

South Eastern New York (SENY) Area Elections

12 SEPTEMBER 2020

Concept IX (Long Form)

“Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

From, [*AA Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.*](#), pp. V-VI.

SENY Elections

“Every even-numbered year, in September, the Assembly shall elect its Delegate and officers for a term to commence January 1 following the election.”

From, [SENY Service Handbook and Articles of Association and By-Laws](#), Article IX.

SENY Elections— The Officers

- Delegate
- Alternate Delegate
- Chair
- Technology & Communications Officer (TCO)
- Treasurer

From, SENY Articles of Association and By-Laws,
Article IV.

SENY Elections— Officer Responsibilities

THE DELEGATE

Delegate Responsibilities

- Attends the General Service Conference prepared.
- Transmits Conference information to the committee members and inspires them to pass it on to all AA members in the districts; passes along communications and requests from AAWS/Grapevine/La Viña of possible interest to the membership.
- Attends area, state, and regional service meetings.
- Attends conventions and gatherings held by the state and the region.
- Helps the committees obtain the financial support that the area and GSO need.
- Reminds GSRs to tell the groups and individuals about the AA Grapevine/La Viña and Conference-approved books and pamphlets.

Delegate Responsibilities

(Continued)

- Cooperates with the GSO in obtaining information.
- Reminds everyone that the GSO is an information center on AA matters.
- Maintains communication during the year with the GSO.
- Visits groups, districts and counties in the area whenever possible.
- Assumes added responsibility if the area chair is unable to serve.
- Works closely with committee officers, sharing experience throughout the year.

Delegate Responsibilities

(Continued)

- Keeps the alternate delegate fully informed, using the alternate's help wherever possible so the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.
- Late in the second year, works with the newly elected delegate to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference procedures and problems. A high level of literacy and digital skills is suggested.
- A high level of literacy and digital skills I suggested.
- Signs contracts and any similar documents on behalf of the area.

SENY Elections— Officer Responsibilities

THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Alternate Delegate Responsibilities

- Serves as an assistant to the delegate, often traveling with the delegate, or giving reports for them.
- Assumes the role of the delegate if the delegate is unable to serve.
- Chairs the Regional Forum bid committee.
- Schedules and formats service workshops in the South Eastern New York Area.
- Shows any of the AA filmstrips or videos upon request of any group, county, or district meeting and leads group conscience meetings when asked.
- Works with the Intergroup Liaison to provide speakers for group tradition meetings and group officer workshops, as requested.

Alternate Delegate Responsibilities

(Continued)

- Serves as liaison with the Hispanic Districts; attends the monthly Hispanic Districts meeting.
- Serves as liaison with the Young People in AA service groups, the various YPAAs.
- Chairs the Ad Hoc Service Participation Committee meetings.
- Late in the second year, works with the newly elected alternate delegate to pass along a basic knowledge of the service position.
- Passes along communications and requests from AAWS/Grapevine of possible interest to the membership.

SENY Elections— Officer Responsibilities

THE CHAIR

Chair Responsibilities

- Presides at committee and assembly meetings.
- Approves the agenda for committee and assembly meetings and workshops and arranges for physical facilities for Committee meetings.
- Updates and distributes the SENY assembly planning toolkit to all SENY DCMCs for their use in hosting SENY assemblies.
- Proposes and reviews objectives and goals for standing committees, requesting changes and suggesting new programs within the mandate of each Committee.
- Consults with the treasurer, other officers and standing committee chairs on preparation of the budget, and monitors adherence to the budget in consultation with the treasurer.

Chair Responsibilities

(Continued)

- Receives complaints and discusses problems that arise with standing committees and attempts to help in the resolution of difficulties, mediating where necessary between committees and/or officers.
- Acts to keep the delegate informed of area concerns by regular discussion with the delegate and alternate delegate.
- Participates in and attends area functions, Regional Forums, NERAASA and SENY conventions.
- Speaks at group meetings and leads group and county inventories when requested.
- Calls meetings of officers and standing committee chairs for informational and planning purposes.
- Explores possibilities of cooperation with area intergroups.
- Consults with other area chairs in New York State to insure cooperation in matters of statewide concern.

