

Brooklyn County Virtual GSM March 15, 2023

Present: DCMC, Registrar, Secretary;

Absent: Alt DCMC (excused), Treasurer (excused for his wedding),

Meeting opened with the Unity Statement

Vera, GSR, New Young Generation, read the Third Step;

Angela, GSR, Courage to Change, read the Third Tradition;

Eric, GSR, 3rd Step Workshop, read the Third Concept; and The Daily Reflection for March 15 was read by Kevin, GSR, Living With Gratitude.

New GSRs were introduced:

Angela S, GSR, Courage to Change

Kevin F. GSR, Living With Gratitude

Lizzie M., GSR, Turning point

Vera, GSR, New Young Generation

Lonnie, GSR, Spring Creek

Eric B., GSR, Third Step Workshop

John S., Email Administrator

**Secretary report** - Feb 2023 secretary report read and accepted.

**Treasurer's report** - Feb 2023 treasurer's report read and accepted. March 2023 treasurer's report read by DCMC and accepted.

**DCMC report:**

Attended NERAASA . Memorable ideas included: "If It's Not Broke for Me, Am I Still Responsible to Fix It?" Also, the idea that "The Agenda Belongs To the GSRs". Hence, I invite you to let me know what's on your mind. Still more: "Are We Working to Recover or Are We Holding On to AA History?" These ideas strike me as good topics for workshops at some point in the future.

On Sunday, Feb. 19, DCMC went to the Hispanic Assemblée to promote our Bus to the SENY Convention and to sell tickets.

I met with the Venue committee, which has moved forward with finding spaces for our future hybrid General Service Meetings (GSMs), Spiritual Breakfast and Share A Day. We have a place to hold our GSMs starting in May at the Unitarian Church on Monroe Place and Pierrepont Street (where Caucus meets).

I met with the Archives chair and Share-A-Day Committee Chair and Co-Chair. We now have an email administrator, John S.

At the SENY committee meeting it was decided that due to technical needs, the SENY in-person assemblies will remain at Westchester Community College. In the fall, SENY will discuss rotating the assemblies among the counties, as was done pre-Covid. SENY is looking for a new office: accepting the contract for one will be decided at the next committee meeting in May, 2023. SENY is considering putting in a bid for NERAASA.

SENY Convention update: You can still book a room but not at the convention rate. You can also still register and book for the banquet.

Your help is needed! Please announce at your group's secretary break that E-tickets for the bus to the SENY convention can be purchased through Venmo or in person by emailing me at [dcmc@brooklynaa.org](mailto:dcmc@brooklynaa.org). We have about 15 more tickets to sell to meet capacity. The deluxe coach will leave on Saturday, March 25, from the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) at 7:30 am sharp, returning at around 5:45 pm. Tickets are \$25 and they do not cover the SENY Convention registration fee. I will be emailing the Bus to SENY flyer to all GSRs, or you can download a copy from [brooklynaa.org](http://brooklynaa.org). Please pass it out at your meetings and/or text it to your friends.

Starting in April Eddie D. and I will hold a meeting in each district without a DCM to strategize on service. If you know who your past DCM is, please ask them to call me (917)-865-9551 or email me ([dcmc@brooklynaa.org](mailto:dcmc@brooklynaa.org)). If you have any ideas for your district please contact me as well. I am available to speak on Traditions and Concepts and also to do group inventories.

I have invited JoAnn McC., our SENY delegate, to speak on the Delegate's Questionnaire and answer your questions.

### **SENY Delegate, JoAnn McC.**

I saw Brooklyn's DCMC (Charlene B.) and DCM 405 (Ronnie L.) and others at NERAASA. There were panel presentations which focused primarily but not exclusively on the Conference's (GSC) agenda items. There were an estimated 1,071 participants providing comments and feedback. The NorthEast Area covers 11 states from Maine to Maryland. New York State has 4 areas and New Jersey and Pennsylvania each have more than 1 Area.

Our next Area Assembly will consist solely on presentations on agenda items for the upcoming General Service Conference. These agenda items are what I have selected as likely to be of interest to the groups of Area 49. Shortly afterward, the presentation materials will be posted on [asseny.org](http://asseny.org). These materials can be read or downloaded by the groups for reference as your group prepares its replies.

