



ALAGRAM ~ Autumn 2015

Your NJ Area Assembly Newsletter

New Jersey Assembly Meeting Saturday, November 7, 2015

10 AM to 3 PM

Middlesex County Fire Academy

1001 Fire Academy Drive

Sayreville, NJ 08872

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ACCORDING TO NEW BYLAWS

All Group Representatives (GRs), District Representatives (DRs), Officers, Coordinators and Service Arms' Liaisons are asked to please attend and all Al-Anon members are welcome.

Buffet at 9:30 by District #20-
Mercer County East

New Group Reps (GRs) Meet at 9: AM
All Members Please Bring Your Own
Brown Bag Lunch

TO STAY INFORMED, PLEASE READ OUR
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. described the Chairperson position as an administrative position over the officers and coordinators.

Delegate: Rich M. described the Delegate's position as requiring a large time commitment and requiring attendance at many meetings including Al-Anon service arms' meetings and the World Service Conference (WSC). The theme for this year's WSC was *Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding Our Vision*. The spiritual principles come from Al-Anon's Steps & Traditions. Rich gave a slide presentation about the 2015 WSC.

Alternate Delegate: Ann Z. described the Alternate Delegate position as working with the Delegate and standing in for the Delegate if need be. The

Alternate Delegate is also the meeting coordinator for the three Al-Anon World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings each year and for the three Assembly meetings each year. Two baskets were passed at Assembly (1) for donations toward the cost of the buffet and (2) the "Ask It Basket" for members who wanted to write a question for Assembly's officers.

Treasurer: Angela V. described the Treasurer's position as mainly having the same responsibilities as those for home finances. Treasurer's responsibilities also include attending six meetings a year, preparing a balance sheet, preparing the Annual Budget and getting members together for the Annual Audit.

Assembly's Balance Sheet is as follows:

Open Checkbook Balance 1-1-15	\$6,686.42
Income	4,591.79
Expenses	-6,601.14
End Check Balance 5-14-15	\$4,677.07
Open Savings Balance 1-1-15	\$16,573.58
Interest Earned	2.72
End Savings Balance 5-14-15	\$16,576.30
TOTAL	\$21,253.37
Net Loss (\$2,006.63)	

Recording Secretary: Katie O. described the Recording Secretary position as requiring attendance at all AWSC and Assembly meetings and taking notes. The members who post their reports to the AWSC website ahead of the meetings are a huge help to preparing accurate and comprehensive minutes. After Assembly approves its minutes, the minutes are posted to Assembly's

website, www.nj-al-anon.org. The March Assembly minutes were posted to the AWSC website in May.

Corresponding Secretary/Group Records

Coordinator: Millie H. described her position as a combined position. There are guidelines for the position and one of the responsibilities is updating the records for the World Service Office (WSO). Through her position Millie has met incredible people and made great friendships. Please let her know of any New Jersey group meetings that are not meeting anymore.

THOUGHT FORCE: TO INCREASE AREA FUNDING:

Angela V. gave the slide presentation for the committee. Suggestion: To increase basket donations at meetings there should be a sign in the basket stating what the donations are used for. Suggestion: Modern technology should be used for members to make donations by phone. Suggestion: Members need to have a group meeting on increasing donations and get over just putting a dollar in the basket.

COORDINATORS REPORTS

Alagram: Katie O. sent the spring issue and each group should have received a copy via its Contact Mailing Address (CMA). There was a questionnaire about insurance. The *Alagram* is posted to Assembly's website, nj-al-anon.org.

Alateen: Report is in the June Assembly Packet.

Archives: Christina M. wants to photograph the displays and put the pictures onto Assembly's website. The displays are available to be loaned for events.

Literature: Susan H.'s reported there aren't any Al-Anon chat rooms. There is an Alateen chat room on the official Al-Anon website, www.al-anon.org, which requires registration and is only held at specific times with an AMIAS monitoring. The official website addresses for Al-Anon are either www.al-anon.org or www.al-anon.alateen.org.

Public Outreach: Karen T. reported the New Jersey Transit Poster has been a fabulous project. There is a plan to do a public service announcement project. The treatment facility in Branchburg wants an AL-Anon member to run a meeting there. The train station poster project will be run again in 2016.

Website: Report is in the June Assembly Packet.

THOUGHT FORCE: CONSIDER AREA LEADERSHIP:

Donna S. and Ann Z. gave the slide presentation. Question: Why isn't there a tab "Sign-Up for Service" on Assembly's website? Answer: This is a "thought force" not a "task force". Suggestion: South Jersey Informational Services is trying to get volunteers and asking people to volunteer is helpful.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District #27 Atlantic & Cape May Counties:

Donna S. reported the pamphlet *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2015* was distributed to the GRs. There is a member in her district interested in starting a new group in the Atlantic City area.

District #4 Passaic County/North Morris:

Robin C. reported there are facilities asking for help but they are in other districts.

