

**Brooklyn County General Service
Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2020
Via Zoom**

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

Next County Meeting: Wednesday June 17, 2020 via Zoom
(6:30 New GSR and DCM orientation, 7:30 regular meeting)
Meeting ID: 358-577-6033

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 Brigitte F.
Step 5: Read by Charlene
Tradition 5: Read by Danny M.
Concept 5: Read by Stacy L.
Daily Reflections: Read by Lexie R.

Stacy (Secretary):

- Overview of minutes from last meeting.
- Minutes sent to all in Zoom chat.
- Send corrections to secretary@brooklynaa.org

Colleen (DCMC):

- Ted passed away. There was a small memorial for him last week. Hoping to have a memorial for folks in Brooklyn A.A. who have passed away when possible.
- The last meeting that she attended was a meeting of the Intergroups (Mike B. or Jordan will speak more to what Intergroup is up to later.) Some points raised at the meeting include: How to use the Zoom platform. Other platforms that are available. (Using Zoom can be seen as endorsement; it's important to let groups know there are multiple options available.) In June, we are supposed to start opening up, in stages, so what will that look like?
- The virtual General Service Conference occurred last weekend. We'll hear the report of what happened there at the June 13th Post-Conference Assembly.
- The General Service Office sent us a letter (included in Colleen's last email) regarding GSO having to dip into their prudent reserve funds because literature sales have dropped so much during the COVID-19 crisis. The letter expresses an urgency from GSO for donations. They have spent \$3M in just two months to stay operational; are very challenged by the situation.
- Share A Day will occur on Zoom, will be discussed later.
- Sending us flyers of what is happening in SENY. Not much is going on, but some workshops and events are happening digitally.
- A draft copy of the new SENY handbook is available on aaseny.org. It includes things like the bylaws and "job" descriptions. Will be helpful in September when we have elections for SENY positions.
- Waiting to hear back from the Bus service about our deposit (for the cancelled SENY convention), hoping to get it back if possible.
- There is a new website design for Brooklynaa.org. It now has a link directly to the 7th tradition, so you can now donate the county directly on the website.
- Clyde has been working on the email challenges, still not sure what has occurred.

- Considering: How will we make motions on Zoom meetings? Using check function.

Deborah (Treasurer): Absent

- Have incurred no expenses since last meeting other than storage expenses.

Miriam (Alt DCMC): no report

Cici (Registrar):

- If you are new in your position, changed position, or need to update your information, email Cici directly at registrar@brooklynaa.org
- Link to register to receive emails from Brooklyn County in chat:
http://brooklynaa.org/mailman/listinfo/brooklynaa_brooklynaa.org
- Link to sign up to get info directly from SENY in chat:
<https://www.aaseny.org/>

GSR & DCM Reports

Clyde (Webchair):

- Have been lots of changes to the brooklynaa.org website, and there will be more
- You can now make contributions to Brooklyn County online. Right now, it is set up for contributions to either the general 7th Tradition or Brooklyn County Share a Day. (More options could be added.)
- There have been some problems sending out emails for the DCMC to brooklynaa.org; spoke to the host and they spoke to their tech support. Issue may be that Colleen's DCMC password was compromised, so they recommend that she changes it. Colleen should send some tests to Clyde in the time being so that they can hopefully resolve the issue. Groups with mailing lists have also had some issues.
- Email booleanarts@gmail.com or webchair@brooklynaa.org if you are having email issues.
- Working now on creating a web app to share Brooklyn based online meetings. Hoping to have beta test up in less than a week. Now harvesting info on the NYIG site, seeing issues that the data is not completely clean.
- Colleen: There are tutorials on nyintergroup.org about safety in Zoom rooms. If you are having issues with Zoom and are looking for someone to help you set up a zoom meeting, reach out and we will pair you with someone who can help.

Jonathan (BCSAD Chair):

- Will have a Zoom version of Brooklyn County Share A Day this year. Date: June 27, 2020.
- Alex C. will be the program chair.
- Has reached out to folks to determine how to best utilize Zoom to create the event.
- Looking for other folks who want to help plan. If you are interested, reach out to Jonathan at shorterjd@gmail.com

Mike B. (Brooklyn Intergroup):

- Jordan will be taking over as the Brooklyn Intergroup rep.
- The annual Dr. Bob-eque has been cancelled, may alternatively do something in September if possible.
- The exchange was cancelled for June, may set up a virtual one.
- Have a newsletter released quarterly, the next one will be in June. It has been very active, subscriptions have doubled lately. If you'd like to receive it, sign up on the website, bigaa.org.
- Receive approximately 150 calls a month, always looking for volunteers to take calls.
- Website is simple and straightforward; takes you to all the meetings.
- One issue is that folks who have passwords on their meetings don't always share them. This may go against traditions. If someone contacts Brooklyn Intergroup inquiring about a password (via email or

phone) they only share them with confirmation that folks are members of A.A. (Asking for their homegroup). Passwords are not posted on the website. Another option: Some groups create an email address and BIGAA post's that on the website so folks can email the group directly.