You are encouraged to visit the Delegate's page as well as the main page of [asseny.org](http://asseny.org) to obtain copies of the Delegate's Questionnaire and to reply on behalf of your group to those items in the questionnaire your group care about. Answers to the Delegate's Questionnaire must be submitted by the group's *registered* GSR or the group's *registered* alt-GSR. Replies are due by April 15.

April 15 is also the date of SENY's pre-Conference assembly. I strongly recommend that your group hold an additional business meeting dedicated solely to the Delegate's Questionnaire.

The General Service Conference will begin on April 22, 2023 and will be meeting officially from April 23 through April 29. There are a total of 85 agenda items for the GSC. Many items are follow-ups to items discussed in previous GSCs. Some conference committees want feedback for things in progress, but of course there are brand new items to consider as well.

**Question:** Can samples of the *Big Book in Plain Language* be made available for the groups to consider?

**Ans:** No. Delegates will be able to read the first five chapters in private. Drafts will not be made available to the fellowship because of copyright issues. Check "News from the Delegate" page on [asseny.org](http://asseny.org) - presentation and materials for the Delegate's Day of Sharing. There is an illustration of how the *Big Book in Plain Language* compares with the original Big Book.

**Question:** Our group (NTSB) has questions about the resignations from the General Service Board of Trustees (GSB). We are considering withholding contributions to GSB because of a

lack of transparency on its part; in addition it has increased its price list for AA literature; we'd like to know why.

**Ans:** Linda Chisholm (Class A Trustee and chair of GSB) was asked to resign by two other trustees. The other trustees were present and much discussion took place without any action. Josh B. (Class B Trustee) resigned, because he objected to the idea of trying to replace Linda as Chair too quickly.

73 out of 93 delegates have signed their names to a letter requesting to meet with the GSB. The remaining 20 delegates are being contacted regarding their wishes, but replies are not yet in. There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow, March 16. Linda Chisholm is waiving her right to confidentiality, so more will be known after tomorrow. The meeting is open to the Trustees (21 people), the delegates (93 people), the director of AAWS, the director of GV and GV publications, the GSO manager and some of the GSO staff — 142 people were invited to attend and have confirmed they will be there. You are welcome to contact me at [delegate@aaseny.org](mailto:delegate@aaseny.org). I work for you, not the other way around.

Looking at Brooklyn's treasurer's report I noticed the word "donations" with respect to money sent to various entities of AA. We suggest you use the word "contribution" instead. Also, check to see if entities you are sending contributions to actually need the monies. If not, then send it down the triangle. SENY is flush at the moment, but AA has had to take a draw-down from its prudent reserve during the Covid pandemic.

### **Old Business**

We still need chair for the following committees:

- Corrections
- Public Information
- Treatment Facilities

DCMC read the requirements and duties for these positions.

### **New Business**

**Secretary opening:** Jaye has to step down as secretary for personal reasons

Duties: Take the minutes; write them up to be sent out to attendees of this meeting and other GSRs and to be posted on [brooklynaa.org](http://brooklynaa.org) website within 2 weeks of the county GSM the minutes are about; work with officers as needed; maintain the county email.

Kelly (who is currently our tech administrator) volunteered to stand, but she is needed more in her current position, but may stand in as secretary on a *pro tem* basis.

Jaye noted that according to our by-laws, a GSR cannot stand as an officer. Suggested that GSRs solicit a volunteer from their groups to stand as Secretary. Thus the position of Secretary is open.

**Archives:** Bill H., Prospect Group, has moved Brooklyn's archives from one storage location (which cost us \$185 monthly) to another, which costs us \$57/month. The condition of the archives is deplorable. They are stored in broken tubs without lids, open to mice and roaches. He proposed that we spend the savings we've made with the storage location switch on suitable bins, tubs, archival envelopes, etc. The proposed amount is \$500, or \$100/month for 5 months' savings. The proposal was put into a motion, seconded, and carried unanimously.

The DCMC proposed having hybrid meetings starting May 17, 2023, at the First Unitarian Church on Monroe Place and Pierrepont Street in Brooklyn Heights, which is where Caucus is located. The rent they're charging is \$130. We were paying \$125 for our space at St. Francis

College, but they are now asking for \$500, plus that we carry \$5 million liability insurance. It was moved that we hold our hybrid GSMs at the First Unitarian Church in Brooklyn Heights starting May 17, 2023, seconded and carried.

