

Area Committee Meeting

Monday December, 2023

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

Corrections to minutes:

*Manhattan Area says district 622 should say 620
A lot of committee open positions.*

****Minutes approved as written with two corrections above****

**Paola: We do have a quorum and if you are a voting member, please do not leave.*

Area Officer Reports

Treasurer's Report (Kimbley):

goes over report as written and bringing subject of accounts

Questions/Comments?

Question[person1]: Was there a purpose for us to have a business account as opposed to us having it as a savings account? Do we have any background, say from our past treasurer Rich or from the finance committee, I know we have one member on here, if you can't give us that answer, please? And why is this not a right of decision if you think that's what we should do.

Treasurer Response: I'm sorry I'm trying to listen to [person 2]s question...[person 2] Is the question, Why did we do a savings account?

[person1] interjects:My name is [person 1], I'm the one asking the question.

Treasurer Response: Oh I'm so sorry I saw [person2]'s hand

[person1]: It's okay. My question was...you said the prudent reserve is currently in a business account.

Treasurer interjects: No, the prudent reserve is currently in a savings account. Its called TD Business Savings, which is not a money market account, so the funds are not invested.

[person1]: And you said the other money was in a...where was the other money, other account?

Treasurer Response: As a result of the compromise we had to set aside money that was in our operating account, so that no one would ever be able to withdraw 100,000 from our operating account which is not fraud proof.

[person1]: thank you for that clarification.

Question: Will we get fees for taking money out of a savings account on a regular basis? Is there a transaction limit on the account?

Treasurer Response: The purpose of a savings account is to never take money out of it for any reason ever, which is why the consideration is to maintain an operating account which will maintain a balance not to exceed 20,000 to 25,000 in a month. That is the basis on which we operate. It is rare that we've ever gone over that amount in one month.

Paola: I believe that he's asking if there is a transaction limit on the savings account.

Treasurer Response: We're not doing any transactions, we're just earning interest. Just like our prudent reserve.

Question: So you're saying that we moved the operating account to a savings account; then we saw an operating account that could earn interest and now the move is to transfer enough money to that account to operate and cap that amount and leave everything else earning interest.

Treasurer Response: There will be two savings accounts, one which is the prudent reserve, one which is . The other would be for savings for our operating account, and money could be transferred from that account to the other.

***Delegate interjects:** *Having hundreds of thousands in a checking account makes us vulnerable to fraud. The treasurer would move money from the operating savings account to the checking account each month.*

Comment: The only other question is are we a business and do we need to be figuring out how to make more money? Do we have too much money?

Question: Prudent reserve is currently in business savings, are we considering moving that out to an account with a higher yield account? Can we motion that tonight or is that something you can just do? Is there a proposal to move all the money to a higher yield account?

**Paola: Let's finish the discussion. Anyone have anything else that has not been said?*

Comment: Concept 6 says that we must be an effective business model. Also when we're talking about the money that is made from GSO is a bit different; the reason why GSO has accounts that yield interest is for the retirement accounts of the workers. We are different.

Comment: Maybe we should define exactly how much money we should have at the checking account, let's have an exact amount.

**Paola: okay do we have a quorum? Do we have a motion to accept the treasury report?*

Motion One

Motion: Motion to accept the treasury report

seconded

Checking for quorum, We do have a quorum

Paola Re-reads who can vote

Yes:	28
No:	1
Abstain:	6

Minority Opinion?

*None *reminder abstentions do not get a minority opinion**

Motion Passes. Treasury Report Accepted.

Technology Report (Ray):

- We are on target to get snail mail before next assembly before the next assembly
- We are going to roll out a new website calendar after the close of registration for the convention or after the convention, just so there is no issue with payments for the convention.

Questions/Comments?

Question: When is the next tech meeting?

Response: Tomorrow December 5th, 2023; 7:30 zoom meeting info on calendar.

Chair Report (Paola):

- Looking for a new storage facilities in the Bronx that has 24-hour access and a mailing address
- Spoke at Midnite traditions workshop
- Spoke at old park slope Caton on concept 11
- Monthly email blast. Send me your items BEFORE the 1st of the month

Questions/Comments?

Question: I'm concerned about moving the archives especially if everything will be together

Response: Were looking for the same location, not necessarily the same storage

Alternate Delegate Report (Nissa):

- Assemblea in Staten Island
- Have inventories coming up and is available for them
- Service participation meeting this Thursday at 6PM (DCMs & DCMCs)
- Next assemblea in Manhattan

Questions/Comments?

None

Delegates Report (JoAnn):

- Contributions: ***
- Group contributions down, but number of groups has gone up
- Increase in literature sales (more units and price increase)
- Grapevine app has launched
- Call for stories : Native American (December 31)
- April 30, 2024 deadline for stories in so you think you are different
- Non-alcoholic board member
- NERASSA Feb 22nd to 25th
- Shortfall was caused by hotel cancellation and not charging enough for registration
- Lottery will be held in January. Do not have an updated list with

*see bottom of notes

Questions/Comments?

