

**Brooklyn County General Service Meeting
St. Francis College
May 18, 2016**

DCMC, Richard S.
Alternate DCMC, Mel R. (Excused)
Treasurer, Adam S.
Registrar, Desiree
Secretary, Lu D.

Readings

Preamble	Read by: Eddie
5th Tradition	Read by: Cynthia from Starting Point
Daily Reflections	Read by: Erin

**Opening
DCMC**

OFFICER REPORTS

Review of March Minutes

Motion to accept minutes. Motion passed. Minutes accepted.

Registrar

A quorum is the minimum number of people required for voting to take place.
We need a chair, a secretary, plus 13 GSR's/DCM's to do business.
We have a quorum.

DCMC

- 4/16 Attended a Business Meeting Workshop hosted by Cluster 401-403-411. They did a great job.
- 5/2 Attended a Committee Meeting. The next one is on June 6.
- The next SENY Area 49 Assembly will be on June 11th. **THERE WILL NOT BE A BUS.** The address is wrong on today's agenda.
The correct information is on the SENY Area 49 website (<http://events.aaseny.org/events>)
SENY Area 49 Post-Conference Assembly
June 11 @ 8:30 am - 3:15 pm
P.S. 167,
220 E. 76th Street
New York, NY United States
Registration and hospitality start at 8:30am and workshops start at 9:15.

Motion to accept DCMC's report. Motion passed. Minutes accepted.

Treasurer

Carry Over Balance As of 3-16-16:	\$7,684.03
Total disbursements:	\$3,884.04
Income (Deposits):	\$5,795.98
Balance as of 5-18-16:	\$9,595.97
Pending Disbursements:	\$4,100.00
Adjusted Balance:	\$5,495.97

- Deposit includes: \$1,500 contribution from Brooklyn Inter-Group
\$2,500 SENY reimbursement for Pre-Conference Assembly
- Pending disbursements: Share-A-Day – Approximately \$2,500
Spiritual Breakfast deposit will be needed
Rent
- We are all coming to the end of our service commitments, so if you are interested, please make necessary inquiries. Current officers will be happy to go over the responsibilities with you.
- Brooklyn Share-A-Day: The county is looking for contributions from the home groups.

Motion to accept report. Motion passed. Report accepted.

Brooklyn Share-A-Day - Chair, Debra

June 25th at Bishop Kearney from 8:30am to 5pm

Flyers passed out: Event flyers with program printed on the back
 Contribution flyers – Asking groups to support event, financially – Suggested \$50 donation

Have: Chairs for both breakfast and lunch committees
 Signed contract

Need: Clean up and set up

Changes: Reduced number of meetings by 50%
 Will have Old-Timers Meeting
 Keynote Speaker Meeting
 Films from General Services
 Meditation workshop
 Special Interest Meetings – Spanish, Russian, Polish, LGBT, Young People, Al-Anon

Will post program and flyers

Guest – John Weiss, SENY Area 49, Alternate Delegate

<http://www.aaseny.org/>



SENY Area 49 is comprised of 12 counties and the Spanish District

- Understanding the Twelve Concepts has changed how he sees things.

(Concepts in italics copied from http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-114_en.pdf)

Concept 1 – (*Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.*)

- The groups get to have decisions because they elect GSR's, and we have DCM's, etc. If you are an isolated AA group, then you are like and isolated drunk.

Concept 2 – (*The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.*)

- There is no way for all of it to get done. We all elect a delegate. The delegate interacts with the area throughout the year.

Concepts 3, 4, 5 – (*3. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."* 4. *At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.* 5. *Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.*)

- Right of decision, participation, appeal – Exactly what happened at the conference, itself.

Concepts 6, 7 – (*6. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.* 7. *The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.*)

- What happens with what happens at the Conference?
- Conference has no legal authority. Recommendations sent to the General Service Board. The General Service Board votes on what happens at the Conference. They are all elected or approved. All owe their positions to the groups.
- Agenda items are advisory until voted on. It's like a special handshake, i.e., the Conference hands off to the Board and the Board can do what it wants, but...
- ¾ of the groups voted the same on the four questions. http://static1.squarespace.com/static/559f240ce4b07a4915495c39/t/5733956f8259b5b39ca2c218/1462998384667/link_566_web.pdf

(All italicized is copied from SENY Area 49 website.)

Q1: Consider developing a plain language version of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Literature Committee took no action on the "plain language" Big Book item, and it did not come out of committee for a vote.

- Did not make it out of committee because there was not 2/3 unanimity.

Q2. Consider the request for revision/update to the pamphlet Young People and A.A.

