

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY MINUTES ~ MARCH 1, 2014

Chairperson, Paul G. called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts of Service and the General Warranties.

OFFICERS & COORDINATORS REPORTS

Chairperson: Paul G. thanked Kathy B. for holding the New Group Representatives meeting. Paul happily 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. Paul's attended the two combined services meetings that have increased Al-Anon unity. Question: What service arms are in the combined services meetings? Answer: All the New Jersey Area services are invited to attend e.g. North Jersey Informational Services, South Jersey Informational Services and representatives from Assembly.

Delegate: Rich M. reported he has spoken at several Al-Anon groups including the Spanish Intergroup meeting. The 2014 World Service Conference (WSC) theme is "Our Spiritual Principles in Action". The WSC is April 24th to April 29th. Rich asked the groups to send him highlights of the past year e.g. projects, dinners, anniversaries meetings etc. to be included in the *Sharing Area Highlights* (SAH) at WSC. Mail is welcome at the hotel between April 24th and April 28th. Make sure your group has the *Forum* sent to them by giving World Service Office your group's correct address. The online *Forum* can be purchased as an annual subscription for \$11 or per issue for \$1.49 from nook.com, the Barnes & Noble electronic book store. 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 via web browsers. Rich chaired the Bylaws Committee and held an open meeting on February 8th. New Jersey was not selected for the *Meet the Board Event*. 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: Anne Z. thanked District #2 Morris County, for bringing the refreshments. Diane volunteered District #16 Monmouth Northwest, to bring the breakfast buffet to the June Assembly. There are not standing meetings for Assembly and AWSC at the Middlesex County Fire Academy and that's why the March Assembly is in the small meeting room. A form needs to be filled out before each meeting held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The May meeting may change. The calendar report shows sales up but in reality sales are down. There should be a calendar sales report for each Assembly in order to accurately measure how well that year's calendar is selling (for its calendar period from July to June). Please have 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 (F-2) *Information and Tips for GRs as Forum Representatives* and (F-1) *The Forum Writing Guideline*. If you subscribe to the *Forum* you should have gotten the inserts.

Treasurer: Angela V. reported the figures as printed in Assembly's packet are not accurate because the Treasurer's Report was printed before the Audit took place and some of the numbers had to be adjusted to comply with Assembly's fiscal year. The figures should have been as follows:

Open Checkbook Balance	1-1-13	\$ 7,355.41
Income thru 12-31-13		13,407.43
Expenses thru 12-31-13		<u>14,470.56</u>
End Checkbook Balance	12-31-13	\$ 6,292.28

Open Savings Balance	1-1-13	\$16,557.01
Income thru 12-31-13		<u>8.28</u>
End Savings Balance	12-31-13	\$16,565.29
		TOTAL \$22,857.57

Profit & Loss Comparison 2013 vs. 2012: Income decreased by 7% and expenses increased by 5%.

There was a loss in 2013. The List of Donations is in alphabetical order according to each group's name. 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	<u>1,039.16</u>
Ending Check Balance	1-31-14	\$5,985.77

Open Savings Balance	1-1-14	\$16,565.29
Interest Earned thru	1-31-14	<u>.70</u>
Ending Savings Balance	1-31-14	\$16,565.99
		TOTAL \$22,551.76

Question: Why not just post the new Bylaws on the web instead of mailing them? Answer: The Bylaws must be mailed to each group thirty days prior to voting on them according to New Jersey law.

Recording Secretary: Katie O. posted the minutes from the November Assembly meeting to the AWSC website in December. They will be voted on after lunch.

Corresponding Secretary: Millie reported the following meetings are marked for deletion: Bayonne Wed 8:PM; Boonton Twp Thu 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 WSO and Millie. The Thursday night Frenchtown meeting has disbanded. The district representatives (DR) have access to WSO Online Groups Records application. If your group did not receive the update form from WSO than WSO does not have your group's Contact Mailing Address (CMA). WSO, Assembly, NJIS and SJIS are continually trying to synchronize their data. Millie provided an attendance chart for 2013 depicting the number of attendees from each district.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS DISCUSSION: Group Representatives (GR) were invited to come to the microphone to give 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 Beginner Group Representatives 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, ISR, DR etc.

Alagram: Katie O. handed out extra copies of the latest edition of the *Alagram*. All groups should be receiving Assembly's newsletter, the *Alagram*, via their CMA bringing it to their group meeting. The *Alagram* is also now being posted to Assembly's website 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 there was an AMIAS (Al-Anon Member In Alateen Service) training in Clifton in February. The Clifton meeting format is slightly different. If you are an AMIAS than you may share at the meeting. An AMIAS 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. The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse has contacted Sandy. There is an AMIAS training scheduled for May 4th at Virtua Memorial Hospital, Mt. Holly. The 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: In Christina M.'s absence, Paul G. gave her report. If the convention in March wants the display cases, a member needs to volunteer to pick them up from the storage unit and deliver them. A limited number of members have access to the storage unit but additional members can be added to the list for access. Christina 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. Question: Are the Archives

Displays going to be at the picnic in August?

Answer: Maybe. Weather is an issue.

