

**Brooklyn County General Service
Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2019
St. Francis College, 182 Remsen St, Brooklyn, NY 11201**

County Officers in Attendance: Colleen (DCMC), Deborah (Treasurer), Stacy (Secretary), Richard (Registrar), (No Alt DCMC)

Next County Meeting: Wednesday December 18, 2019 (6:30 New GSR and DCM orientation, 7:30 regular meeting) (See brooklynaa.org for more info on future meetings and future County events.)

Next SENY Assembly: Sunday February 9 2019 in Nassau County (Exact Location TBD)
Brooklyn will have a bus. (See aaseny.org for more info on future meetings and future SENY events.)

Next SENY Committee Meeting: Monday December 2, 2019, 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 Kimberly

Daily Reflections: Read by Gabrielle

Step 11: Read by Candi

Tradition 11: Read by Matt

Concept 11: Read by Jerry

Introduction of New GSRS by Service Sponsorship Chair (Brigitte):

- New GSRS:
 - Matthew (Brooklyn Artists In Recovery, GSR)
 - Candi (Lefferts Gardens, GSR)
 - Matt (Lefferts Gardens, Alt GSR)
 - Jerry (Twelve to Life, GSR)
 - Kimberly (Step by Step, GSR)
 - Eileen (Bleeding Deacons, GSR)
 - Gabrielle (Sunday Solutions, GSR)
 - Safi (No Serenity Till Brooklyn, GSR)

Officer Reports:

Ground rules for meeting: Clean up after yourself, be respectful, review of who is able to vote.

Colleen (DCMC):

- Service is very important, if your group doesn't have a GSR, your group doesn't have a vote, effectually doesn't have a voice.
- What is a DCMC? District Committee Member Chair, facilitates county meetings, attends area committee meetings, attends area steering committee meetings, attends area assemblies
- The county pays for a bus to attend assemblies if you don't drive, info can be found online, will also be sent by Colleen by email
- Updates from last SENY assembly:
 - o The motion that Brooklyn supported, to add an agenda item re. the wording of the preamble, did not pass at SENY
 - o Suffolk County also voted to support the item, as did Manhattan. Queens will vote on it next month. Other groups are also changing the wording within their meetings and sending letters to request the agenda item be added.
 - o Also at the last SENY assembly, a motion made by Suffolk County for AA to have a podcast. The motion passed.

- AA General Service is revising the pamphlet "AA for the Older Alcoholic: Never too Late," in order to include more current and inclusive stories, reference to online AA, and an updated "How Do I Find AA? Section"
 - o The trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee is seeking stories from a broad cross section of older AA members to make the pamphlet more representative of the fellowship.
 - o The deadline for submissions has been extended to January 15, 2020.
 - o Typed submissions should be 500-800 words, doubles spaced in 12 pt font. Handwritten submissions should be 5-6 pages.
 - o Submissions can be sent by email to access@aa.org. The subject line should include: AA for the older alcoholic
 - o Please spread the word to your groups
- GSO updated their system recently, causing some issues and changes in regards to group contributions
 - o There has been a delay in processing over 6000 thank you letters and statements
 - o In addition, your group may have a new group number (but it will still be associated with your old group number)
- Note: When you contribute to the area, please write your group number, group name, and a phone number somewhere so that your treasurer will be able to track it
- The Bus for SENY Convention in March will be reserved before the next County meeting.

Stacy (Secretary):

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

Nisaa (Temporary Registrar)

- Our previous registrar had to step down, Nisaa has stepped in temporarily, but the position is open
- What is a registrar? The Brooklyn County Registrar works alongside the SENY registrar to include up to date information on people in service positions in Brooklyn. SENY uses a computer platform called airtable. It's super user-friendly. Basically you enter and update people's information. There is no prior service requirement, but some experience with service is recommended
- Nisaa will help train you if you choose to take the position, nisaainservice@gmail.com

Deborah (Treasurer):

- Report from 9/19/2019 through 11/20/2019 distributed and read
- Beginning balance: \$6,039.45; Ending balance: \$5,928.85
- Sales tax that still needs to be recouped from The Grand Prospect Hall (\$1,439.88); we have the form and the receipt, we just need to fill it out to do it
- We have a new insurance policy: the old one cost us \$11,060 annually, the new one will be \$460.00 for the year
- We have no prudent reserve

