

**Brooklyn County General Service
Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2020
St. Francis College, 182 Remsen St, Brooklyn, NY 11201**

County Officers in Attendance: Colleen (DCMC), Deborah (Treasurer), Stacy (Secretary), Cici (Registrar), (Miriam, Alt DCMC, absent),

Next County Meeting: Wednesday February 19, 2020
(6:30 New GSR and DCM orientation, 7:30 regular meeting)

Next SENY Assembly: Sunday February 9, 2020 in Nassau County, Nassau Community College
Brooklyn will have a bus leaving bam at 7:30am sharp, \$10 suggested donation, receipt provided

Next SENY Committee Meeting: Monday March 2, 2020, 7:30pm at Church of the Holy Family, Melcher Hall,
2158 Watson Ave, Bronx, NY 10472

Opening/Welcome:

Open with the serenity prayer

Preamble: Read by Mariano

Daily Reflections: Read by Kelson

Step 1: Read by Mickey

Tradition 1: Read by Alex

Concept 1: Read by Albert

Introduction of New GSRs, Service Sponsorship Chair Brigitte F.

- New GSRs:
 - Glenn (GSR, Living with Gratitude)
 - Albert (Alt GSR, In the Garden)
 - Mickey (Alt GSR, Sunday Solution)
 - George (Alt GSR, One Flight Up)
 - Kelson (GSR, Greenwood)
 - Mariano (Alt GSR, Brooklyn Group)
 - Sam (GSR, Sunrise)
 - Veronica (GSR, Women's Room)
 - Kara (GSR, Our Solution)
 - Alex (GSR, Primary Purpose)
 - Jerry (GSR, 12 to Life)

Introductions of all others

Housekeeping reminders by Colleen:

- GSRs and DCMS can vote, Alternates can vote only if their primary is not here. Standing Committee Chairs and County Officers can also vote.
- Why are we here? To make 12th step work happen. Our responsibilities include:
 - o To attend these County meetings, in which we get information to bring back to our groups about Brooklyn County and other groups in Brooklyn.
- To attend SENY (South Eastern New York, Area 49) assemblies in which we learn about other groups in our area. At SENY we elect a delegate to represent our area in the annual General Service Conference. We provide our feedback to them on Conference agenda items through the Delegate's Questionnaire.

Background info on the Delegate's Questionnaire will be provided at the Delegate's Day of Sharing. Agenda items are also brought to the area by groups and individuals for discussion and support.

Officer Reports:

Colleen (DCMC):

- The Delegate's Day of Sharing will be on March 7, 2020.
- SENY elections will be on September 12, 2020.
- Brooklyn County elections will be on September 23, 2020.
- Colleen attends County Meetings, SENY Assemblies, SENY Committee Meetings, and Service Participation Meetings.
- The SENY area budget will be presented at the next assembly (February 9) for approval
- Grapevine is in the red.
- The Service Manual is being updated.
- Proposed agenda items for the 2020 Conference from folks in SENY Area 49 include an AA Podcast and a change of the language in the Preamble.
- There is a new agenda chair, Jeanette.
- GSO has a new system that is having some complications with the SENY database, should be resolved by March.
- SENY is currently working on streamlining technology, more information to come.
- Because we have had some challenges getting a SENY area translation chair, they have decided to pay for translation services, it's been added to the budget for 2020.
- The challenges that AA as a whole is facing currently: Fiscal planning; reaching out to remote communities. Priorities in 2020 will be communications and inclusivity.
- Attended a meeting of all the intergroups (and DCMCs) in the area to discuss how counties communicate with intergroups.

Cici (Registrar):

- We have quorum (Combination of 13 GSRs and/or DCMs).
- Please check in in the book if you haven't yet done so.
- Please see Cici if you need to register, or if you need to update your position.

Stacy (Secretary):

- Minutes from the previous meeting have been distributed by email and printed copy.
- Send corrections to Stacy at Secretary@brooklynaa.org.

Deborah (Treasurer):

- Report from 12/19/19 through 1/13/2020 distributed and read.
- Beginning balance: \$6,641.20; Ending balance: \$7,318.91
- There was a mistake on Last month's treasury report, it has been corrected.
- Still in the process of recouping the sales tax from The Grand Prospect Hall in 2018 (\$1,439.88), should have that soon. It was delayed because there needed to be a correction to the invoice. Deborah will send it out this week, should take about 4 months to get back.