The Spiritual Breakfast is now chaired by Raphael S. and co-chaired by Jaye. The Venue committee will continue to look for a catering hall for 200-300 people max for an in-person spiritual Breakfast on or close to the first Sunday in December. We will keep the cost to approximately \$40/person. This work needs to be done before our May GSM. We may need to have a very short County GSM in April to bring back our findings and vote on a venue at that time. It was moved and seconded that we hold a brief April virtual GSM to select the Spiritual Breakfast venue, and carried.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Archives:** Bill H., Prospect. DCMC and I assessed the condition of the archives we had in storage and threw away trash. Will curate a display of Brooklyn archives for the upcoming SENY convention.

**Brooklyn InterGroup (BIG) Liaison:** Joe L. BIG sends its thanks to Brooklyn County GS for its support for BIG. In February BIG was in the black, thanks to contributions exceeding expenses by \$600. BIG strives to be transparent and makes BIG information available to all via the website, big.org. BIG holds monthly meetings every third Saturday of the month and its office is located at 1283 Prospect Ave. BIG is asking for more participation from the groups in Brooklyn County GS in BIG. (Joe has been elected vice Chair of BIG.) BIG is currently discussing when and where to have in-person meeting exchanges and is looking into St. Cecelia church in Greenpoint in June. BIG has vacancies in its Institutions committee, its Directory committee, and its Events committee.

**New York InterGroup:** Trudy (NYIG Liaison) attended quarterly NYIG meeting. The Bill W. Dinner Dance will be held at Terrace on the Park and tickets cost \$200-\$250. There was a discussion about the price of the tickets and how to help lower-income groups access the event.

**CPC:** David U. The committee has met twice so far. The discussion has focused on reaching out to clergy. Proposals to invite clergy to AA open meetings and distribute pamphlets and literature to the clergy.

**Email Administrator:** John S. gave his phone number (206) 419-2960 for whoever wants a brooklynnaa email address.

**Brooklyn Share-A-Day** is chaired by Elise. She has a co-chair (Elizabeth C.) and a tech chair (Kelly M.) and is looking for a program chair. Share-A-Day will be wholly virtual and held on June 17, 2023 from 9am-4pm. The theme of Share-A-Day is the same as the theme of the national GSC: "The Three Legacies of AA" Anyone wishing to serve as program chair or help with zoom, please contact Elise at (313) 590 8365.

Elise anticipates having an email for correspondences and a flyer shortly. Additionally the first Share-A-Day planning meeting will be on March 27 at 8 PM. zoom details to follow.

Charlene encouraged the standing committee chairs to send their reports to dcmc@brooklynnaa.org.

**DCM reports:**

**405** - Ronnie: There are 8 groups in District 405 actively in service. Refuge has no GSR. Nor does Friday Night Live or Practice These Principles. I will be reaching out to these groups to encourage them to elect a GSR. Our next district meeting is on the first Saturday in April - to bring people together and host something.

**410** - Lee: There are 5 groups (11 meetings/week). Our district meeting is in person at Queen of All Saints Church on the second Wednesday of the month. We've been hosting an annual Labor Day Alcathon, and we're discussing the possibility of hosting a Memorial Day Alcathon as well. All of our groups have GSRs and Alt-GSRs.

**411** - David T (DCM 403) - There are 14 groups in the cluster 401-403-411 with 7 active in general service. This past Saturday we hosted a movie night, but had low attendance. Our cluster meetings are held in person at 103 Quincy Street on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 12:00 pm.

Charlene announced that there will be a bus to the Delegate's Day of Sharing this Saturday, March 18, leaving the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) at 7:00 am sharp. Suggested contribution of \$10, to be reimbursed by your group or district. All virtual information can be found on [brooklynnaa.org](http://brooklynnaa.org).

Motion to close the Brooklyn County GSM made, seconded and carried at 9:09 pm.

My apologies for not being able to attend the meeting in person to make this report. If there are any questions or a need for an electronic copy of this report, please contact me at [treasurer@brooklyaa.org](mailto:treasurer@brooklyaa.org)

We came in with \$13,531.10 and after income of \$3634.13 and expenses of \$5481.99 we have a balance of \$10,222.31 that's after a prudent reserve of \$2500.

The expenses of \$5481.99 include outstand charges of \$2886.91 that have yet to come due but are expected before the end of March.