Chair Responsibilities

(Continued)

- Reviews tax returns and filings with governmental authorities in consultation with the delegate and treasurer.
- Responsible for the revision and editing of the SENY Service Handbook in a timely fashion (suggested every rotation) including the appointment of consultants and subject to approval of the area committee.
- Undertakes activities authorized on a non-recurring basis by the committee, for example, obtaining transportation for the Northeast Regional Forum.
- Appoints standing committee chairs (other than the members of the Technology Committee) with the consent of the SENY Committee, and appoints the Recording Secretary.
- Appoints the members of the Ad Hoc Finance Committee.
- Confirms the Archives Committee's appointments of the members of the Archives Advisory Group.

Chair Responsibilities

(Continued)

- Appoints annually a liaison to the Al-Anon convention and any other special or ad hoc committee chairs not otherwise selected.
- Designates a person to maintain the office computer system.
- Designates a person to pick up and distribute the mail from the area's PO Box.
- Late in the second year, works with the newly elected chair to pass along a basic knowledge of the service position.
- Maintains contact with the area's insurance agent, and the landlords for the committee meeting and the area's office.
- Passes along communications and requests from AAWS/Grapevine of possible interest to the membership.

SENY Elections— Officer Responsibilities

THE TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (TCO)

Technology & Communications Officer (TCO)

Convenes and facilitates meetings of the Technology Committee and is responsible for:

- Appointing and overseeing members of the Technology Committee, which consists of the Web Chair, Agenda Chair, Email Update Editor, Postal Mailing Coordinator, Email Administrator, and Registration Chair, with the consent of the SENY Committee.
- Keeping the area informed on developments in software and technology which may affect the area's use of the internet and related information management tools.

Technology & Communications Officer (TCO) (Continued)

- Assisting members of SENY with service-related technology issues.
- Coordinating replies to voicemails and text messages directed to the Area's phone number.
- Late in the second year, working with the newly elected TCO to pass along a basic knowledge of the service position.
- Maintaining a high level of computer literacy.

SENY Elections— Officer Responsibilities

THE TREASURER

Treasurer Responsibilities

- Coordinates the SENY bank accounts; obtains and sees to the completion of the bank signature cards by the delegate, alternate delegate, area chair and treasurer.
- Receives and accounts for all group contributions, literature sale proceeds and other revenues.
- Dispenses funds in accordance with the annual budget established by the area committee.
- Maintains full financial records on all transactions and reports to the SENY assembly and committee.
- Prepares the budget in consultation with the other officers and the standing committee chairs. Monitors adherence to the budget.

Treasurer Responsibilities

(Continued)

- Prepares the tax returns and the required filings with governmental agencies in consultation with the delegate, and the chair, and subsequent to review by the area's accounting firm.
- Uses the Ad Hoc Finance Committee as needed to help ensure prudent fiscal planning and documentation.
- Maintains a high level of computer literacy, particularly with respect to accounting software.
- Passes along communications and requests from AAWS/Grapevine of possible interest to the membership.
- Late in the second year, works with the newly elected treasurer to pass along a basic knowledge of the service position.

SENY Elections— Standing for Office

Current members of the Area Committee are eligible to stand:

- DCMs
- DCMCs
- Chairs of the Area Standing Committees (see, SENY By-Laws, Article VI)
- Recording Secretary
- Area Officers

See, SENY Articles of Association and By-Laws,
Articles IV.

SENY Elections— Standing for Office (Continued)

Near the opening of the Assembly the presiding officer (the current Delegate) will entertain a motion to allow any past Area Committee members to also be allowed to stand.

If such a motion is offered and seconded, a simple majority will carry the motion.

SENY Elections— Who may vote?

Current members of the Area Assembly are eligible to vote:

- GSRs
- DCMs
- DCMCs
- Chairs of the Area Standing Committees (see, SENY By-Laws, Article VI)
- Recording Secretary
- Area Officers
- Past Delegates

See, SENY Articles of Association and By-Laws, Articles IV.

