group anniversary on October 18th at 2pm. Great line up of old timer speakers!!!
- Since they have moved there has been a decrease in attendance so please come support them! 7915 Ridge Blvd @ 80th Street Saturday's & Sunday's at 2pm & Tuesday's at 7pm.
- There was a recent split in Districts 407 & 409 so they are currently trying to going to meetings to contact GSR's to

gain more support.

Jenni/ GSR Old Park Slope Caton

- Group was happy to be in Sober News as its been a while since they've been able to contribute to Intergroup.
- Shared experience on just making suggestions & accepting the group will make changes when it's ready. (Like how they decided to donate to Intergroup on a day she was absent after announcing the need to do so for months.)
- Also in light of new & young people who want to make a lot of changes who are meeting with resistance, spoke to old timers to understand what the group used to be & look like. Learned that like individual recovery a groups recovery needs to be compared to what it used to be like & not to other groups or what the fancied ideal should be. Although the group isn't where newer people want it to be, there can be some level of patience to recognize how it's grown, changed, & progressed.

--- Next SENY Assembly is in Fallsburg NY on Sunday September 27th. The bus will be departing from BAM. This Assembly is on a Sunday as per SENY/Area49 guidelines that one Assembly be held on a Sunday instead of Saturday due to religious or other reasons.

---Following SENY Assembly is in West Chester on Saturday November 7th. We will be doing an inventory of the area. Please be sure to show up, participate, and have your group/district represented. No information yet on what will be covered, but Nay Gary L. the former NE Regional Trustee will be facilitating.

--- Next County meeting will be on November 18th at St. Francis College in room 3213.

--- Concerns expressed that many people are not receiving the Brooklyn County emails & some concerns that those who do receive the Brooklyn County email are getting a second forward of the SENY email. Desiree took a list of names of people who are not receiving Brooklyn County emails. Please notify the Registrar or the Secretary if this applies to you.

Rotation Motions & Voting:

- Mel R. called for discussion on if we should sync with the Delegate's term to be aligned with the conference charter & if so should the current officers serve for one more year or should we have elections in November & have a one year County commitment.
- All current officers are willing to extend their service commitment except for Kimi our secretary.
- For voting we need 2/3 majority to sync & a simple majority to extend or elect County officers. All GSR's, DCM's, & Standing Committee Chairpeople can vote & alternates do not vote. Two alternates present & voting & John W. is present, but will not be voting.
- Will need to elect a new secretary at the next County meeting. The position is open for anyone willing to volunteer & if we have more than one volunteer we will vote.

Joe S. assisted in counting; 25 voting members present, 16 will pass.

(John clarified that the 2/3 applies to 2/3 of the people who actually vote & not 2/3 of the present voting members.)

Should we sync with Area 49?

25 people voted, 25 voted yes, none opposed, & no abstentions.

---* Motion passed to sync Brooklyn County with Area 49 rotation.

All in favor for current County Officers to stay in service for one more year? 25 people voted, 23 voted yes, 1 opposed, & 1 abstention.

Kathy with minority opinion- she will be stepping down & wants to be of service elsewhere. Richard clarified that GSR/DCM orientation person is not actually an elected position, but an appointed one.

---* Motion passed to have current Brooklyn County Officers continue for one more year.

New Business

James/ District 410- called on assistance of DCMC (Richard) to call together the GSR's to get them up & running again. The district has been dark for two years. Richard is on it!

Don't forget that OPSC has a Concept meeting on the third Monday of the month at 7pm!!!