



ALAGRAM ~ SPRING 2014

Your Area Assembly Newsletter

New Jersey Assembly Meeting Saturday, June 7th

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 #16-*

Monmouth County Northwest

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

March Assembly Highlights

Chairperson: Paul G. reported he had achieved many of the goals he set out including the new bylaws, hosting conference calls, forming thought forces and forming a standing hugs committee.

Delegate: Rich M. reported the 2014 theme is "The World Service Conference Our Spiritual Principles in Action". Make sure your group has the *Forum* sent to them. The *Forum* in electronic media can be purchased from nook.com as an annual subscription for \$11 or per issue for \$1.49. Subscribers will be able to read the electronic version of the *Forum* on Nook e-readers, iPads, iPhones, iPod touch handhelds, Android phones (version 2.1 and later), Android tablets, Windows PCs, Mac and by web browsers. Rich chaired the Bylaws Committee. Groups should receive the new Al-Anon

Alateen Service Manual shortly. Rich is periodically available to be a speaker at events or anniversary meetings.

Alternate Delegate: Ann Z. reported calendar sales are down. Please have member groups buy their calendars from Assembly and do not use outside organizations' calendars at group meetings.

Assembly's calendar lists a lot of important dates that can be announced at group meetings. The World Service Office posted on its website (www.al-anon.org) *Tips for GRs as Forum Representatives* (F-2) and *Forum Writing Guidelines* (F-1).

Treasurer: Angela V. reported 2013 year end as:
Open Checkbook Balance 1-1-13 \$ 7,355.41

Income thru 12-31-13 13,407.43

Expenses thru 12-31-13 14,470.56

End Checkbook Balance 12-31-13 \$ 6,292.28

Open Savings Balance 1-1-13 \$16,557.01

Income thru 12-31-13 8.28

End Savings Balance 12-31-13 \$16,565.29

TOTAL \$22,857.57

The Balance Sheet for 2014 is as follows:

Open Checkbook Balance 1-1-14 \$6,292.28

Income thru 1-31-14 732.65

Expenses thru 1-31-14 1,039.16

Ending Check Balance 1-31-14 \$5,985.77

Open Savings Balance 1-1-14 \$16,565.29

Interest Earned thru 1-31-14 .70

Ending Savings Balance 1-31-14 \$16,565.99

TOTAL \$22,551.76

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

Corresponding Secretary: Millie reported the following meetings are marked for deletion: Bayonne Wed 8:PM; Boonton TwpThu 8:PM; Bridgewater Tue 7:PM; Frenchtown Tue 7:30 PM; Hamilton Tue 5:30 PM; Hampton Fri 1:30 PM; Hazlet Fri 9:PM; Morristown Sat 8:PM; Neptune City Wed 8:PM; Vernon Mon 8:PM; Verona Thu 8:PM; Westville Sun 2:PM. If any of the above meetings are still in existence they need to notify the World Service Office (WSO) and Millie. The Thursday night Frenchtown meeting has disbanded. World Service Office, Assembly, North Jersey Information Services (NJIS) and South Jersey Information Services (SJIS) are continually trying to synchronize each Al-Anon group's data.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS DISCUSSION: Group Representatives (GR) gave highlights about New Jersey Al-Anon. Anita: Public Outreach is doing a wonderful job. Paul G: The Combined Services Meetings have been increasing Al-Anon unity. Eileen: Manasquan has three members working on Jal-Con. Chichi: There are members who get together and perform skits. There are also members who have painted rocks to give out at the skits. Kathy B: There are now New Group Representatives Beginner meetings before Assembly. Pat: There are visiting members who go to meetings each week and encourage other members to do service. Millie: The outreach letter sent out by Paul G. before Assembly has helped increase attendance. Susan: Four group representatives have been recruited to work with the Literature Coordinator. Many members do not know what service is or what the Al-Anon acronyms mean *e.g.* GR (Group Representative), ISR (Informational Service Representative), DR (District Representative) etc. **Alagram:** Katie O. All groups should be receiving the *Alagram*, via their Contact Mailing Address (CMA) bringing it to their group meeting. The *Alagram* is also now being posted to Assembly's website www.nj-al-anon.org for anyone to read. Members may also sign-up on Assembly's website to have the *Alagram* delivered to their personal email inbox.

Alateen: Sandy B. reported AMIAS (Al-Anon Member InAlateen Service) training is scheduled for Cape May after the summer season. An effort is made to try and schedule the AMIAS trainings at the same places and times each year. The AMIAS training has been posted on the Assembly's website and there are links to the required forms that need to be filled out and brought to the training.

Archives: Christina M. wishes to have photographs of the Archives Displays posted to Assembly's website, a smaller display option for group anniversary meetings and new displays featuring literature.