SENY Elections— Who may vote? (Continued)

Alternate GSRs, DCMs and DCMCs may vote if their principal is not voting.

County and district officers and committee chairs who are not otherwise GSRs, DCMs or DCMCs are not eligible to vote.

SENY Elections—
How will the vote
be conducted?

SENY conducts its elections
according to the “Third Legacy
Procedure.”

Third Legacy Procedure

“AA’s Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure, used primarily for the election of delegates. . . .

It has proved highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes.

The railroading of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, since voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from.

More importantly, a second-place candidate who may be extremely well qualified but without early popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw.”

From, the [AA Service Manual](#), p. S21.

Third Legacy Procedure in SENY in Brief

- Those eligible to stand for office are invited to make themselves available.
- Candidates names are posted by office.
- Each candidate is invited to offer a brief service resume or qualification.
- Voting is by anonymous ballot, in this case registered digitally.
- The results of each ballot are posted.
- A candidate must receive $\frac{2}{3}$ ($66\frac{2}{3}\%$) of the total votes cast to be elected.
- Up to five ballots are allowed for each office before deciding the election by lot.

Third Legacy Procedure

- All candidates standing are listed for the first two ballots.
- After the second ballot, any candidate who received less than $\frac{1}{5}$ (20%) of the total vote is withdrawn, except the top two candidates must remain; in the event of a tie, all candidates tied for second place remain.
- After the third ballot, any candidate who received less than $\frac{1}{3}$ ($33\frac{1}{3}\%$) of the total vote is withdrawn, except the top two candidates must remain; in the event of a tie, all candidates tied for second place remain.

(For example: If 100 votes are cast, $\frac{2}{3} = 67$ votes; $\frac{1}{5} = 20$ votes; $\frac{1}{3} = 34$ votes.)

Third Legacy Procedure

(Continued)

After the fourth ballot:

- The candidate with the smallest number of votes is withdrawn, except the top two candidates must remain; in the event of a tie, all candidates tied for second place remain.
- The presiding officer asks if there is a motion to go to a fifth ballot.
 - If such a motion is made and seconded, a simple majority is needed to take the election to the fifth ballot.
 - In the absence of such a motion passing, the election is decided by lot, that is, it immediately “goes to the hat.”

Third Legacy Procedure

(Continued)

- If there is a fifth ballot and no candidate receives $\frac{2}{3}$ of the vote, the election is decided by lot, that is, it “goes to the hat.”

“Leadership in AA: An Ever Vital Need,” by Bill W.

Somewhere in our literature there is a statement to this effect: “Our leaders do not drive by mandate: they lead by example.” In effect, we are saying to them, “Act for us, but don’t boss us.” ...

Therefore, a leader in A.A. service is a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgment of his own—well, he really isn’t a leader at all....

“Leadership in AA” (Continued)

Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its service. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source....

Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can obtain, sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided, of course, that such action be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility....

“Leadership in AA” (Continued)

Another qualification for leadership is give-and-take, the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction. Compromise comes hard to us all-or-nothing drunks. Nevertheless, we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a series of improving compromises. We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then, it is truly necessary to stick flatfooted to one's conviction about an issue until it is settled. These are situations for keen timing and careful discrimination as to which course to take....

“Leadership in AA” (Continued)

Leadership is often called upon to face heavy and sometimes long-continued criticism. This is an acid test. There are always the constructive critics, our friends indeed. We ought never fail to give them a careful hearing. We should be willing to let them modify our opinions or change them completely. Often, too, we shall have to disagree and then stand fast without losing their friendship.

As excerpted in the *AA Service Manual*, p. S53.

The full article may be found in “Concept IX,” *AA Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.*, pp. 36-40. The article is copyright © the AA Grapevine, Inc.