Q3. Consider the request to update the pamphlet Twelve Traditions Illustrated.

Regarding the pamphlets Young People and A.A. and Twelve Traditions Illustrated, consensus was reached by substantial unanimity to update these publications.

- Both were approved for revisions.

Q4. Consider removing "Special Needs" from the committee's name ("Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs") and throughout the Composition, Scope and Procedure.

The term "special needs" was removed from the name of the corresponding Conference committee by substantial unanimity; the new name for the committee will be the "Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities."

- Decided it was best to move forward without "special needs" because it served as a barrier.
- Next year's conference (67th) theme is "Supporting Our Future." They are setting up workshops for sub topics: Growth – Diversity – Outreach – Safety – Communication – Participation (Is my voice being heard?) – Fellowship vs. Membership – Contributions (? and money – Fully self-supporting – Apathy and the Power of the Purse)
- At the last assembly, a motion regarding translating the meetings was passed.

8:01 pm – Evelyn enters – John greets her – She proceeds to steal his seat...and he doesn't let it slide. 😊

Hired Rosa to do Spanish translation. Will be at the June 6th and June 11th meetings. It is assumed that she will be back in the fall. Other translations will be addressed as needed.

- Regarding Share-A-Day, there is a new corrections video. John may be able to get it for Share-A-Day. It will be a good opportunity to get feedback.

Q&A with John:

Rich – Thought the translator was a permanent hire at \$60/hour

John – Will do May and June with Rosa, get feedback, and proceed accordingly in the fall.

Rich – Invited everyone at the committee meeting to Share-A-Day.

John is booked that day.

Adam – Were you there at the conference?

John – Was 'around' the conference. It's only for conference members. (A total of 134 members – 93 delegates – 21 trustees/board members – 10 or 12 senior level staffers from the General Service Office – a handful of non-trustee directors) It's a weird number. It's set up so that the 93 comprise at least 2/3 of the body.

John volunteered and showed the guests around town. He was at the Pollack exhibit when our delegate, Jim W., was taken to the hospital. The question of whether or not John, as our Alternate Delegate, can/should fill in for Jim should he not make it back to the conference arose. It was a very unusual situation. The final word: Members are voted in formally at the beginning of the conference. If you are not voted in at that time, then you do not participate in the conference. In addition, John was around because he lives in NY, but all of the other alternates were not there. They would not have been able to fill in for their delegates, if the need arose.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility/Special Needs, Mary Martha

- Still having phone meetings and they are going well.
- Going to meet on May 21st at Inter-Group for a face-to-face and to get everyone together. They will talk about their June 26th Share-A-Day.
- Michelle had asked about ASL (American Sign Language). Mary Martha will make inquiries.

Archives, Joe

- Don't have much new to report. He would love groups to submit their group histories to him.
- Moved Archives to Sunset Park. They're safe, but he doesn't have access. Wants permission to move to facility in North Brooklyn which is closer to where he lives.
- Karl motioned to let Joe move archives
- Adam suggested that Joe come back in June with location(s) and cost(s)
- James – Do we need a motion to investigate possible, new storage locations?

- Richard – Joe rotates out in December. What if the new archives person lives elsewhere?
- Joe – We need a 5' x 5' space which costs about \$100
- Karl – Where would the money come from?
- Adam – It's a separate line item. Also, need to find out if moving the archives will cost money?
- Cathy Lou – Will we always need the archives or will we be scanning everything at some time?
- Joe – We'd be losing out if we tossed the original archives.
- Mitch – Can we table this topic until the June 15th meeting?
- Joe – Spoke with a couple of facilities near his apartment. The quotes were between \$95 and \$100.
- John – A table supersedes a motion
- Mitch – Motion to table
- Motion passed.

Corrections, Joe S. (Morgan absent)

- Absent

Grapevine, Mitch

- The app to download the Grapevine on the iPhone, iPad, etc. is available for \$23.99/year. Not yet available on androids or windows.
- Trying to get GV/LV donated to each of the 16 correctional facilities in SENY. Asking the Brooklyn districts to help out. It would cost \$71.96 per district. May go to Brooklyn County for the money if he can't get enough.
- \$71.96 - 16 Grape Vines & 16 La Vinas
- Rachel: Can a group adopt an institution? Mitch: Has to get more information on this.
- Cathy: Do you get access to the archives if you subscribe to the app:? Mitch: No, but he doesn't know all the details.

