



SENY ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

Sunday September 10th
(10 am-3:15 PM)

Area Officers						
Name	Position					
Paola A.	Chair					
Jo Ann M.	Delegate					
Nisaa A.	Alt Delegate					
Ray	TCO					
Kimbley G.	Treasurer					

Meeting called to order 10:00 am (joAnn leading)

- Serenity Prayer; JoAnn is leading and cannot vote.
- SENY statement of purpose (Steven)
- Overview of who is able to vote (alternates only when primaries are not present, officers, GSRs, DCMs, DCMCs, past delegates)

New Business:

Proposed Agenda Items for 2024 General Service Conference:

1. Asian American Pamphlet:

Proposal(Steven): A new Asian/Asian American pamphlet. There's a lot of literature translated from other cultures but not from the Asian Diaspora. Steven has contacted GSO but would like the support of SENY to bring the proposal again. Especially, because of stigma in and out of the community.

Questions/Discussion?

Q1:

Would this include South Asian, East Asia, or Asia as a whole?

A1:

Haven't specified, the most important thing is to have a pamphlet or literature for asians and asian americans to culturally relate to.

Q2:

We are a melting pot, but can literature afford to do it? Are we opening up Pandora's box? The stories in the back of the book are meant to be universally relatable.

A2:

They don't look at the cost, they look at the need. Also there are cultural differences for asians and asian americans. I don't celebrate Christmas, I have lunar new year, I didn't grow up with baseball.

Comment:

I need more information.

Comment:

I relate to Steven, I came in very young and there was no one my age in the rooms either. I think having the conversation is valuable. There's no literature for people who grow up in that culture, inclusivity and identification is important:

Q3:

Have you reached out to the international desk at GSO?

A3:

One guy from Nerassa, told him that it's all translated literature, not culturally relatable.

Comment:

The agenda item is for a pamphlet. 2021 this was also proposed. Maybe we should go back to GSO to revisit and talk to past delegates to get more details.

Comment:

Is this divisive? No, will it make the message more accessible. Is there demand? Yes, see Steven and also zoom has connected a lot of diverse communities. Understand that it's a diverse community, but look at the LGBTQ.

Q4:

This came up at Manhattan Share a day. Have we looked at the grapevine to get them to reach out to more communities, ASOM (?)

A4:

I haven't, but I'd be willing to do that as well.

Comment:

I'd just like to point out if we're talking about an Asian American pamphlet, we didn't consider all dialects of Black people in Africa.

Response:

We can start with English.

Q5:

Are we looking to send it to Asia?

A5:

Not initially.

Motion One

JoAnn: Going to a vote (re-read motion):

****Steven proposal language****

seconded

Online:

Yes: 53 No: 1 abstain: 2

In person:

Yes: No: 0 abstain:

Total:

Yes: 95 No: 1 Abstain: 2

Motion Passes

2. Anonymous Book Cover

Proposal (Eric): Print all hardcover books with Jacketless Anonymous covers.

Questions/Discussion?

Q1:

In the early days there was a bright orange cover when no one knew what AA was? Why the change now?

A2:

For the newcomer. I've heard a few people talk about leaving a meeting and not having a cover, the bright yellow and red book is very noticeable.

Comment:

takes the big book cover, turns it to the blank side and puts it back on, shows reverse cover That makes it anonymous.

Q2:

I'm not sure I understand what the issue is?

JoAnn(answer):

At one point there was a delay in getting the jackets so they decided to print it directly on the book.

Camille: At events, when we walk past the table, how are we selling the literature and how are literature chairs going to organize?

Q3:

Sorry, I still need clarification.

Comment:

We have all these anonymous softcovers. Why not keep the hardcover at home?

Comment:

A lot of people are reading online, the hardcover stays at home, people who want options have options available.

Q4:

If we have an anonymous cover, how can we distinguish between any other book on a bookshelf?

A4:

The name is still on the spine so organizing isn't a problem. The yellow and blue hardcover is bright. We want to make the hardcover look like the blue softcover with an imprint of the title.

Comment:

I know initially the new editions came out with the anonymous cover, but are we looking to make a change based on a one time supply issue.

Comment:

I had that newcomer experience of not wanting to take the book. The yellow and bright is a little too much.

Comment:

I had a cover until I felt comfortable. Someone next to me could still see what I was reading.

Motion Two

Proposal re-read, motion, motion seconded

Virtual : A:12 yes 19 No 27

In Person :

29 for, 55 against, 20 abstain.

Total: Yes: 48 ; No: 77 ; Abstain: 32

Is there a minority opinion

Minority Opinion:

Comment:

I just really wouldn't want people to know.