Old Business:

New Alt DCMC Needed:

- Responsibilities: Step up to stand in for Colleen when she is unavailable. Attend SENY Committee meetings, Brooklyn County Meetings, and Area Assemblies. Attend Service Participation Meetings in Colleen's absence. Votes at SENY assemblies if Colleen cannot make it.
- Miriam nominated and accepted

Bill W Dinner Dance:

- Thank you to Miriam for leading the Old Timers meeting and to Lucky for serving as the Volunteer chair
- Well attended and well received
- Approximately 1408 tickets were sold to the dinner and an additional \$4,000 were taken in for dance tickets

Open Standing Committee Chair Positions:

- Junction (Brooklyn County Newsletter) Editor:
No volunteers

New Business:**Brooklyn Spiritual Breakfast (Chair, Mishie O.; Co-chair, John):**

- December 1, 2019 at The Grand Prospect Hall. Doors at 8:30, Breakfast begins at 9.
- 441 tickets have been sold so far.
- Approx. \$10k given to the Grand Prospect Hall so far, paid for 325 tickets
- GSRs or DCMS who have tickets – either return the tickets or give the money today
- There will be turkey bacon this year, but no almond milk. They're not sure about decaf coffee
- Tickets will not be sold at the door
- If anyone is interested in doing service, you can come at 8am. They will need volunteers to help usher people to tables.
- Tickets are still available, you can call Mishie or John (their numbers are on the flyer)
- The last day the Grand Prospect Hall will accept money will likely be the Friday before
- Last 2 planning meetings will be: 5:30pm at 103 Quincy Street on Friday and 5:45pm at 230 Classon Avenue on Tuesday

Anniversaries and Birthdays for October and November announced**Registrar position still open:**

- Cici volunteered

Standing Committee Reports:**CPC (Joe):**

- CPC stands for Cooperation with the Professional Community; they tell professionals, not necessarily Alcoholics, what AA is about
- On Sunday he attended combined CPC/PI meeting at the SENY office in the Bronx. Laura Golden, the SENY PI chair, did a presentation
- Thinking of holding a CPC workshop where professionals can come to get information
- AA has a newsletter directed to the professional
- There is a flyer available on the table directed to the professional, please take some and bring to open meetings
- Working with Sandra Russo of the nursing department at Touro College to plan something there
- AA now has a LinkedIn presence where professionals can get information on AA
- Purchased 50 pamphlets directed to the professional that he will distribute to open meetings

Special Needs/Accessibilities (Ted):

- Had their last meeting on November 12
- Rockland County is planning an upcoming workshop
- Accessibilities For SENY is also planning a workshop
- Ted handles a homebound meeting once a month
- The American Sign Language version of the big book 4th edition has just been released (Subtitled only in English). Available for purchase on the GSO website
- Looking for article submissions for "AA for the Older Alcoholic," the deadline has been extended to January 15, 2020

Public Information (Laura): No report

Webchair (Clyde):

- A makeover of the website is still forthcoming
- If your group or district has a special event coming up, please email Clyde and he will add to the County website, email webchair@brooklynaa.org
- If you are a DCM or Standing Committee Chair and want a county email address, email Clyde
- If your group or district wants a mailing list, email Clyde

Treatment Facilities (Debbie):

- Planning a workshop for Brooklyn in Spring 2020, more information to come

Corrections (Lucas):

- Had a table at the last SENY assembly, signed people up for the prerelease program
- If you want to get involved you can contact him
- The SENY Corrections Committee is planning a workshop for Sunday November 24 from 1-3pm, at the LGBTQ Center on West 13th Street in Manhattan (District 605/608)
- Organizing a workshop with the Hispanic District on Sunday, December 21 in Queens. Information forthcoming, will be sent via email.

Brooklyn Intergroup (Guy):

- Starting to compile the information for the next Brooklyn Meeting Book
- Please make sure to send corrections to BIGaa.org
- Books are being given out at no charge
- Attendance at Brooklyn Intergroup meetings is up, regularly have 20 people
- Still need more group representation
- Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of the month on Prospect Avenue
- Have a Brooklyn Speaker Exchange meeting at Saint Patrick's Church in Bay Ridge, each weekend before the Manhattan one. Next is on December 7th at 8am
- Just had a writing workshop, planning another workshop coming up

Institutions (David, co-chair):

- 31st annual Brooklyn Institutions dance was last Saturday
- Have available commitments if your group would like to adopt one
- Meetings are held every first Saturday of the month, 11:45am-12:45pm at the OPSC meeting space

DCM Reports:

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

DCM 405 (Charlene):

- 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. It will run from January through July.