- Hoping to hold a workshop on how to transition meetings back into the rooms. There will be lots of regulations to navigate so BIGAA would like to be a resource for that.
- Saddened to hear about Ted. Got call from the granddaughter of Eugene from the Eastern Parkway Group who passed away. Will post a short memorial on the BIGAA.org website. May set something up in person later on.
- Website has some info on best practices on zoom and safety issues.

Lucas (Corrections):

- The next area Corrections meeting will be Saturday May 23
- They will be discussing areas that we can still serve giving current events. One area of service is via phone. Have posted flyers at Rikers and will have new poster put up at MCC to advertise. Been mostly beneficial. Scott V. at Intergroup has spearheading that initiative.
- Will also discuss more ways that they can be of use in regard to correspondence and dealing with pre-release.
- Annual Corrections and Treatment Facilities conference will be hoisted by New York Intergroup on Zoom this year. Speakers include those who have heard the message in a facility, as well someone who is a corrections officer or works at a detox facility. They will also have a panel with all folks from Intergroup's CTFC committee.
- You can contact Lucas directly for the info. (It may also be online.)
Lucas O. Corrections Chair - 718 809-7425 - lucasortega@rocketmail.com

Brigitte (Service Sponsorship):

- One new Alt GSR tonight: Reiner, Representing Good Morning Sobriety. Sober date: May 26, 2005.

New Business:

Colleen:

- Question: What do people think we should do about our planned Spiritual Breakfast in December?
- Discussion:

LaFrae: As a musician, all gigs have been cancelled through 2021, so it makes sense to push it off.

Lexie: Maybe do a date in April 2021, since it probably can't happen in this year.

Glenn: The venue's owner and operator passed, that may affect whether the space is open.

James B.: Agree, unclear what will happen with the venue. So, we may have to change the venue. Unlikely it will take place in the calendar year. Agree we should change date.

Owen: Do we know for a fact we can't have it in December, even if there's a good chance it won't be possible. Will this hurt the county since it's a fundraising effort? (Colleen clarified, it is not a fundraiser, usually pays for itself)

Brigitte: We signed a contract and paid out 1K already. We don't know if we can get our money back. Hard to make any changes until we speak to the venue.

Raphael: We should either cancel it or not, rather than moving it to April. April is a busy time for the County and Area, we need to space out our events. (Close to the SENY Convention and BCSAD.)

Damien: Considering government regulations it will likely have limited capacity even if the venue opens and we still have the event

Colleen: Officer terms end in December, so if we move it to next year there will be new officers. Also, date selection should be based on not just us but also other counties.

Clyde: What is the lead time between when we sell tickets and the event? (Six months) Assuming the venue is still open for business, and if we do it in April, we are talking about making an announcement in October.

Cici: There have been a lot of forums on Zoom that have invited folks from across the country, why not do it online?

- **Mike B.:** The fact that we have a contract is a good thing, it's a negotiating tool. Keep in mind so many organized groups will have to cancel. Things will be very busy in 2021, dates are already booking up.
- **Stacy:** We should have it online, cancel the in person event.
- **Michael:** We can get folks to make a deposit on a ticket (200 people at \$5) to cover any costs we might incur from losing the deposit (and it will hold their seat). Venue might not be able to accommodate how many people we have. Depending on what happens, it may not be our choice and we may not be able to have it.
- **Laura:** We should move it to Zoom. We could invite more folks, be more inclusive. Ask for donations at the Zoom to cover the deposit.
- **LaFrae:** Buffets may be a thing of the past as well because of health regulations.
- **Lucas:** Want to make sure we don't leave the county in any harm financially. Chairs will see what's going on with the venue and report back. They will need lots of help if it is on Zoom.
- **Glenn:** Preparedness is important, but were forgetting we don't have a vaccine yet, so much is still up in the air. We're adding more stress by considering opening. Zoom is the next natural step.
- **Joe L.:** Motion to table to next County Meeting on June 17, at which time we'll have more info. <Passed>
- **Lucas O.:** Spiritual Breakfast Co-Chair, contact with any questions or suggestions 718 809-7425 - lucasortega@rocketmail.com

Anniversaries and Birthdays announced

GSR/DCM Reports

Charlene (DCM 405):

- The A.A. Historical Book Club is back on, hosted by Flatbush Dorchester group.
- Can send you a flyer if you email her.
- Infor from Zoom chat:
The zoom ID for the Alcoholic Anonymous Historical Book Club is 890 8327 0878. It's the 4th Sunday of the month, May 24th, 3:30pm. Please read chapters 5-8 of Pass It On in advance. We have already started the series & you can easily catch up. You can reach me at 917 865 9551 or AAHBC.405@gmail.com

Nick (GSR Sober on the Hill)

- Doing well on Zoom; membership is good, security is going well.
- Group made a donation to GSO.

