

**Brooklyn County General Service  
Meeting Minutes – April 29, 2020  
Via Zoom**

\*Note previously scheduled 3/18/2020 meeting did not occur

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

**Next County Meeting:** Wednesday May 20, 2020 via Zoom  
(6:30 New GSR and DCM orientation, 7:30 regular meeting)  
Meeting ID: 358-577-6033

**Next SENY Committee Meeting:** Monday May 4, 2020, 7:30pm via Zoom (go to [aaseny.org](http://aaseny.org) for the link)

**Next SENY Area Assembly:** Virtual Post-Conference Assembly via Zoom. Saturday June 13, 9:00am-3:30pm.  
Meeting ID: 968-4375-2716; Password: 316685

**Opening/Welcome:**

Open with the serenity prayer

Preamble: Read by Mike

Step 4: Read by Stacy

Tradition 4: Read by Joe

Concept 4: Read by Lucky

Daily Reflections: Read by Cici

**Colleen (DCMC):**

- Update: Has had a challenging month. Lost 7 people, including family, to COVID-19, and had it herself as well as Influenza B. Did not drink through it all.
- Has been attending service meetings to keep informed of what's going on with AA in the area.
- This is a time when the County and Intergroup should be working together more than ever, especially if there is a path to opening any time soon.
- Cannot have Share a Day in person this year but has discussed the idea of a virtual Share a Day with the chair, Jonathan.
- Having a virtual Area Committee Meeting on May 4. The topics of discussion will be: Where do we go from here? Recognizing that we are one of the two counties hit hardest by this. What does it mean to maintain AA and our safety at the same time?
- There are issues with the current email provider, sorry for the confusion about the meeting date.
- Feel free to send the email address of anyone who did not receive the last email to Colleen ([colleenvincent@me.com](mailto:colleenvincent@me.com)) so they can be included moving forward.
- The purpose of today's meeting is just to check in, we will have a more formal meeting in May.
- There will be a virtual General Service Conference this year, albeit a shortened version.

**Deborah (Treasurer):** Report read:

- Have had no expenses since the last meeting except for the storage fee.
- Need to get the money back for the bus planned to the SENY assembly.
- Once it becomes safe to do so, she will be able to send money back to those who purchased tickets.

**Stacy (Secretary):**

- Overview of minutes from last meeting.
- Sent to all in Zoom chat.

## **GSR & DCM Reports**

### **David T. (DCM 403)**

- Lot of things have been cancelled due to the virus (including a planned movie night) hopefully soon they will get back to normal.
- Most groups in the district are using Zoom meetings.
- Will reach out to Colleen regarding bus ticket reimbursements.
- Ted is currently in the hospital, keep him in your prayers.
- Stay safe!

### **Lucky (GSR TRANScend)**

- Meeting has moved to Zoom.
- Changed to hosting seven trans meetings per week and created a website.
- Have focused attention on keeping it a safe space and have not included it on Intergroup, because they are more of a target for Zoom bombers.
- Please send information on any trans folks you know who are looking for a meeting to Lucky so she can connect them. Or you can send them Lucky's number: 347-726-1432
- There has been increased interest in the preamble change from other areas, where folks are interested in info of how to contact their delegates/district/area about it.
- Hosted a viewing of Liz Bailey's qualification over Zoom from when she had 62 years.
- From Zoom chat: TRANScend meeting schedule
  - o Mondays @ 2:00pm EST – Daily Reflections Meditation
  - o Tuesdays @ 11:00am EST – 12&12 Steps/Traditions Study
  - o Wednesdays @ 11:00am EST – Came to believe
  - o Wednesdays @ 7:00pm EST – Beginner's Living Sober
  - o Thursdays @ 2:00pm EST – Topic
  - o Fridays @ 7:00pm EST – Scheduled Speaker/Topic
  - o Saturdays @ 4:00pm EST – Speaker Surprise!
  - o Sundays @ 5:00pm EST – TRANScend Rotating weekly format

### **Deborah C. (GSR Midday)**

- Before the pandemic, they had contentious business meeting of what to do in the event of quarantine; Half the folks wanted to move to Zoom and half wanted to stay open as long as possible, then hold meeting in the Park as an alternative. As a result, they are using both formats.
- Got Zoom bombed right away because the meeting was posted on Brooklyn and New York Intergroups.
- After that they didn't use a password, but implemented strict guidelines for participation (Cut out chat, required video, enabled waiting room, disabled self-unmute, etc.)
- Still also have face-to-face meetings happening in Prospect Park.

