

## NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY MINUTES - MARCH 5, 2016

Rich called the meeting to order at 10:05 with the Serenity Prayer, the Reading of the Traditions & Concepts and the General Warranties of the Conference. The theme of the meeting is "Good Personal Leadership at all Service Levels is a Necessity: - From Concept 9. Rich thanked all new GR's and DR's and visitors for attending.

### Officer Reports

**Chairperson** Rich Our new theme for the 2016 Conference is World Service Conference 2016 - *Realizing our Spiritual Potential*.

Rich's first order of business was to Thank Paul for his dedication and innovation in being Chair for last 3 years.

Rich reminded us we need to fill the Corresponding Secretary position quickly keeping in mind it is a **two year** position as well as filling the coordinator positions.

Rich's full report was posted online.

**Delegate** Ann Marie On January 1st Ann Marie officially became NJ's Delegate to WSO and on January 4th received World Service Conference Members confidential roster with her name on it!

Since we have so many open positions Ann Marie has received many emails for Public Outreach, Alateen, Archives, etc, from WSO. Ann Marie will be attending the North East Regional Delegates (NERD) meeting March 11 to 13 which is a good preparation for WSO.

If you want to send a card to package (Love Gifts) to me at Conference. Please use the following information:

Ann Marie Ziffer (Hold for WSC- 4/11-4/15, 2016  
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront  
5700 Atlantic Ave  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Please plan to have your cards arrive after **April 7th**. Use Ann Marie's home address in the return address section of the envelope in the event that the mail delivery is delayed.

Ann Marie Ziffer  
52 Hudson Drive  
West Milford NJ 07480

Ann Marie's full report is online

**Alternate Delegate** Donna S. officially assumed the responsibilities of Alternate Delegate on January 1st. Donna reviewed the responsibilities outlined by Ann, the past Alternate Delegate and current Delegate.

Donna's full report is online

**Treasurer** Stacey P. gave her report on the status of the Treasury as of Year End 2015, Report is online.

**Recording Secretary** Barb C. reported that the minutes were posted online and apologized for Alagram being sent out late. Alagram is posted online.

### **Coordinator Reports**

**Alagram** Barb C gave report in Recording Secretary Report

**Archives** Position Open

**Public Outreach** Position Open - Karen, previous Coordinator gave information about position to help fill it. Karen explained that the website is set up and there are people willing to go out and talk to groups. Karen said she got Professional referrals from groups but someone was always willing to step up and speak. She was not the one to always go. She doesn't have to go just make sure everything was covered. There is money in the budget for something like the public transit posters like last year. Katie O. we participated at the NJ Bar Association conference last year and they gave us room to give out literature. Ann Marie is getting calls. WSO sent info to a woman, another wanted to set up meeting and another wanted a meeting in a school. Don't forget you have lots of help!

**Alateen** - Position Open - It was discussed how important it is to fill this position. Without this position being filled there could be no Alateen.

Carole M – Sandy B and Carole M will do training. There is no coordinator and it is important that we have one. There will be training in April in Sayerville. There was an Advisory Committee that wanted to be trainers and only Coordinators could be trainers. We wanted to be sure that the training would be correct. AMIASs who wanted to be trainers would have to go to 3 training sessions, no one wanted to do that. We have a South Jersey Coordinator with a lot of AMIAS questions. We can have training in South Jersey, have the Coordinator contact me to facilitate training.

Paul G. Concept 4 Participation is the Key to Harmony. Robin is correct. Unless we train people to be trainers they have to have coordinators there. This group doesn't want Alateen Coordinator because no one is willing to step up.

## **Alateen**

Carole M – Did service above the group level. If not, she could not be the one you see here today. Being an Alateen sponsor taught her to be a kid. This job you will do as much as you want. It is an opportunity of a lifetime.

Talk about a solution, Big conferences aren't just fun. Go to bed at 10 up at 6, all I see is the conference hotel. When we go we ask people to pass the word on. Think about it. We all do service because we want to attract to community, that we will get the biggest bang for our buck.