Literature: Susan H. reported that former coordinator, Erin has been very helpful. The 2015 calendar dates are needed from the different service arms by April 15th. Please send them to sueh731@aol.com. The *Forum* is celebrating sixty (60) years this year. Members can lead a meeting by using the *Forum*. The new Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual is out. How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics (B-22, B-32) is now available as an audio book through various electronic vendors. Listening length is sixteen hours and twenty minutes. Written sharings of experience, strength and hope are needed for the new pamphlet for parents and grandparents of problem drinkers. Send via postal mail, fax, email or electronically on the website, www.al-anon.org/members/parent.ss.php where members can find more details about the project and guidelines for writing. The *Forum* requests feedback on its article *Using the Term 'Qualifier'*, be sent to: The Forum, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454; fax (757) 563-1655; email wso@al-anon.org. Responses will be published in upcoming issues. Prior to the 2004 World Service Conference, the Policy Committee met and affirmed that Al-Anon would have only one "Welcome". Some groups are still reading the "Newcomers Welcome". Another issue at meetings is the use of Al-Anon 12 Promises in the book From Survival to Recover (B-21). The Al-Anon Literature Committee reasoned that in Al-Anon we don't make promises; we share experience, strength and hope. Many groups are not aware there are Electronic Meetings and Telephone Meetings. Reaching for Personal Freedom can be used for a Step meeting. A suggestion was made to form a committee on how to use Conference Approved Literature (CAL) during group meetings. Groups can start a Group Lending Library wherein they lend CAL from their group to members. Comment: Asbury Park Library has purchased every Al-Anon book. Comment: Received the March issue of the *Forum* yesterday.

Public Outreach: The coordinator position is still open. A lot of members do a lot of outreach.

Angela V. is going to be doing outreach with the Girl Scouts. New Jersey Transit may allow posters to be put up at transit stations. Comment: One member went to a convention and some schools have contacted Carole B. and asked Al-Anon to come to their school.

Website: Kalpana K. reported she has been working on Assembly's website and "its progress not perfection". One goal is to have a report on how the search engine finds the Al-Anon site. In an effort to increase awareness of Assembly's website, slips of paper with Assembly's web address on them were provided and members were asked to please put the slips in the 7th Tradition basket at group meetings. Assembly's website may have contributed to the decrease in calendar sales because members go to the calendar on the website instead of purchasing a calendar. Comment: The Unique Visitors Column reflects the counting of each person only once for visiting Assembly's website.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District #4 Passaic/North Morris: Robin reported the Substance Awareness Coordinator (SAC) got in touch with her and wants to have a meeting. 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 today.

LIAISONS

Jal-Con: Eileen reported the convention will be July 25th-27th at the Sheraton Edison Hotel. There are flyers. The information will be put up on Assembly's website. Jal-Con is offering members to register online and then they can also pay online through PayPal with a 2.2% credit card fee. There is a need for volunteers. Jal-Con meetings are usually the second Saturday of the month.

North Jersey Information Services (NJIS):

Mike G. is the new liaison. Their new meeting format has had positive feedback. 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 Informational Service Representative (ISR)? Answer: Call NJIS

(973) 744-8686. Comment: South Jersey Information Services (SJIS) will sell literature at Jal-Con. North Jersey Informational Services will sell literature at Alcoholics Anonymous Area Convention. Comment: The Service Manual is a great resource to answer questions.

South Jersey Information Services (SJIS):

They are still in need of a secretary. They are doing better financially this year compared to last year. The Fall Luncheon's theme is "Treasures of Serenity". Their new webmaster is Valerie S. 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 that at one time there had been a PO campaign to professionals wherein one thousand letters were mailed out and only one person responded. Today, they contact professionals by email. All the professionals speak English but the Spanish speaking professionals didn't respond. 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. Twenty rooms have been registered. They want to have a public outreach for the Portuguese population. People from other Spanish speaking countries are coming to the convention. The convention will accept payment by credit card.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of Assembly 11-2-2013: Vote:

Approved=36 Abstained=1

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. Assembly had been holding elections of all officers/trustees simultaneously every three years. The new Bylaws, Article V Board of Trustees, Section 3. Tenure, brings Assembly's elections into compliance with New Jersey law by dividing the officers; Chairperson, Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Treasurer and Recording Secretary into Class I for

elections and the Corresponding Secretary solely shall be Class II for elections. Rich M., Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee led the discussion wherein the members by consensus struck the wording on the tenth line in Section 3. Tenure "~~meeting of the Members at which these Bylaws are adopted~~" and instead amended by the following wording "Election Assembly Meeting (November 2014)". The members by consensus struck the wording beginning on the twelfth line in Section 3. Tenure "~~At the meeting of the Members at which these Bylaws are adopted~~" and instead amended by the following wording "and shall be elected at the Election Assembly Meeting (November 2014)." The members also by consensus struck the fourteenth line in Section 3. Tenure. "~~Thereafter, each class of Trustees shall be elected for terms of three years~~" and instead amended by the following wording, "Thereafter, the Corresponding Secretary shall be elected every two years and other officers shall be elected every three years." Motion: The Bylaws Committee recommends to Assembly that the proposed BYLAWS OF NEW JERSEY AL-ANON ASSEMBLY, INC. be adopted as amended. Vote: In Favor=35 Opposed=0 Abstained=1.

Election In Absentia: Motion: AWSC recommends to Assembly that the following be adopted: "Election Policy: Members standing in Absentia": "At Area Election qualified members must be present to stand for any elected position." Vote: In Favor=Unanimous.

Usage of Area's Sales Tax Exemption: Motion: "Policy: Sales Tax Exemption Usage: 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." Vote: In Favor=34 Opposed=0 Abstained=2

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. Question: Can animals be there? Answer: Yes. Groups are asked to donate items *e.g.* cups, tablecloths, napkins. There will be speakers from Al-Anon,

Alateen and AA. Donations: \$5 per person, \$15 per family and children under 12 years old are free.

NEW BUSINESS

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. Use Conference Summary. Question #3: What announcements should the group secretary make at meetings? Answer: The Service Manual says the group secretary “makes necessary AI-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. **Motion to Close:** Tim S. made the motion at 2:40 pm and Fran seconded it. Unanimous agreement to close.

Minutes Submitted by
Katie O., Recording Secretary