### **Joe L. (GSR Sheeps by the Bay)**

- The group that he represents, in addition to his other home groups all went to Zoom.
- Has had experiences with Zoom bombing.
- Have disabled screen shares, disabled chat, made it so people cannot unmute themselves, set up a waiting room, etc.
- Sent an email to the pastor of the church where they meet and asked what their expectation was in regard to rent while the group isn't meeting there. They expect no rent payments.

### **Nick B. (GSR Sober on the Hill)**

- Now on Zoom.
- Got bombed, but then instituted more security measures.

- Attendance numbers are good, just dipped a little bit but still going well.

**Sam P. (GSR Sunrise Group)**

- Group is continuing to pay rent to the Zion German Church where they meet. Held a group conscience to continue to pay on a month to month basis to retain a good relationship with the church and make sure the space is available when they return.

**Laura B. (DCM 411)**

- All meetings in the district are now online.
- All are operating slightly differently but are following New York Intergroup's suggestions.
- No Serenity till Brooklyn uses a waiting room.
- Curious how other groups are handling rent.
- Attended the Pre-Conference Assembly and heard everyone's perspectives on safety in Zoom.
- Will attend the Committee Meeting on May 4.

**Kelson (GSR Greenwood Group)**

- On Zoom, following safety suggestions.
- Continuing to pay rent, had a group conscience on that. It's intended to keep good relationship with the landlord.

**Charlene (DCM 405)**

- All meetings now on Zoom except for We Can, which is temporarily closed and will move locations at some point when the pandemic is all over.
- The A.A. Historical Book Club is currently on hold, may or may not continue to Zoom.

**Jerry F. (GSR Twelve to Life)**

- Now on Zoom
- Did Delegate's Questionnaire at their business meeting.
- Remind folks about safety precautions in the Zoom group chat
- From Zoom chat: Meeting schedule and access codes
  - o Tuesday Beginners 8pm: 722 183 281
  - o Saturday Step 7:15pm: 7990080478
  - o Saturday Open 8:30pm: 890 916 934
  - o There is no password required, Please Do Not share to NY Intergroup page

**Brent (GSR Drink and Die Men's Meeting)**

- Now on Zoom.
- Numbers are good, attendance is up.
- Have folks attending from out of town.
- Use a password, but the password is not on New York Intergroup.
- Not paying rent but are continuing to collect the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition and will later make a donation to the church.

**Kris V. (GSR Third Step One Flight Up)**

- Got up on Zoom right away.
- The meeting ID is on Intergroup, there is no password.
- The Saturday meeting is huge, usually has 100 people.
- Use several co-hosts; no chat, uses waiting room, no-self-unmute; has been working well.
- Have not made a decision on rent yet, will discuss it at the next business meeting.

**Henry (GSR Hanson Group)**

- The 4pm meeting on Thursday is on Zoom (Usually have two meetings, but only one is on Zoom).
- Don't have a password or security measures in place yet, still learning.
- They attended the exchange meeting on Zoom.
- Trying to determine how to send money to New York Intergroup since they have money in their treasury.

**Caitlin (GSR Good Morning Sobriety)**

- Meeting is listed on Intergroup.
- Added an email address that they announce during meeting for questions and announcements. The email address is on New York Intergroup, so people can email them if needed.
- Added fellowship times on weekdays and weekends separate from the usual meeting.
- Use some security measures (Only call on folks with video, use a waiting room, etc.)

