



ALAGRAM ~ Autumn 2014

Your Area Assembly Newsletter

New Jersey Assembly Meeting Saturday, November 1st

10 AM to 3 PM

New Group Representatives Beginners' Meeting: 9 AM

Middlesex County Fire Academy

1001 Fire Academy Drive

Sayreville, NJ 08872

All Group Representatives, District Representatives, Officers, Coordinators and Liaisons are asked to please attend and all Al-Anon members are welcome.

Buffet at 9:30 by *District #4- Passaic County and North Morris*

Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch

TO STAY INFORMED, PLEASE READ THE ALAGRAM AT YOUR GROUP'S WEEKLY MEETING OR BUSINESS MEETING. YOU MAY ALSO VIEW IT AT OUR WEBSITE:

www.nj-al-anon.org

June Assembly Highlights

Chairperson: Paul G. reported Assembly will be holding Thought Forces (discussions to get ideas to resolve Al-Anon issues) on Leadership, Fundraising and Planning. The AWSC and Assembly will also be conducting an inventory.

Delegate: Rich M. wrote a lengthy report included in the Assembly packet so members can read it at their leisure. He also suggests members read the *2014 World Service Conference Summary* as soon as it is published in the next few months. Several Al-Anon definitions have been enacted including "family recovery" and "dual membership" (members who belong to both AA and Al-Anon). A new Al-Anon daily reader is coming out. World Service Office (WSO) projects it will have to take two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from its ample reserve to meet its expenses for 2014. The World Service Office pays approximately \$260 per

year to support each member group. Currently, if you're not a member of Al-Anon you cannot donate. The World Service Conference (WSC) has still not decided whether to allow donations from family members. In 2018 the Al-Anon International Convention will be held in Baltimore. The Meet the Board Event will be held in Newfoundland, Canada in July 2015. Al-Anon members may go and meet the board trustees. *Conflict Resolution Using Our Twelve Traditions (S-72)* is a newly available pamphlet. Some of our Spiritual Principles are honesty, hope, faith, courage and integrity.

Alternate Delegate: Ann Z. reported the 2014 Calendar suffered a sixty-two dollar (\$62) loss. Groups should be purchasing their calendars from Assembly in order to help financially support Assembly and avoid bringing outside organizations' calendars into the local meetings.

Treasurer: Angela V. asked members to read the World Service Conference financial report to see where each dime World Services receives goes to. The recent Balance Sheet for Assembly is:

Open Checkbook Balance	1-1-14	\$6,292.28
	Income thru	5,971.21
	Expenses	<u>6,845.85</u>
Ending Check Balance	5-17-14	\$5,417.64

Open Savings Balance	1-1-14	\$16,565.29
	Interest Earned	<u>2.72</u>
Ending Savings Balance	5-17-14	\$16,568.01

TOTAL \$21,985.65

Recording Secretary: Katie O. posted the minutes from Assembly to the Al-Anon World Service Committee (AWSC) website.

Corresponding Secretary: Millie H. reported there was a good response from the groups to the Annual Update Sheet. The following meetings are on “No Mail Status” with the World Service Office: **Budd Lake**, Wednesday at St. Jude’s; **Morristown** at Center for Spiritual Living; **Rockaway**, Thursday at White Meadow Temple; **Frenchtown**, Friday at Frenchtown Presbyterian; **Una Luz, de Amor y Esperanza at Iglesia Santa Ines**; **Montclair**, Saturday at St John’s Episcopal; **Montclair**, Monday PM at Mountainside Hospital; **Newark**, Living New AFG at private home; **New Brunswick**, Iglesia Nuestra Senora del Carmen; **Lincroft**, Sharing Recovery at Brookdale Community College; **Belmar**, Friday AM at First Presbyterian; **Brielle**, Monday PM at Church in Brielle; **Toms River**, Sunday PM, Adult Children at Brick Hospital; **Sea Isle City** at Sea Isle United Methodist. Some of the above groups may be defunct and some may still be active but they do not have a current Contact Mailing Address (CMA). If any of these groups are still active, they need to contact the World Service Office (WSO).

COORDINATORS REPORTS

Alagram: Katie O. All groups should be receiving the *Alagram* via U.S. mail through their CMA. The *Alagram* is also posted to Assembly’s website nj-alanon.org.

Alateen: Sandy B.’s written report is posted on the AWSC website and included in the June Assembly packet.

Archives: Christina M. asked for help making displays for Jal-Con (New Jersey’s Al-Anon Convention) held in July.