SENY Elections— Additional Considerations

THE VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY

The Virtual Assembly

- Owing to the special challenges with the continuing threat of COVID-19 in our community, this election assembly is being conducted on a virtual platform using digital technology and outside technical support.
- This means the election routines have been adapted to accommodate unusual circumstances.
- Every effort has been made to assure this does not disrupt the order of business or your participation, but some delays may be expected.
- SENY thanks you for your participation and patience.

The Virtual Assembly— Expect Delays

- At the outset, expect a brief wait while voting and non-voting members are sorted into different “rooms.” All rooms have the same view of the day’s proceedings.
- If you are a voting member but did not pre-register for the election, it may take longer to get into the voting room.
- As members make themselves available to stand and as candidates drop out per procedure, some time will be needed to set up the polls before each ballot.
- Some time may also be needed to collect and “count” all votes, especially if votes are being phoned in and need to be added to the count manually.
- While we believe most contingencies have been anticipated, the unexpected may impose additional challenges during the day.



The
A.A. SERVICE MANUAL

Combined With

TWELVE CONCEPTS
for **WORLD SERVICE**

by Bill W.



2018-2020 Edition

**REFLECTING ACTIONS OF THE
2018 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

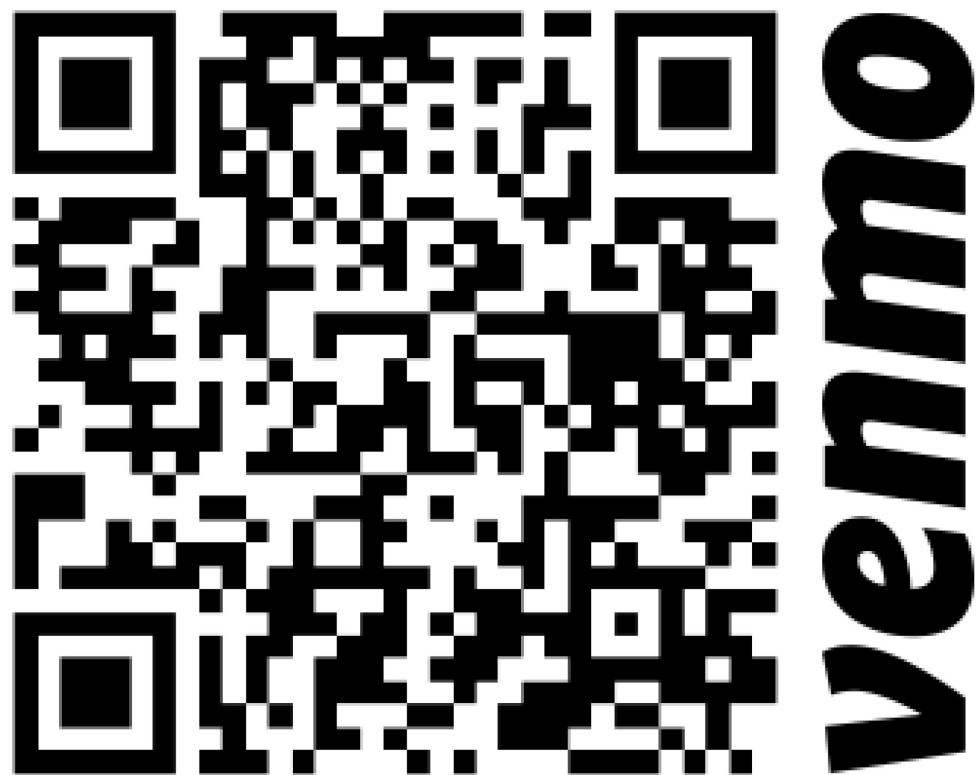
SENY Elections

If you have a copy of the [AA Service Manual](#), you may follow along with the “Third Legacy Procedure” for elections on pages S21-S22.

Tradition Seven

“Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

From, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.*, p. 160.



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Concept IX (Short Form)

“Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.”

From, Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W., p. IV.

How am I living up to . . .

“I am responsible . . .

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, I am responsible.”

From, the 30th Anniversary International AA Convention, Toronto, Canada, 1965.

SENY Elections Assembly

Thank you for being a part of our historic first virtual election assembly.