Comment:

I just think it's a mistake.

Comment:

We're trying to help as many AAs as possible. First timers might not get the book, may not come back.

Anyone's mind changed based on the minority opinion?

Motion Fails

3. Service Position pamphlet

Proposal (JoAnn): List all positions in one pamphlet with brief descriptions, outside and inside the group.

proposal language read

Seconded

Questions/Comments:

Q1:

Would there be language about variations among groups?

A1:

Just specifically the area

Comment:

We have a service manual, people should become familiar with it. There are a lot of people doing a lot of things in different ways.

Comment (JoAnn):

Not everyone has you as a service sponsor. *laughter*

Comment:

I think it's a good idea as long as it's simply written, service can be intimidating.

Q2:

Would it contain a generalization of these commitments? What's the scope of commitments? Conventions? YPAA? Board? Service below group level ?

A2:

All of this. The details have to be worked out, but ideally it should include all of it.

Comment:

How can we outline all the requirements? I'm not sure we can, so I'm against it.

Comment:

A lot of people have no idea about service, not sure if a pamphlet would make a difference, but a lot of groups are not even active in service outside of the group.

Comment:

At meetings I often see a lot of people perusing the pamphlets and maybe if they see a pamphlet about service they'll ask their sponsor about service below the group level. We need more people to participate. Right now people stay in the same position for 20 years.

Q3:

I'm just wondering why we aren't asking GSO to do this instead of taking it on ourselves.

A3:

I'm just looking for approval to bring to and propose.

Comment:

I think it's a great idea.

Comment:

If there had been a pamphlet I may not have agreed to do service, but I think it's a good idea.

Comment:

Good idea, but maybe we take it on in the area without a test market and show them after a year or so that it works. There are too many nuances nationally, there's a better chance of getting it approved if we have a prototype.

Motion Three

Online

Yes: 55 No: 9 Abstain: 7

In Person

Yes: 23 No: 9 Abstain: 12

Total:

Yes: 78 No: 17 Abstain: 19

Minority opinion?

Motion Passes

4. 11th tradition amendment

Proposal (Mike): "add social media and the internet" to the 11th tradition

Seconded

Questions/Discussion?

Comment:

We can continue with the discussion, I just wanted to let you know that something similar was brought up 10 - 12 years ago. We discovered that In order to change the traditions will require $\frac{3}{4}$ of groups' written agreement, which we determined would be almost impossible.

Comment:

Maybe we should look at why it's so hard to change the traditions. Is it sacrosanct? Is it dogma?

Comment:

I'm hesitant to include the word 'text' because it has broad implications.

Comment:

F-20(?) This issue has been addressed.

Comment:

Someone came up to me and knew my name, randomly and I found out that someone had posted all people and their service positions in a FB group.

Comment:

This just seems like something we should be addressing at the group level.

Comment:

I realize we've tried before but why not try again?

Comment:

Spanish groups ask why it doesn't say that, but we understand what public level means. It's up to us to respect the spirit. It's impossible to foresee where technology will go and we really have no idea what we'll have next.

Comment:

It's simple, that could go on ad nauseum with changing technology. We should leave it up to the members to respect the traditions.

Comment:

It may be good to propose it because even if tradition isn't changed at least people are at least talking about it.

Comment:

I think respecting this tradition is important and AAs should be reminded of this.

Motion Four

Motion proposed, seconded.

Total:

Yes: 55 No: 36 Abstain: 21

Motion Fails

Minority opinion?

Comment:

I feel like its very relevant for young people in AA

Comment:

I do worry about AAs slowness and its inability to adapt to change.

*no votes changed, motion fails

5. AAWS templates/IP

Proposal (Mike): Ask GSO to provide access to software, licensees, watermarks to use on various service entity websites to address mis/disinformation on the web, for example alcoholicsanonymous.com is not owned by AA and sends people to a site which advertises rehabs and other profit making organizations, to clarify what is AA and what is not AA.

Questions/Comments:

Comment:

I've had this concern before, but want to hear everyone else's opinion

Q1:

So how does having the IP help?

A1:

The real goal is to watermark area or intergroup websites –all of these websites are local. In the sameway when I see a big book I know it's AA, I'd like something that when you look on a website you know it's AA so it does not appear that we are affiliated with what non-AA organizations chose to advertise on their sites.

Comment:

Maybe we should just be bringing this to GSO legal

several request to restate the proposal

"...allow legitimate sources to use IP/graphics/text without fear of reprisal"

Comment:

I've been on the AA.com website by accident, it has things on it that ask for money, I think it's a legitimate problem

Comment:

I have an issue with the word "legitimate" AA entity. The answer maybe shouldn't be a regulation.