DCM 410 (Mishie):

- Will be planning a writing workshop in 2020 for people who are interesting in submitting stories for the Grapevine, details to come

DCM 403 (David):

- Planning the annual New Year's Day Alcathon. They may be looking for a new location this year, look out for the flyer

DCM 411 (Laura):

- After the SENY assembly, some of her groups will be sending a letter to GSO support the Preamble agenda item. Some have passed a motion to change the reading of the Preamble in their meetings

DCM 407/409 (Michael):

- A bunch of new GSRs have signed up recently
- Kings Night Workers will be open on Thanksgiving day
- Have been coordinating with Brooklyn Intergroup for events
- Considering having another holiday party, but it may be after the new year

DCM 412 (Clyde):

- Sober Living is celebrating their anniversary on Saturday November 23 at 7pm at Grace United Methodist Church on St. John's Place and 7th Avenue. Will have food, fun, and fellowship
- The Midday meeting at Greenwood Baptist Church will be open on Thanksgiving
- First Step Workshop will be celebrating their anniversary on December 7 at 7pm at Park Slope United Methodist Church
- There will be a Christmas Day Alcathon at Park Slope United Methodist Church. Flyers are available. In need of people to do service, see Clyde if you'd like to Volunteer.

DCM 402 (Michael R.):

- Holding a Beginners Holiday Workshop on Saturday November 23 at First Presbyterian Church, 10am-1pm
- Space is an issue in Brooklyn Heights, some meetings have been displaced

GSR Reports:**GSR Greenwood (Anthony):**

- Had their 50th group anniversary last month, it was a success

GSR Ocean Hill (Omar):

- Having problems with their space

GSR TRANScend (Lucky):

- November 18 was the one year anniversary of TRANScend
- Lucky has a story in the November issue of the Grapevine
- The group made a motion to change the Preamble in their meeting
- Impressed to see how many people are changing their reading of the Preamble,
- Will be celebrating at 6:30 on Sunday at Gibbs mansion, will be meeting and food
- There is a letter campaign where groups and individuals are sending letters to GSO regarding adding an agenda item about the wording of the Preamble, for more information see Lucky

GSR No Serenity Till Brooklyn (Safi):

- Had a last minute location change on Sunday, group handled it well
- A motion regarding the Preamble wording was brought to their business meeting and the words have been changed to people in their group

GSR Clinton Carroll (Eric):

- Doing well, participating in the Beginners Holiday Workshop at First Presbyterian on Saturday November 23. It's geared toward everyone, not just beginners

GSR Twelve to Life (Jerry):

- Will be celebrating their group anniversary on November 23 at 7:15, will be a meeting with food and fellowship afterwards
- Jerry will be celebrating his anniversary at 12 to Life on November 30

GSR Hanson Group (Henry):

- Will be closed on Thanksgiving
- Brooklyn Central group is closed until further notice
- Planning to do a group inventory

GSR Good Morning Sobriety (Debbie):

- Moved their location temporarily to Gibbs Mansion
- Will celebrate anniversaries tomorrow, November 21, instead of the last Thursday of the month because of Thanksgiving
- Will be open on Thanksgiving

GSR Sunday Solutions (Gabrielle):

- Took group conscience to do a group inventory
- Hoping to engage more people in service below the group level
- Passed a motion to get a bulletin board

GSR Lefferts Gardens (Candi): No report**GSR Bleeding Deacons (Aileen):**

- Has had a minor location change – see the website for details
- Just voted to adopt gender neutral wording in the Preamble

Other announcements:

- Reaching Out group is closed until further notice
- OPSC has a Concepts meeting every third Monday of the month
OPSC also has an LGBTQ Meditation meeting every Sunday at 9am with Quaker style sharing
OPSC just held their semi-annual old timers meeting. It was a big success. They have one the third Sunday in May and November.
- Idea from Joe: Maybe we should have a conversation about having a prudent reserve.
Deborah, the treasurer, will report back about what our expenses are for 3 months
Colleen will put this on the December agenda