We are on track to recoup our expenses for the SENY Convention Coach /bus via ticket sales of \$870.90 to date.

Our income for this quarter, counting donations only, was \$2438.23 which is on par or slightly better than pre-pandemic income for the same quarter. However, we want to continue to remind any GSRs that have not yet suggested to there groups making Brooklyn County a regular part of their entities donations to please do so.

Suggested breakdown:

District 10% County 15% Area 15% BIG 20% NYIG 20% GSO 20%

<b>TREASURER REPORT FROM 01/1/23 - 03/30/23</b>				
<b>AA BROOKLYN COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE</b>				
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>		\$13,531.10		
<b>DEPOSITS</b>				
Group Donations (Paypal \$170-\$5.89 = \$164.11)	1/1/23	\$164.11		
Group Donations (Paypal \$222.92-\$6.93 = \$215.99)	1/5/23	\$215.99		
Group Donations (Paypal \$20-\$1.07 = \$18.93)	1/5/23	\$18.93		
Group Donations (Paypal \$75-\$2.66 = \$72.34)	1/16/23	\$72.34		
Group Donations Checks	1/17/23	\$1,025.60		
County Meeting 7th tradition (Paypal \$59.00-\$4.19=\$54.81)	1/18/23	\$54.81		
Group Donations (Paypal \$42-\$1.70 = \$40.30)	1/30/23	\$40.30		
Group Donations Checks	2/1/23	\$150.00		
Group Donations Checks	2/1/23	\$ 200.00		
Group Donations (Paypal \$80-\$2.80 = \$77.20)	2/3/23	\$ 77.20		
Group Donations Venmo	2/7/23	\$ 110.00		
Individual Donations Venmo	2/7/23	\$ 7.00		
SENY Bus ticket	2/7/23	\$ 25.00		
SENY Bus tickets (Paypal \$125-\$4.10 = \$120.90)	2/11/23	\$ 120.90		
Group Donation Check	2/14/23	\$ 40.87		
Bank Deposit	2/7/23	\$ 0.01		
County Meeting 7th tradition Venmo	2/15/23	\$ 51.00		
Group Donations Venmo	2/15/23	\$ 50.00		
County Meeting 7th tradition (Pay Pal \$15-\$0.92+ \$14.08)	2/15/23	\$ 14.08		
Group Donations Venmo	2/28/23	\$ 100.00		
SENY Bus ticket	3/8/23	\$ 25.00		
Group Donations Venmo	3/8/23	\$ 46.00		
SENY Bus ticket	3/7/23	\$ 75.00		
SENY Bus ticket	3/10/23	\$ 625.00		
SENY (Delegate Day of Sharing Bus) (Manhattan County share of expense)	3/10/23	\$ 325.00		
Total		\$3,634.14		\$0.00
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Storage Unit	1/3/23	\$185.96	Debit	
Storage Unit	2/3/23	\$185.96	Debit	
Storage Unit	3/3/23	\$185.96	Debit	
Website	1/1/23	\$150.00		
UPS PO BOX	3/31/23			-\$230.00
Insurance	2/11/23	\$460.00	Check 1338	
Zoom	1/12/23	\$153.51		
SENY Convention Coach/Bus (Deposit)	1/24/23	\$309.77		
SENY Convention Coach/Bus (Balance)	3/1/23			-\$1,180.23
LIST (Conference Long Island Spirituality Through Service)	3/1/23			-\$800.00
NERASA registration	1/28/23	\$79.20	Debit	
NERASA Hotel reimbursement & meals	2/23/23	\$320.33	Debit	
SENY Convention Tickets printing	2/6/23	\$20.91	Debit	
SENY Convention Flyer printing	2/6/23	\$6.80	Debit	
SENY Assembly Van	2/11/23	\$500.00	Check 1336	
SENY (Delegate Day of Sharing Bus)	3/13/23		Check 1337	-\$650.00
Boost Mobile	2/11/23	\$26.68	Debit	
Boost Mobile	3/14/23		Debit	-\$26.68
SENY Bus refund	3/19/23	\$10.00	Debit	
Total		\$2,595.08		\$2,886.91
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>		\$14,570.16		\$1,847.85
Prudent Reserve		\$2,500.00		\$12,722.31
		\$12,070.16		\$10,222.31
<b>Pay pal total income \$808.92- Paypal fees \$30.26 = \$778.66</b>				