District #20 Mercer County East:

Kate O. was recently elected her district's representative. A letter was handed out to 11 of the 14 meetings in her district.

LIAISONS

Jal-Con: Lois G. reported this is the 40th anniversary of the convention. Jal-Con needs trustees in order to hold its annual meeting. Only 3 groups sent a Jal-Con Representative (JR) to the annual meeting this year. The trustees meet nine times a year. Some local groups pass a separate basket for donations to pay for Alateen members to go to the convention for free.

North Jersey Information Services (NJIS):

Report is in the June Assembly Packet.

South Jersey Informational Services (SJIS):

Marie B. reported the 1st quarter Informational Service Representative (ISR) meeting had to be held via email. Dave is the new webmaster. The Fall Luncheon will be Saturday, September 26th.

Intergruppal Español: Mirta S. reported there will be a function June 19th –June 21st at St. Mary's in Passaic.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Picnic: Stacey P. reported there will be six speakers. Members were asked to bring food.

NEW BUSINESS

Minutes of Assembly March 7, 2015: Leah P. motioned to approve as amended and Mary S. seconded. Vote: Approved=36 Opposed=0 Abstained=0. The minutes will be posted to Assembly's website, nj-al-anon.org.

2014 Audit Report: The audit was held April 11th.

The report was posted to the AWSC website and published in the June Assembly Packet. Vote: Approved=36 Opposed=0 Abstained=0.

Group Liability Insurance: Paul G. stated he and other members are researching an umbrella liability insurance policy to cover all local group meetings in New Jersey. There was a questionnaire for groups in the *Alagram* regarding the insurance issue.

Comment: There is a need to check with the legal counsel for WSO before there's a purchase of liability insurance. The discussion was tabled.

Ask It Basket: Question #1: Does Assembly have a procedure for delisting a meeting? Answer: No.

Question #2: Why should a local group give an email address to Assembly? Answer: Because WSO

has requested all groups to have contact information with WSO and their area. Question #3: Is there a

district map on Assembly's website? Answer: There was one years ago. Will talk about it with the

webmaster. Question #4: What is a local meeting's relationship with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

especially when there is an infiltration of AA members at the Al-Anon meeting? Answer: Look in

the service manual. Use the pop-up card "*Al-Anon Spoken Here*". Some local groups have asked their

dual AA members not to share their AA membership. Question #5: May individual members

send contributions to the WSO? Answer: Yes.

Question #7: One meeting has a coin celebration twice a year for its members but buys the coins

from Hazelton. Does this violate the Traditions?

Answer: Each group is autonomous. Page 97 of the service manual states not to sell jewelry. Page 99

states group funds are to be used for group purposes . . . not for personal gifts to members. The service

manual needs to be read in light of the Traditions.

Katie O., Editor *Alagram*

**ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT
ASSEMBLY ON 11-7-2015. ANY
MEMBER STANDING FOR
ELECTION MUST BE PRESENT
AT THE ASSEMBLY MEETING.**

! FAREWELL PANEL 53, HELLO PANEL54!

OFFICES OPEN FOR ELECTION:

DELEGATE is the voice and vote for all Al-Anon groups in New Jersey. The Delegate shall serve by attending meetings of the World Service Office and attending the annual World Service Conference and reporting back to New Jersey members the activities conducted at such. *3 year term-ending 12/31/2018
ALTERNATE DELEGATE must be able to assume the responsibilities of the Delegate if for any reason s/he is unable to perform his/her duties including attendance at meetings. The Alternate Delegate is responsible for arranging all Assembly and AWSC meetings including renting the hall and providing refreshments.*3 year term-ending 12/31/2018

CHAIRPERSON organizes the coordinators and manages the New Jersey Assembly officers and is the chair of all Assembly and AWSC meetings. S/he prepares the agenda for each meeting. Traditionally, the outgoing delegate stands for this position. *3 year term-ending 12/31/2018

TREASURER maintains general supervision over the financial affairs and keeps accurate books of accounts. S/he oversees the disbursement of funds and shall account for all transactions and reports on the financial condition of NJ Al-Anon Assembly at meetings. *3 year term-ending 12/31/2018

RECORDING SECRETARY keeps the minutes of all Assembly and AWSC meetings. S/he also writes the report of the annual Audit and maintains the record books of New Jersey Al-Anon Assembly Inc. *3 year term-ending 12/31/2018

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY/GROUP RECORDS COORDINATOR maintains a list of mailing information for all New Jersey meetings and group representatives (GRs). S/he also maintains a current confidential list of names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for all members of the Al-Anon World Service Committee (AWSC). The position requires knowledge of Microsoft Access, spreadsheets and word-processing skills. Responsibilities also include maintaining a distribution record of the policy manual and its updates. *2 year term-ending 12/31/2017 in order to stagger the officers' terms.