2020 Budget

- Projected income: \$13,375.00
- Projected Expenses: \$15,104.77
 - o Administrative expenses: \$7,229.77
 - o Projected Officer Expenses: \$400.00
 - o Projected Events Expenses: \$6,675.00

- Projected Standing Committee Expenses: \$800.00
- Would add up to a deficit of \$1,729.77

Notes and discussion on budget:

- Note: Issue with PayPal; all payments come in as Share a Day Donations whether or not they are for BCSAD or are general donations.
- Note: The insurance will be less in 2020 because Deborah negotiated us a lower cost.
- Note: SENY recommends that counties reimburse offices who attend NERAASA. This year will be in New Hampshire; Colleen paid out of pocket last year. Asking for \$200 to be reimbursed from the county.
- Note: We did not pay rent for the space for Share A Day in 2019, but we may give a donation to the school if we so choose. Motion made to give a \$200 donation to the school. (We normally are charged \$500.00 per event at the school.) Motion amended to \$500. Passed. (37 voting members)

Budget accepted

Discussion of prudent reserve:

- Our prudent reserve (equal to 3 months expenses, minus the three events) equals: \$2,307.45.
- Joe made a motion that we establish a prudent reserve of \$2,500.00. Motion passed.
- Clarification: This is setting a precedent that ideally we will have an amount of \$2,500 on top of our operating budget that we will not have to tap into.

Old Business:

Open Standing Committee Chair Positions:

- Junction (Brooklyn County Newsletter) Editor: No volunteers
We have a program for creating the newsletter; the previous editor can help you determine what to do.

New Business:

Bus for the SENY Convention in March

- Flyer is on table for the 3rd Annual Fellowship Bus to the SENY Convention; please add date Saturday March 28 to the flyer.
- The bus goes to the convention on Saturday March 28 for the day. Leaves from Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) at 7am and leaves the Convention at 5:45pm. It is a nice bus with a restroom.
- Tickets are available for \$25.00. David T., Deborah, Stacy, and Colleen currently have tickets; Miriam will have tickets. Their numbers are on the flyer.
- Last date for collecting money for tickets will be March 7, the Delegate's Day of Sharing.
- You can register for the Convention and book a hotel room online at the SENY website, pre-registration ends on March 1.

January anniversaries and birthdays announced

Standing Committee Reports:

Special Needs/Accessibilities (Ted):

- Haven't been any meetings since November, so there is nothing to report. Hopefully he will have more information by the February meeting.

CPC (Joe):

- The SENY CPC/PI meeting scheduled on Sunday December 22 at the SENY office in the Bronx at 12pm was cancelled.
- Next meeting is this coming Sunday, January 19, 2020
- If you know of any professionals interested in learning more about AA, please contact Joe. They can email him at CPC@brooklynaa.org.
- There is a flyer available, which Joe can send by email, directed to the professional. Please bring it to open meetings and give to any professionals you encounter who have questions about AA.

Corrections (Lucas):

- The SENY Corrections Committee held a workshop with the Hispanic District on Sunday, December 21, 3-5pm at Grupo Lealtad, 99-06 Northern Boulevard in Queens. Gave an overview of how to bring meetings to correctional facilities.
- Next SENY Corrections meeting will be Saturday January 18.
- Will be attending NERAASA and will have a table at the SENY assembly.

Public Information (Laura):

- The SENY CPC/PI meeting scheduled on Sunday December 22 at the SENY office in the Bronx at 12pm was cancelled.
- Cannot attend meeting on Sunday, will find a replacement.

Treatment Facilities co-chair (David T.):

- The Brooklyn Treatment Facilities meeting is held every 1st Saturday of the month, 11:45am-12:45pm at OPSC. If your group is interested in picking up a meeting, come by.

Webchair (Clyde):

- If your group or district has a special event coming up, please email Clyde at webchair@brooklynaa.org and he will add it to the County website. (If you have a flyer, send that as well as the information.)
- If you are a DCM or Standing Committee Chair and want a county email address, email Clyde.
- If your group or district wants a group email or mailing list, email Clyde or see him after the meeting.

Brooklyn Intergroup (Mike):

- Attended a meeting of the SENY area intergroups and DCMCs recently.
- Clyde is going to help make improvements to the bigaa.org website.
- Looking into using a new telephone system that is more user-friendly.
- Still looking for volunteers to answer phones using call-forwarding.
- Finances have not yet been posted on website, but will be soon.
- Has a saving account (approx. \$6K); and an operating fund (approx. \$5K).
- Considering opening their own intergroup office; want it to be affordable and accessible.
- Amount of meeting books being used is going down, but still creating because there is still a need.
- Nisaa A. has been elected as Brooklyn Intergroup's Event Coordinator.
- Trying to get the word out about the Brooklyn Institutions Committee; working with David T. on this.
- If your group makes any changes to your location, format, etc. please let Brooklyn intergroup know by contacting info@bigaa.org.
- Meets the 3rd Saturday of every month, 9am, at Holy Name Church on Prospect Park West (next meeting is on January 18th).