Motion Five

Motion proposed, seconded.

Total:

Yes: 54 No: 32 Abstain: 13

Motion Fails

6. Contact GSO concerning breaking of 6th Tradition on Calendar and in Grapevine:

Proposal : Contact service bodies about breaking of the 6th tradition. Intergroups, groups, GSO listing non-AA events. If it's not an AA event, it should not be listed on websites.

Questions/Comments:

Comment:

There are certain assets that GSO, not AA owns; I think members should have something like this.

Comment:

I agree, allowing other entities to use the AA name is a problem (ex Dr. Bob's house)

Comment:

GSO talked about conferences, conventions and round-ups. Fox 459; spiritual breakfasts

Comment:

What do we consider an AA event? YPAA and Alanon technically aren't affiliated. How do we define AA events?

Comment:

What is the fellowship of the spirit? Is it christian? They aren't organizations but they are members.

Q1:

While we don't endorse or affiliate we do foster cooperation. Who do we cooperate with, how would you operationalize this proposal?

A1:

I'm not sure. I'd go back to the bottom line and just say it appears that we are affiliating with some entities.

Q2:

What about Manhattan-Share-a-day?

A2:

I'm specifically addressing the grapevine and AA calendar.

Comment:

I think it's hard to differentiate and we should be careful with this one.

Q3:

We're voting to bring it up as an agenda item?

A3:

if it were voted for then it would be enforceable and Grapevine and GSO would enact it.

Comment:

I thought it was a mistake to include certain events but they continue to do it.

Comment:

I looked up events and a flyer pop-up with a speaker advertising the Dr.'s books.

Comment:

According to Box 459 shows the spirit and feeling behind the conference, but grapevine doesn't go through the same channels.

Q4:

So it's an event formed from AA entities?

A4:

Not sure if it explicitly says 'AA entities', that language is not confirmed.

Motion Six

Motion proposed, seconded.

Total:

Yes: 33 No: 36 Abstain: 24

Motion Fails

7. Time extension between delegates presentation and agenda items

Proposal: include an extra month between delegates presentation and deadline for agenda items so groups have time to have a meeting and go through the agenda items and return responses to the delegate.

Questions/Comments:

Q1:

What would be the effect on the process for the delegate? Would they have enough time?

A1:

January, we usually get background by February. I proposed that groups should have a special business meeting.

Comment:

This is a great discussion for SENY. Each area does it differently. But to propose to GS would mean telling every area how to do it.

Comment:

My meeting didn't have enough time to go over the delegates questionnaire, let alone vote.

Q2:

How is the agenda item sensitive to the needs of the delegates?

Q3:

Maybe we could have it in May as opposed to April?

A3:

Sometimes it is May, sometimes April. Agenda Items can be submitted all year, it doesn't have to be just before the due date. Does everything have to go through a conference, maybe something can be implemented through dialog.

Comment:

The timing used to bother me. Then I realized that at Nerassa we can get a good idea of what will be on the delegates questionnaire. That's been my answer for the last few years, to bring issues back to my group.

*****sidenote*****

Jane Parliamentarian:

someone brought up; review the voting requirements, it looks like members who are not authorized to vote, are voting.

*****sidenote*****

Member who put proposal forward would like to retract proposal

A (why we don't get questions earlier): We usually have a good idea for the questions but we decided that all languages must come out at the same time and that takes a little bit longer.

*****sidenote*****

Q: Are we going to have to re-vote?

John(answers): Even though only 2 motions went through. All are probably negated. We could rely on honesty if you voted and should not have.

JoAnn: Is there anyone who is here currently who voted, that shouldn't have?

no response

*****sidenote*****

~ Returning to proposal ~

JoAnn:

Point of order: A motion was made and seconded, can it be withdrawn? Does the person who seconded need to withdraw?

Jane:

We do not need a second to withdraw. Unable to find the second. Best way is to go forward and let the motion fail.

Fred H:

In the future, can you restate the motion before we take the vote.

We are going to go forward

**proposal re-read and seconded*

Motion Seven

Motion proposed, seconded.

Virtual

Yes 2

No 32

Abstain 3

Total

Yes 9

No 69

Abstain 11

Motion Fails

Treasury Report (Kimbley)

February Treasurer's Report

****Kimbley goes over top item lines for February--See document****

Questions/Comments (February Treasurer's Report):

Motion (Approve February Treasurer's)

Motion to approve Approve amendment (seconded):

Total

Abstain: 5

No: 2

Yes: 62

Motion Passes

March Treasurer's Report

****Kimbley goes over top item lines for March–See document****

Questions/Comments (March Treasurer's Report):

Why were we over budget?