Intergroup Liaison, Ronnie L. <http://www.nyintergroup.org/>

- Next Area Forum is on Saturday
- The Big Meeting is on June 19th (Father's Day). Celebrating AA's 81st birthday and Inter-Group's 70th. It's at the Hilton and it's free.
- Corrections Workshop will be on June 4th at PS 41 – West 11th Street – 9:30am-2pm. It will be very informative. Panels consist of professionals and some ex-cons who were first exposed to AA while behind bars.
- A summertime field day is being organized as a fund raiser for NY-IG.
- Monthly sober dances are being organized as ongoing fund raisers – in part for NY-IG / in part for GSO. First one will be in September. Looking at a location in the 11203 zip code. Very low cost - \$5 suggested donation. Low frills / high fellowship events.

Junction Editor, Cathy M.

- Send your announcements to brooklynjunction@brooklynaa.org. BSAD flyer is posted.
- Read The Junction (in color!) <http://www.brooklynaa.org/brooklyn/wp-content/junctions/bjR2016%2003.pdf>

Website, Cathy M.

- Send your announcements, events, calendar updates, etc.

Literature, Karl D.

- Got his new literature cart.
- Inventory is full
- Supports whatever events we have. Just reach out to him.

P.I. (Public Information), Beth

- Absent

Treatment Facilities, Raphael

- Absent
- Meeting at 103 Quincy, last Sat of the month. For info, Raphael 347-661-8511.

CPC, Katelyn G.

- Absent

DCM REPORTS

Brooklyn Districts: http://www.brooklynaa.org/brooklyn/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/kingsCounty_big.png

Districts 400-402, Paul

- District is growing – 2 ½ new GSRs!!
- Girls Gone Mild will be back in a few weeks
- Sunday Big Book is meeting at someone's house, for now.

Districts 401, 403, 411, Ted (Is that the right name? and are these three a cluster?)

- Not a lot of participation from 401.
- Went to Ocean Hill and may have gotten Willie to be their GSR
- Travelling around 401 to increase involvement

District 403, David

- Hasn't been out to meetings, but will travel around this month.

District 404, Evelyn

- 8 or 9 GSRs attend the district meetings. Joe did a lot of work to increase participation
- The Meditation Workshop was great. More than 60 people attended. Learned that people who go to meditation workshops don't party! Lol! (Not many stayed for the dance after the meditation.) Request to make it an annual event.
- Will have a workshop on September 26. Details to follow.

District 405, Cathy

- Gained one group and lost one group.
- District is about 50% lit – about 50% of the groups have a GSR
- Continue trying to interest remaining groups in participating

Districts 406-413,

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Districts 407-409, Deborah

- Working on BSAD
- Contacted Fred, SENY Registrar and got the link to see which groups are active and which are not.
- If you want flyers, contact Deborah at dlandhw98@aol.com
- Cluster will meet on the first Mondays of the month @ 6 pm @ St. Patrick's Church (9511 Fourth Ave.)

District 408, Bill

- Working on a September Grape Vine workshop

District 410, Audrey

- Having a Labor Day alchothon – Looking at approximately 4 handicap accessible locations

District 411, Karl D.

- **Karl, Did you give a report?**

District 412, Megan – (Mitch filling in)

- Group Inventory Workshop on Saturday, 10/22. Tentatively, where the Prospect Park Group meets. John W. will be on the panel.
- September 10th – Annual picnic
- June 5th – Memorial for Chris Hause at the Prospect Park Boat House.

Districts Not Reporting**406-413****GSR REPORTS****Bergen Group GSR, Leroy**

- Doing well. Small, but keeping the doors open.

Sunday Solutions GSR, Cathy Lou

- Sunday 5pm at St. James
- Voting in June for new officers - GSR and Alternate GSR
- 25th anniversary is around the corner. Called Inter-Group and GSO to get information on the group

Good Morning Sobriety GSR, Clyde

- Alternate GSR, Jesse, reporting
- June 11th breakfast

- Attendance is great
- Take a meeting on Tuesday mornings to ----- Hospital **(Name of hospital, please.)**

No Serenity 'til Brooklyn GSR, Lloyd

- Started a Thursday 730pm meditation meeting. 15 minute speaker - 15 minute meditation and sharing - 664 Sterling Place

Our Father's House GSR, Darren

- Doing well.

Crown Heights Group GSR, Scott

- Doing well - financially stable
- Wednesday 8pm is well attended
- Have a Monday 8pm step meeting, too

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

Motion to close. Motion passed. Meeting closed with Responsibility Pledge

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there;
and for that,
I am responsible.

Next County Meeting:

When: June 15, 2016 - 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm (New GSR Orientation is at 6:30 pm)

Where: St. Francis College – 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 – Room 3213