Question: Did you report on the online workshop?

Response: The groups gave me emails and I forwarded them to GSO.

Question: Oh you didn't do the survey?

Response: No it was for GSO and you can send information to me.

Question: Which class A trustee vacated?

Response: They didn't vacate, their term is up.

Standing Committee Reports:

Saadi (Convention Chair)

- Webchair has a landing page on website

- Flyer should be released by the end of the month
- Registration should be opened at the end of the month
- We will have kosher meals (we just need to confirm pricing for those meals)
- This Sunday 2 o'clock; only members can vote but it's open to all
- If you'd like to donate, email me,

Questions/Comments?

None

Eric (Literature)

- Most books back in stock
- Big books are 10% off til the end of the year
- Will be at the Assembly
- If you'd like a literature representative to attend events, please let the literature chair know.

Kristina (Intergroup Liaison)

- December meeting will host Andrew to talk about how we can make meetings more deaf-accessible
- Since the Group Relations staff member from GSO is not able to attend one of our meetings we are asking a retired GSO staff member if they are able to speak. We reached out and they agreed to come early in the New Year (February). They will discuss the difference between GSO and Intergroup to provide information for representatives to be more informed.
- Next meeting Sunday, December 17 at 2pm (virtually).
- At the November 19 meeting we discussed the upcoming alcahons for Thanksgiving and the upcoming December Holiday and New Years.
- Andrew, NY Deaf Access Chair is coming to speak at the December meeting.

Marty (Archives)

- 1934 Bill's last drink
- Need SENY archives guidelines
- Digitized guidebook
- Build on spiritual progress, encourage group histories, digitize more documents,

Jeanette (Public Information)

- Going to community police association meeting
- Scheduled Midtown South, already presented Midtown North
- Second 6th month tour EMS areas
- Participated in school health fairs, attended a hospital health fair with Recovery Coaches, and now going to end the year with community police work
- Next meeting will be held on the 28th at 7 pm, information is on the calendar

Devin (CPC)

- Meeting is on the calendar
- Dec 13th, meeting 10 priests, 6 diff parrishes, to give a presentation
- They requested polish literature, found some to give to priests
- NY Presbyterian gave info to staff members

Derrick (Hybrid)

- 2 awesome staff
- Will be providing support to help with convention
- If anyone has any feedback if you appeared online please email me

Toby (Corrections & Treatment)

- SENY does state facilities not county
- 3rd Sat of the month
- Always need more people to sign up to be penpals
- All available at aa.org

Matt (Service Sponsorship)

- Pancake Breakfast at Huntington station in Suffolk on December 9th with Q & A and panel discussion 9 to 12
- plan to be one of two western and eastern suffolk
- Will have raffle and sponsored ticket to SENY

Sherry (Agenda Chair)

- DCMC please email me so we can get all the calendar set for 2024

Moses (Accessibility)
Hugo (C & T)
Steven (Office Manager)

County Reports:

Staten Island (Dan, DCMC)

- Nov 26th, spiritual breakfast
- Welcome 2 new SI DCMs
- Chairs for Dec 25th and New Years Eve alcathon
- Still have trouble getting DCMs but slowly numbers improving

Manhattan (Justin)

- District 601 had a virtual grapevine workshop
- Manhattan Share A Day has a chair and is forming planning committees
- Monthly concepts meeting this wednesday
- Planning meetings have started (see George B); working on having hybrid county meeting
- We are having a discussion about 7th tradition contributions

Brooklyn (Charlene, DCMC)

- Last county meeting decided to invest in tech so it can be hybrid going forward
- Spiritual Breakfast will continue to be online because we've been priced out
- Saturday June 15th, Brooklyn Share-a-day at St. Francis School for the Deaf
- First planning meeting in January

Nassau County (Cathy, DCMC)

- Pretty quiet in the district
- Town meeting on Dec 18th
- Last month was a workshop on the 70th anniversary of the twelve and twelve

Bronx/Upper Manhattan (Chris, DCMC)

- County meeting next wednesday
- Trying to fill up chair positions

Suffolk (Kimberley, DCMC)

- Wrote an article for sept link about being a DCMC
- Had a workshop: Playing in the sandbox, with others
- Tour of GSO Office this Friday
- Conscious Study Workshop: one called "A story to tell", grief in sobriety, service
- Went to a Suffolk event with literature
- A lot of committee chair positions

Rockland (Kevin)