A: we bought equipment so we no longer have to use Tech-12 (see other expenses)

Motion (Approve March Treasurer's)

Motion to approve Approve report (seconded):

Total

Yes: 69

Abstain: 9

No: 0

Motion Passes

April Treasurer's Report

****Kimbley goes over top item lines for April–See document****

Questions/Comments (April Treasurer's Report):

Q1: *Inaudible*

A: Everything on 1st page is in more detail on the second page

Q2:

What's on line 90020?

A2:

833 is what is set aside each month to budget for that expense?

Motion (Approve April Treasurer's)

Motion to approve Approve report (seconded):

Virtual:

Yes: 36

No: 0

Abstain: 8

In Room:

Yes:

No: 0

Abstain: 2

Total

Yes: 65

No:

Abstain:

Motion Passes

New Motion proposed:

Motion to postpone the rest of the Treasurer's Reports until the November Assembly:

Seconded.

Virtual:

Yes: 28

No: 8

Abstain: 7

In Room:

Yes: 25

No: 7

Abstain: 4

Total

Yes:

No:

Abstain:

The motion passes.

Minority Report:

Comment:

My reason for voting no, don't we need to approve the treasurer's report to make decisions about the budget going forward.

Comment:

I think we should have a special adhoc meeting in 2 weeks to go over information.

Comment:

We can email our other reports, but I think we should finish.

Comment:

I think we should confirm as much as possible.

Comment(JoAnn): We do have time-sensitive items that can't wait until the committee meeting.

Minority Opinion

Motion: to reconsider based on minority report (simple majority)

Seconded

Virtual:

Yes: 29

No: 10

Abstain: 6

In Room:

Yes: 11

No: 16
Abstain: 6

Total

Yes: 40
No: 26
Abstain: 11

no discussion, going to the vote

Re-opening discussion:

Comment:

I feel like all the time we've spent on this we could've been done the reports.

Comment:

I'd like to pass the May vote.

JoAnn: we should hear the other discussion

Comment:

Can we table?

Comment:

We should table this

Motion: Postpone Reports until November Assembly

Seconded

Virtual:

Yes: 31
No: 11
Abstain: 4

In Room:

Yes: 26
No: 6
Abstain: 2

Total

Yes: 57
No: 17

Abstain: 6

Motion Passes

Comment:

Q1: Did we file taxes?

A: Not yet, in the next two weeks. We did not need an extension.

November Assembly:

Motion: To have a virtual only assembly for november only.

- Making a motion to to go completely virtual to stay within our yearly budget

Questions/Comments:

Comment:

Why would we forgo it if we have it budgeted.

Comment:

We should be mindful that there could be people who don't have online access, who come in person.

Comment:

We have money in other places, let's just do it in person.

Lit chair:

if it's not live I can't sell any books.

Comment:

It's my first meeting, I'm here in person to do service.

Comment:

It's good to have service and fellowship if we have the money.

Comment:

We just had problems with online voting, I wouldn't trust voting online, maybe we should get rid of virtual only.

Repeating Motion:

Go completely virtual in November to stay within our yearly budget

seconded

Virtual

Yes: 9

No: 34

A: 4

In person

No: 45

Motion Fails

Time Sensitive

Office Space

Update: We could not accept the space because the owner wanted to add a detail in the lease that other occupants did not have, JoAnn could not accept the addition.

Add-on: Stipulation Landlord wanted to add to the lease,

Marriott Contract

New management wants 100% upfront and wants to ask that SENY cover any shortfalls if presales do not cover total cost?

Motion for SENY to cover potential cash shortfalls until all revenue has been collected.

Q1: How can the marriott account for attrition? How can they ask us to pay upfront?

A: *inaudible*

Q2: What is the likelihood we'll be able to cover the cost with pre-sales.

A: Best estimate we will be able to cover, but just in case. I don't see any landmines in the agreement

Q3: Where is the money coming from in our budget?

A3:

We always have around 6,000 that rolls forward. Covering the costs will, come down to registration and reservation through us and banquet tickets.

Comment:

They really aren't supposed to be adding a lot of stipulations. But just please do not allow money to reduce accessibility.

Q4:

Have we explored alternatives? What are the alternatives?

A4:

Yes. We got a good rate.

Q5: There is a contract?

A: Yes in the contract they gave us a price range.

Total

Yes: 73

No:

Abstain: 2

Declaration of unity