Tim S. – All these positions – Al Anon Declaration- Let it Begin with Me. Advocate for the programs especially AL-ANON. Open your hearts. Your higher power will help with your decision.

**Literature** - Position Open – Sue You are familiar with all the literature. I put out the calendar. WSO sends everything. Courage to Change is now an E-reader

**Website** - Angela R. reported on the number and type of hits on our website. Angela also explained that you can sign up for online Alagram. Angela's full report is online.

## **District Reports**

### **District 1-2**

Pam – We had our 6<sup>th</sup> meeting with 8 members. Our Public Outreach is 600 copies of Faces of Alcoholism being placed in Libraries, Police Departments and 5 Colleges around us. District 1 is doing Business Cards. Our next meeting is in May.

One topic we discussed was Group Support. We discussed concerns about Al-Anon members who are also members of AA sharing their AA membership and AA issues that may be out of place at an Al-Anon meeting. One member shared that a meeting with the topic of “Sharing” was very effective in her group.

We've been asked to attend a business meeting in our District to discuss service structure to members who have questions about how it works. This is scheduled for March 11.

### **District 3**

Our first district meeting was held on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Washington (Warren County).

Our first order of business was to raise funds for our district as we've been inactive for at least 7 years and do not have any funds. With input and approval from the members at the meeting, I drafted a letter to be sent or delivered to all of the local groups.

The full report is online.

## **District 16**

Diane S. This quarter has been a busy one. We have 3 active GRs whom I met with in October. I also got around to meet with 3 more of the 7 groups in the district.

I had my GRs distribute the District 16 wallet size meeting schedules and they were received well.

Our next meeting is February 28<sup>th</sup> and the topic is Service Sponsorship.

Full report is online.

## **District 20/21**

We held our second meeting on Sunday January 17, 2016 with 5 GRs present.

It was the first meeting for four of the GRs, so many of the topics covered were identical to those of the first meeting last November. In the future, any new GRs will have their own introductory meeting prior to the District Meeting. They will receive our "New GR Packet".

Topics: Referencing the Service Manual – Where do we fit in the AL-Anon Structure? What does a District Do? Additionally, we covered the differences between "The Forum" and Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism". We discussed meeting dates for 2016 Assembly (3) and 2016 District Meetings (4).

At this meeting we accessed the Members' Section on the WSO site [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org) and looked at some of what is available, such as Guidelines and the GR-1 Form (CMA and Group E-Mail Address)

We had periods of time for discussion of topics such as : "How Do Groups Welcome Newcomers" and time for answering questions from the GRs. We did not have time to brainstorm future plans except to announce the date of March Assembly and our April District meeting. I continue to visit groups encouraging them to send a representative to Assembly (and future District Meetings) whether as an elected GR or Observer.

As in November, the GRs received the Area calendar, the pocket-sized Conflict Resolution accordion card, Area posters and copies of "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism" to distribute for outreach.

Kate O'Connor – DR

## **District 25**

Chichi Foster – DR – Meeting was 2-6-16

## Group Reports

Thursday Stratford – Group continues to be small with sometimes only 2 members present. There are issues with finding the meeting within the hospital itself. They would like new members to revitalize the group. Suggestions – Place directional arrows to lead people to the meeting from the entrance of the hospital to the room. Announce that the meeting exists and would like new members.

Monday Mt. Ephraim – Group is thriving and well attended. There are a fair number of newcomers. The church requires that they keep the door locked at all times and someone standing at the door to greet and open it until 10 minutes after the meeting starts. The Candlelight Gratitude meeting was held in December continues to be a tradition and well attended,

Thursday 1pm Haddonfield – This meeting has grown in the past 2 years to @ 30. They have a format that includes 10 minutes of sharing once per month on Service, anniversaries/gratitude, literature and sponsorship. This group recently presented and used the skit “When I got Busy I got Better” that was presented to the Assembly as a topic.