Literature: Susan H. reported the 2015 calendar dates are needed from the service arms and groups by May 31st. The *Forum* is celebrating sixty (60) years this year. Members can lead a meeting using the *Forum*. The WSO is requesting members' writings for the new pamphlet *Parents and Grandparents of Young Problem Drinkers*. The *Forum* requests feedback on its article *Using the Term Qualifier*. Send comments to: The Forum, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454; fax (757) 563-1655; email wso@al-anon.org. Prior to the 2004 World Service Conference, the Policy Committee affirmed that Al-Anon would have only one "Welcome" read at meetings. Some groups are still reading the "Newcomers Welcome" but each group is autonomous. Also at issue is the use of the *Al-Anon 12 Promises*. The Al-Anon Literature Committee reasoned that in Al-Anon we don't make promises; we share experience, strength and hope. There are Electronic Meetings and Telephone Meetings. Reaching for Personal Freedom can be used for a step meeting. Groups can start a Group Lending Library wherein they lend Conference Approved Literature (CAL) from their group to members. Comment: Asbury Park Library has purchased every Al-Anon book.

Public Outreach: The coordinator position is still open. New Jersey Transit will allow posters to be put up at transit stations. Assembly will have to pay a rental fee to advertise the posters.

Website: Kalpana K. reported one goal is to have a report on how the search engine finds the Assembly website.

District #4 Passaic/North Morris: Robin reported the district received a good response back from their public outreach mailings to hospitals, libraries, schools, places of worship and neurologists.

District #27 Atlantic/Cape May: Donna S. was glad to represent her district.

Jal-Con: The convention will be July 25th-27th at the Sheraton Edison Hotel. The information will be on Assembly's website. Jal-Con is offering registration online and also payment online through PayPal. There is a need for volunteers. Jal-Con usually meets the second Saturday of the month.

North Jersey Information Services (NJIS):

Mike G. is the new liaison. There are openings for positions on the steering committee. They are still having fiscal challenges. Their loss in funds is due to a lack of contributions. Only ¼ of the price of the books they sell goes to NJIS. Question: How do you become an ISR? Answer: Call NJIS (973) 744-8686

South Jersey Information Services (SJIS):

They are still in need of a secretary. The Fall Luncheon's theme is "Treasures of Serenity". They're working to strength Alateen in South Jersey by possibly going to Parent Teachers Association (PTA) meetings. SJIS has initiated a beginner meeting booklet with guidelines as a means to increase the number of beginner meetings.

Spanish Intergroup: Mirta S. reported all the professionals speak English. Intergroup is having trouble being contacted by phone. They are creating telephone group meetings. They want to prevent the English language from taking over in the Spanish Al-Anon community. The Latino Al-Anon/Alateen Convention is the weekend of July 4th. People from other Spanish speaking countries are coming to the convention. The convention will accept payment by credit card. Spanish Intergroup wants to have a public outreach for the Portuguese population.

Bylaws & Policy Manual: The Bylaws were revised by the nonprofit *pro bono* attorneys. In order to comply with New Jersey law, sections of Assembly's bylaws had to be redrafted. Specifically, elections need to be held every two years not every three years. The new Bylaws bring Assembly into compliance with New Jersey law. The proposed BYLAWS OF NEW JERSEYAL-ANON ASSEMBLY, INC. were adopted as amended.

Election In Absentia: At Area Election qualified members must be present to stand for any elected position.

Usage of Area's Sales Tax Exemption: Sales tax exemption certificate can only be used when paying with Area funds (check or debit card). The Area Chairperson and Treasurer will be responsible to purchase items using the sales tax exemption certificate. Whenever possible, taxable item should be sent to the Area Chairperson and Treasurer for approval and purchase.

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, Hilltop picnic area. Members have started forming committees to help set-up, clean-up etc. Groups are asked to donate items *e.g.* cups, tablecloths, napkins. There will be speakers from Al-Anon, Alateen and AA.

Ask It Basket: Question #1: How do you handle a previous member breaking anonymity? Answer: Service Manual Tradition 12 page 91. Comment: It is powerlessness over the person. Question #2: How do you handle a special member bringing non CAL literature to meetings? Answer: Service Manual page 104 Conference Approved Literature (CAL) only. Comment: See the Conference Summary. Question #3: What announcements should the group secretary make at meetings? Answer: The Service Manual says the group secretary "makes necessary Al-Anon related announcements at meetings" page 46. Comment: The Palmyra Group prints the announcements. Comment: ISR should be bringing back information to group. Question #4: If the AMIAS at the Alateen meeting has to leave, who can take over? Answer: Another AMIAS. Question #5: How do we handle groups that don't want to change? For example- Only reading from daily readers. Answer: Each group is autonomous as long as it's Conference Approved Literature (CAL). Comment: It's a slow process to change the format of the group meeting. Question #6: How many groups do not financially support Assembly? Answer: Assembly does not keep a list of the groups that do not donate.

Katie O., *Alagram*, Editor