Literature: Susan H.’s written report is posted on the AWSC website and included in the June Assembly packet.

Public Outreach: Jeannie M. set up a Public Outreach (PO) display table and rack containing Al-Anon literature to demonstrate to members how Al-Anon literature is exhibited at conventions. Angela V. followed up on an invitation from the Girl Scouts to inform them about Al-Anon. Emma F. from Alateen spoke at the Girl Scouts’ function. Paul G. and the Public Outreach Committee have finalized plans to have Al-Anon posters displayed at New Jersey Transit train stations. Twenty (20) Al-Anon

posters (at a total cost of two thousand dollars (\$2K) in rental fees) will be shown at various available train stops. As a fund raiser groups may sponsor a poster at an available station by donating one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) to Assembly. A member group, several groups working together or districts have the opportunity to sponsor a poster at the train station of their choice if that location is available. Some small groups are making a combined contribution in order to meet the one hundred and fifty dollar (\$150) requested donation.

Website: Kalpana K’s written report is posted on the AWSC website and included in the June Assembly packet.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District #4 Passaic/North Morris: Robin C. reported they received a great response to their public outreach mailing of Al-Anon literature to doctors, lawyers, police departments, hospitals and other organizations.

District #25 Gloucester: Chichi reported she has email addresses for all of the Group Representatives (GRs) in her district.

LIAISONS REPORTS

Jal-Con: Lois reported the New Jersey Al-Anon convention (Jal-Con) will be July 25th-27th. Groups are asked to donate a gift basket or gift cards for the raffle. Some groups donate a ticket for any member to use.

North Jersey Information Services (NJIS): Mike G. reported they experienced another financial crisis when they could not meet their monthly financial commitments. An urgent email was sent out and the financial response made it possible for NJIS to stay solvent through May. Many Al-Anon members have called to voice their concern if NJIS has to close down. There is a need for a Treasurer and a Vice Chair on the NJIS Steering Committee. If you are a Group Representative (GR) and your group does not have an Informational Service Representative (ISR) than you as the GR are your group’s Alternate ISR and you should be attending the ISR meetings.

South Jersey Informational Services (SJIS): Sheila B. reported Kate O. started a four meeting beginners series at Princeton House. The Newcomers/Beginner’s binder is available and cost approximately twenty dollars (\$20). The binder is

for the group's use and is different from the packet given to new members.

Spanish Intergroup: Mirta S. reported the Latino Al-Anon/Alateen Convention will start Thursday, July 2nd and run the whole weekend. The members from Brazil will be doing a presentation for the Portuguese members. Approximately, forty-six (46) organizations and businesses were given Al-Anon literature.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy Manual Revision: Rich M. reported revision of the Policy Manual will begin now that the new bylaws have been adopted. The Pro Bono Attorney already gave suggestions on redrafting the Policy Manual.

Public Outreach Awareness: Jeannie M. reported the thousands of pieces of literature that are distributed use Al-Anon's fellowship money. There is a great publication called *The Best of Public Outreach* that addresses how to attract new members. Jeannie suggested members start doing public outreach by participating in a local health fair and simply bring the rack of Al-Anon literature from their local group. There are children suffering in alcoholic homes with no one to talk to. The public service publication *How Al-Anon Works 2015* is now out.

Area Picnic: Stacey P. reported the Al-Anon Potluck Picnic will be Sunday, August 17th Rain or Shine from noon until sunset at Holmdel Park.

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NEW BUSINESS

Audit: Angela V. answered questions on the 2013 audit and the written 2013 Audit Report. The 2013 Audit Report was approved unanimously.

Thought Force to Increase Public Outreach Awareness and Participation in the Area:

Paul G. requested members to identify ways that will inspire and inform our groups and members to actively participate in Public Outreach and show that it can be an integral part of an Al-Anon personal recovery. Assembly members were asked to read the matrix that was included in the Assembly packet. An open mic session followed.

Breakout Session: The Big Question is: What will Al-Anon look like in 2051? Assembly members broke down into groups and discussed and answered the following questions:

1. How will Al-Anon look in the year 2051 at 100 years old?
2. What will the structure of Al-Anon be in 2051?
3. What will be the internal communication of members?
4. What will be the external communication of carrying our message?
5. What will the effect of technology be at the group level, Assembly, LCC & IRS, District level?
6. What effect will diversity have? What will be the global effect of this?

Ask It Basket: There were no questions submitted.

Katie O., *Alagram*, Editor