DCM Reports:

(Note, No DCM on record for 406 or 413)

DCM 411 (Laura):

- Planning a movie night for the Cluster (Districts 401/403/411) at 103 Quincy Street.
- Will be putting together a beginners' event sometime in the spring, more information to come.

DCM 405 (Charlene):

- The third installation of the AA Historical Book Club will be reading "Pass it on." Held the 4th Saturday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30pm at the OPSC meeting space. The first meeting will be on January 26. It will run from January through July.
- Joe is leading the first meeting.

DCM 412 (Clyde):

- If you are a GSR from Park Slope, see Clyde.
- Will have events this spring, info to come.
- Thanks to all who helped with the Christmas Day alcathon.
- If your group has an event in the district coming up let him know.
- Next district meeting will be 6:15pm at the Prospect Group meeting space, this coming Sunday, January 19.

Cluster Chair (Districts 401/403/411) (Ted):

- The New Year's Day alcathon was a success, thanks to all who made it possible.
- As Laura said, planning a movie night, info to come.
- The Wednesday evening meeting of Our Father's House has closed.

GSR Reports:

GSR No Serenity Till Brooklyn (Saffi):

- Have officially moved the Sunday meeting at 11am to St. Francis De Sales School for the Deaf at 260 Eastern Parkway. The entrance is around the back on Union Street, people will be there to help direct you.

GSR Ocean Hill (Omar):

- Group is doing well, nothing to report

GSR TRANScend (Lucky):

- Had the third annual staycation event where they rent hotel rooms and gather to set intentions for 2020—it's a community building event for the trans community in AA.
- The group just held elections for new officers.
- Working on doing writings and interviews for the Grapevine to increase trans visibility in AA.
- Have had requests from local groups for members to come to them and speak about the Preamble item.
- Have received a letter from Grapevine Inc. saying that they're passing a motion on to the General Service Conference to add an agenda item regarding gender neutral language in the preamble.

GSR Living with Gratitude (Glenn):

- Has an anniversary meeting coming up on January 31, see flyer for more info.

GSR Alphabet Soup (Jess):

- The meeting has moved to a smaller room within the same location, currently addressing space issues.

GSR Twelve to Life (Jerry):

- Nothing new to report.
- Were open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

GSR Big Book on the Bay (Bill):

- Meeting is going well.
- Had a treasury surplus and was able to forward donations to the entities.

GSR Sunday Solution (Gabriel):

- Making efforts to keep the group informed of area events and things going on below the group level.
- Will be updating their group bulletin board.
- Will be having a group inventory soon, probably in March.

GSR Old Park Slope Caton (LaFrae):

- Now have an LGBTQ+ meditation meeting on Sunday mornings.
- The fish store under OPSC closed, so don't let the smell deter you any longer.

GSR Sober on the Hill (Nick):

- Will be holding their 16th group anniversary meeting on March 2 at 7:30 pm at 103 Quincy Street, will be an open meeting.

GSR Greenwood (Kelson):

- Had elections at their December meeting.
- Still looking for a group treasurer.

Alt GSR Brooklyn Group (Mariano):

- Group voted to change the wording of the preamble to use gender neutral language.

GSR Women's Room (Veronica):

- Group voted to change the wording of the preamble.

GSR Gerrikson (John):

- Group is doing very well, but the step meeting on Thursdays needs support.
- Also has an open meeting on Sundays.

Additional announcements:

- If you have an item you would like to add to the agenda, send it to Colleen at DCMC@brooklynaa.org
- Brooklyn Share A Day will be on either June 20 or June 27. The chair will be Jonathan S. Colleen called our new contact at the school and left a message suggesting the two dates but has yet to hear back.
- The Brooklyn Spiritual Breakfast will be on either December 6 or December 13, still waiting to hear back from the Grand Prospect Hall. Chairs will be Brigitte and Lucas.
- When the Delegate's Questionnaire comes out, make sure to make space on your group's calendar to address it. The Questionnaire will be distributed before the Delegate's Day of Sharing and is due by the Pre-Conference Assembly in April.
- Colleen would like to see more Brooklyn DCMs in attendance at the area committee meetings.