- Open Positions: ADCMC, Sponsorship, Accessibilities Chair (have ADCMC prospect)
- Conducted a Facilitated Discussion/ Group Inventory for Rockland's Only Virtual Group- Hour of Power
- Mid Rotation sharing session halfway through
- County Committee holding a Mid Rotation Sharing Session (in line with County previous Inventory)
- Holiday Fellowship at upcoming December Meeting
- The Archives Chair spoke at the SENY Archives Workshop
- Christmas Alcathon is set for 24 hours Christmas Eve into Christmas day at the Haverstraw Center
- New groups are forming in the County and there is more interest in General Service

Hispanic District (Nelson, DCMC)

- We are working with the groups and happy for the Staten Island assembly.
- Next one in Manhattan December 17th,
- Attended the 32nd anniversary of District 814 - County of Westchester.
- Workshop district 114 in Newburgh NY

Close declaration of unity

Delegates Update:

Revenue - Contributions, net literature sales and gross margin are slightly below budget. With respect to contributions, individual contributions are ahead of 2022 (\$2,335k vs \$2,214k). Overall group contributions are down 3.7% (\$4,979k vs \$5,173k) but the number of groups contributing has increased slightly from 17,273 to 17,303.

The increase in gross literature sales is due to two factors:

Unit sales of the 10 highest selling books (e.g., hard cover Big Book is a separate book from the soft cover) have increased 8%, from 960 thousand units to 1.04 million units and the price increase that went into effect on April 2, 2023. Revenues are close enough to the original budget that a reforecast was not deemed necessary. Devin asked if we should be concerned about money being owed for rent and to other vendors. It was explained to me that wasn't because 7th tradition contributions were down but because literature sales are down. They had a couple of sales to help boost income and are working on collecting money owed by Areas and Intergroups. Since they send the books and wait for the payment, they are having this problem collecting.

Reminders:

The Grapevine app has launched, and it is 2.99 per month, 29.99 per year

There is also a call for stories for the pamphlet "AA for the Native American Alcoholic" this pamphlet is also being revised and updated. The deadline is December 31, 2023.

The Pamphlet "Do You Think You are Different" is being revised and updated with new stories. The submission deadline is April 30, 2024. I will have this notice posted to the Delegate page.

There will be a Class A vacancy after the 74th conference and there is a request for resumes to fill the position. If you know of any non-alcoholic that would be a good candidate please send them the information and encourage them to apply. Deadline for applications is Thursday December 14, 2023. The information is posted on the Delegates page.

NERAASA is February 22-25, 2024 Hershey Lodge 325 University Dr. Hershey, PA 17033 Deadline for registration by mail: February 14, 2024

We discussed the shortfall from NERAASA 2023. I misspoke to an extent. There was a shortfall due to underestimating the cost and consumption of coffee but there were other circumstances. The original hotel canceled on them and they had to sign a new contract for a different hotel which cut into costs but there were other issues where they did not charge enough for registration to bring in more revenue. We discussed it at the NERD meeting in November and decided we will see how things go in 2024.

I have prepared the link for the NERASSA Scholarship Lottery. Kimbley reserved 15 rooms at the overflow hotel since the main hotel was already sold out. I received a short video explaining NERAASA which will be posted on the website and I encourage DCMCs to discuss with their county trusted servants. An email will go out to the area explaining how the lottery works and the deadline to enter. The lottery itself will be held in January.

No additional updates for PAI's. I have not received an updated list. I am hoping to see it soon.

As the chair of my committee Policy and Admissions, I will be attending a virtual orientation on January 19 from 10:30am-4:30pm virtually. I will be attending the January Board weekend from January 26-29.

I received a communication from the General Service Office, and I will read part of the letter.

In response to a Committee Consideration from the 73rd General Service Conference suggesting that trustees' Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s Founders, the trustees' Literature committee agreed it would be beneficial to gather shared experience from the Fellowship regarding this topic. We would like to hear from you – the top of the triangle! While we hope that the suggested questions will help to spark thoughtful sharing and discussion, please feel free to add questions that we may not have thought of that you feel may best inform the discussion. Most of all, we are grateful for and thank you for your participation.

I have received some questions to be asked of members in our area and will schedule multiple sharing sessions to discuss Bills writings with you over the next few months. I believe they want us to be informed by our areas before the conference. An email will be sent with the virtual meeting information. These sharing sessions will be for any AA member, not just trusted servants.

Thanks to Staten Island and Brooklyn for inviting me to participate at their Spiritual Breakfasts.

I want to remind the counties to send your upcoming events to the Sherry the Agenda Chair to post on the SENY calendar.

If you have something of interest, I didn't discuss let me know.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve.

Jo Ann

Putnam (Gregg, DCMC)

Brooklyn (Eddie, alt-DCMC)

Nassau County (Cathy, DCMC)

Queens (Raj)

Orange County (Camille, Alt-DCMC)