Friday Night Westmont – Strong group where many members are involve in service. Have had complaints that the group is rather loud in their and talking after the meeting which has been dealt with by keeping the door closed and reminding members that other meeting are still in sessions.

Tuesday and Thursday Evening Haddonfield – Although both are consistent groups there is no interest in having a GR or ISR.

Saturday Haddon Heights – This meeting has had a dwindling number of members in recent months and announcements are being made to try and increase awareness of the meeting and the need for members.

Discussion – The question was raised as to what constituted an open meeting/closed meeting.

Comments: One member stated that she read that a meeting was closed and thought she couldn't go as a newcomer because she wasn't a member yet.

The guidelines indicate that all meetings are closed unless the group decides that it is an open meeting. However being an open meeting also means that anonymity does not have to be honored.

Service project. It was decided by group conscience that the district would focus on outreach for Alateen with the following 2 actions:

Emailing Middle school and High School Substance Abuse Counselors to alert them to the existence of Alateen meetings and to the purpose of Alateen.

Using the outreach letter from WSO to snail mail the SACs as a follow up to emailing for all the

middle and high schools in the district. Mary K. volunteered to obtain the information to mail and email the various schools.

There was also discussion about making personal contact with SACs in the schools. Mary will speak with other AMIAS to clarify if that could be more widely based service among general members.

Suggestions were discussed regarding how to increase service in general. These include:

Promoting and suggesting to groups to do a group inventory and providing the paperwork for that.

Announcing and offering to perform the "When I Got Busy" skit at meetings.

Directly asking individuals to do service jobs.

Next district meeting will be in April.

## **District 27**

Mary F. is very happy with District. We have a lot of communication. We have 10 meetings a year. We do not have any meetings in Atlantic City. Mary is a new DR and is still learning and is very grateful for her district.

## **Liasons Reports**

**JAL-Con** – The 41<sup>st</sup> annual New Jersey Al-Anon Convention will be held on July 22-24 at the Sheraton Edison Hotel. We have held the convention at this hotel for the last several years. It has served our purpose by having sufficient meeting rooms and by being centrally located in NJ; close to the Parkway, the Turnpike, Rte. 287 and not far from the Metro Park train station.

The cost for registration has been determined, as have the costs for the banquet and hotel rooms. It was determined that the lowered registration fee in 2015 did not encourage any significant increase in participation. In addition, the cost of the banquet has risen due to both a price per person increase as well as a 2% in the service charge. Therefore the early bird registration will increase by \$2.00 TO \$34.00 which is will less than what it was in 2014. June 25, 2016 was as the final date to register at that cost. The hotel raised it's room rate and that cost had to be passed on to those registering with a room, so a stay at the hotel will increase by \$6.00 per night.

For additional details, the entire Jal-Con report is online.

## **SJIS – 2016 Board of Trustees**

Chairperson: Marj M.

Vice Chairperson: Louis G.

Immediate Past Chair/Liaison to Assembly/Office Manager: Liz M.

Treasurer: Linda W.

Public Outreach: Vacant

Group Services: Marie B.  
Secretary: Jeanne M.  
Alateen Coordinator: Susan L.

2016 Financials: SJIS Donations and Literature Sales have kept up with our budget until recently. Data corruption in our Quick Books program was detected and a fix was required from Quick Books. In addition, we received a substantial discount from Quick Books to pay our yearly maintenance fee in advance for 5 years. As a result we did dip into our prudent reserve with the expectation of paying that reserve back as we accrue savings in the future.

Our January 2016 ISR meeting was canceled due to the big snowstorm the day of the meeting. The budget and SJIS reports were sent to ISRs via email and ISRs were asked to vote for our budget via email.

Trustees are looking into changing the location of the ISR meetings from Hammonton, New Jersey back to alternate dual locations in the north and/or south of the South Jersey area. ISR participation did not increase with the change to one meeting. With the advent of phone/Virtual participation we hope to increase participation at our ISR meeting. Alateen – Our new Alateen coordinator is still working on communication with our South Jersey AMIAS's.