**James (GSR Army Plaza)**

- Meeting went to Zoom right away.
- Celebrated his 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Zoom.
- Had a brief incident with Zoom bombing, but James had experience with it. Instituted security protocols and have not had more issues since.
- Participated in the Brooklyn Speaker Exchange.
- Still contributing to their church while not using the space.
- From Zoom chat: Meeting schedule and access info
  - o Monday 6:45pm and 8:00pm rotating format
  - o Meeting ID: 654 301 9713
  - o Password: easydoesit

**Michael (DCM 407/409)**

- Most groups in the district are using Zoom
- Also have live meeting at John Paul Jones Park (Cannonball Park) at the foot of the Verrazano Bridge at 10:30am on Saturdays.
- The Cannonball Group, which historically meets in the park on Sunday mornings, continues to meet there.
- The Kings Night Workers group now meets both online and in person at the park.
- Another one meets on Saturday at 3:30pm at the park.
- Folks have been contributing chairs, masks, umbrellas etc.
- Planning to have a Zoom district meeting.

**Eiko (Alt GSR Slope Open)**

- Meeting is now on Zoom.
- Do not have a password. Since all of their meetings are open, thought it would go against the group conscience.
- Have a waiting room.
- Submitted the Delegate's Questionnaire and attended the Pre-conference Assembly.
- Some groups have used Survey Monkey to take a group conscience, may do that.

**Elise (GSR Women in the Spirit)**

- Meeting is going well on Zoom.
- Participation has increased.
- Decided not to be listed on New York Intergroup.
- Now meet at 6:45pm on Fridays.

- Elise will provide info if you want it.

#### **Kara (GSR Our Solution)**

- Meet Saturday mornings at 8:15am on Zoom.
- Have revised the script to meet the needs of the new meeting format.
- Not paying rent right now.
- Have added a push to donate to Intergroup in their script.
- Completed the Delegate's Questionnaire.

#### **Standing Committee Chair Reports**

##### **CiCi (Registrar)**

- If you are not registered, are new, or have changed your position, please email her at registrar@brooklynaa.org with your name, homegroup, position, phone number, and email address.
- You can also use this link to register to receive county emails  
[http://brooklynaa.org/mailman/listinfo/brooklynaa\\_brooklynaa.org](http://brooklynaa.org/mailman/listinfo/brooklynaa_brooklynaa.org)

##### **Lucas (Corrections):**

- Outside meetings in Corrections Facilities and Institutions won't happen for at least 6-9 months and at that time will likely have increased precautions.
- A lot of folks in Corrections service have shifted to helping in the Institutions area. There are now service commitments going into some hospitals and institutions via Zoom.
- The SENY Corrections representative Eddy D. is in communication with the literature rep. at Rikers, hoping to get A.A. literature to individuals there through both tablets and physical books.
- Not trying to put too much pressure on them, but offering our help in a way this appropriate to what they can accommodate.
- Also working on other ideas, like CD recordings, to see what we can do for folks in facilities and who are being released soon.

##### **Colleen (Additional Announcements):**

- If you haven't filled out the Delegate's Questionnaire yet, the deadline has been extended to May 10th. You can submit it online.
- There will be a SENY virtual committee meeting on May 4th, go to aaseny.org for the zoom link.
- On May 9th there will be a Joy of Service virtual workshop hosted by Putnam county, go to aaseny.org for access info
- The virtual General Service Conference will be on May 16, FYI
- Hoping to have Share a Day online virtually. By the next meeting, Jonathan S. will figure out how Zoom Rooms work and will recruit a program chair.
- We will also discuss at our next county meeting; What do we think should happen for our spiritual breakfast? (We don't currently have quorum and thus cannot take a vote)
- Next county meeting will be May 20 on Zoom; will have the same access info, but Colleen will send an email (likely a personal email from colleen.vincent@me.com) and will add it to the website and SENY calendar.

Will need a volunteer to help host, to handle the waiting room and the show of hands.

It will be a more formal meeting.

We will time folks, because it will likely have a higher attendance, and this format makes it difficult to keep one's full attention.

#### **Birthdays and Anniversaries announced for March and April**