LaFrae (GSR Old Park Slope Caton)

- The 37th group anniversary will be on Saturday May 23 on Zoom, Meeting at 7pm followed by a dance party with DJ Hanzi.

Damien (GSR Brooklyn Group)

- Group meets Wednesday and Friday at 8:30pm on Zoom.
- Use a password because they had a lot of bombing, use an email address on intergroup for those who need the password.
- Attendance has been good; donations are down.
- Did pay rent by group conscience for April, but did not have the money to do that again in May.
- Got in touch with church and they said they didn't have to pay rent, the meeting space will be secure when they return, whenever that may be.
- Hopefully will be able to make some donations to entities because of that.

- Access Info from Chat: Brooklyn Group Wednesday & Friday 8:30PM Meeting ID: 7479559901
PW:brookgrp

David T. (DCM 403)

- Everything going well in the district.
- Lots of new Zoom meetings are popping up in the area.
- The cluster meeting is supposed to be holding elections next month. Because Ted passed away, his daughter has his materials. Will coordinate a plan for moving forward.
- Encouraging folks to get involved in service in the cluster if possible. If you are interested, call 631-933-7231 or contact Laura.
- Many folks have passed away in the area from the fellowship, maybe we can include a memorial during Share a Day.

Daneen (GSR Our Solution)

- Group doing well, commitments have been filled.
- Not taking 7th Tradition because they are not paying rent.
- But their Secretary Report notes that folks can put some money aside if they want to donate once things resume in person.

Raphael (GSR Weeksville)

- Everything is going well.
- On Memorial Day, they usually have an Alcathon, this year it will be on Zoom, 9am to 6pm with meeting every hour on the hour. Can be accessed using the regular group access code.
- Will hold the Group Anniversary on June 20 on Zoom.

Lexie (GSR In the Garden)

- Been doing well on Zoom, appx. 200-300 people each week.
- Landlord requested they not pay rent.
- Added new position of four folks to be the "vibe squad." Each meeting they clap and respond when people speak.
- Todd went to the Zoom exchange meeting and it was fun. They have the meeting's speakers booked.
- Have been collecting 7th Tradition still. Wondering: Should we be sending to GSO only instead of all of them?

Veronica (GSR Women's Room)

- Have elections coming up at the next business meeting.
- 2 new positions were created to help monitor the meeting.
- Donations are still coming in.

Kris V. (GSR Third Step One Flight Up)

- Both meetings have been extended by 15 minutes because so many people attend.
- Don't have a password.
- Still paying rent.

Laura B. (DCM 411)

- Things going well, most meeting are on Zoom.

Clyde (DCM 412)

- Things have been quiet in 412.
- Finding a way to have their district meeting somewhere soon.

- The last in person business meeting was a few months ago.
- A number of meetings are on Zoom and 1 or 2 are still meeting face to face with social distancing.
- Had originally planned a spring workshop, not yet sure if that will happen in some capacity. (Same with the end of summer picnic.)

Eoin (GSR Once Again)

- Not paying rent, the church does not want it.
- Doing well.
- Small meeting to begin with but getting a lot more people lately.
- Password protected, and created several service positions to ensure people remain muted when others are speaking.

Glenn (GSR Living with Gratitude)

- Meet Fridays from 8 to 9:30pm usually; meeting now ends at 9:15 and gives 15 minutes for fellowship
- Added some positions for the digital realm, including “bouncers”
- Started late on Zoom because they were wary of Zoom bombers
- Instituted a waiting room; keep folks on mute until they share

Reiner (Alt GSR Good Morning Sobriety)

- Average 100 people per meeting
- Chairs always have a Co-chair that helps manage muting and unmuting
- Have been experimenting with a way to use a round robin in their Monday meeting.
- Have elections coming up
- Lots of new folks have been coming, including people who have moved away and some international A.A.s
- Still collecting 7th Tradition
- Have fellowship on weekdays at 9pm and weekends at 1pm

Colleen: Additional Announcements

- Shared 7th T link: <http://brooklynnaa.org/share-a-day-donation-thank-you/>
- Phone number is 646-346-3466