#### Planned Events

Al-Anon Participation in Area 45 AA Convention – Scheduled dates – April 1-3, 2016

SJIS Spring Workshop – date has been changed from April 30 to June 7

Jal-Con: July 22-24 SJIS will support Jal-Con in any way we can

SJIS Fall Luncheon: Venue still to be determined

Submitted by Liz MacKrell

**NJIS** - Mike – At the end of October, we held our Fall Workshop, after several years' hiatus. It was well attended, with approximately 30 Al-Anon members showing up. The event also showed a small profit for the Information Service office.

At the recent ISR meeting, we were able to report we finished calendar year 2015 with a net gain of \$28,248, due to a memorial bequest received November in the amount of \$30,000. To handle this windfall, we will follow the process used by the World Service Office when they receive large bequests: we will place an amount equal to 10% of our operating budget (or about \$12,000) in our checking account and we will place the balance of the bequest into an interest-bearing account.

Our immediate plans are to use some of this money to use some of this money to replace worn equipment at the office – replace an obsolete computer, and a broken desk chair. We also found a web designer who specializes in helping non-profit corporations. We re-did our web site, providing some additional functionality, and brightening up its look. The updated site is now live. The new site will now be configured so our special worker can more easily update it.

Our new slate of officers began the New Year. We have a new AA Convention liaison, Cathy, and of course a new Public Outreach Chair began during the year. That leaves many open positions on the Steering Committee, the most important of which that need to be filled are Secretary, Treasurer and Literature Distribution Chair.

### **SIG**

Mirta – We will be at an Expo with NBC as a sponsor with 50,000 expected to attend. Telemundo is also going to be a sponsor. It is a Health and Fitness Expo May 14 and 15 at MetLife Stadium in NY.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**PICNIC NEEDS CHAIR** – DISTRICT 23 Joy Volunteered Picnic is usually in August. Joy passed around list for volunteers to help. (Did not see list to see who volunteered)  
AWSC recommends that PICNIC CHAIR set theme as “Al-Anon Celebrating 65 Years”

### **TEAM EVENT**

Rich talked to Assembly about doing a Team Event (see page 39 in Agenda Package). We discussed. Talked about doing in 2017 or 2018. No decision was made.

### **Technology Task Force**

SJIS put document together sent to ISRs to increase participation.

Question if we want to do Task Force.

Lynn, comment, want to see us come up to 21<sup>st</sup> Century. WSO needs to address this and put some guidelines out. Rich said WSO moves very slowly. Paul said we need a Task Force. Rich stated we need a specific ideas.

What is the time frame?

To do what?

Come up with Concrete ideas and solutions to make it a reality.

Jeannie (New GR) with an October target date.

### **Insurance**

Rich said a handful of groups need insurance and it is costing them between \$150 and \$200 per group. He will get more info from these groups.

Marie from SJIS will get info and email it to Rich.

### **Ample Reserve Discussion**



No definition of what an Ample Reserve is. Mary said Reserve Guideline 41 WSO says that Ample Reserve is 6 months to 1 yr of operating expenses. Excess funds fund Team Events, etc. Angela brought up that AWSC should discuss in May.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Minutes**

Approved – 28 Ayes

Abstentions – 5

### **Redistricting**

We need a Thought Force

Too Many Districts, Started in 1998, districts too big and finished in 2000.

Districts were split by major routes.

Some districts have combined. Only 6 of 28 DRs here today.

Only 12% of groups have GRs.

Only 12% of groups have ISRs.

Message of Service needs to get out.

Carole M. – redistricting took into account the number of meetings

Katie O – Bergen Union doubles travel time. Katie feels redistricting should be around county lines. It is easier to work with county governments.

Mary DR – My job is to tell people about WSO and Service. I am getting the word out about service.

Tim S. – Equal representation. Each district should have the approximately the same number of GRs per district.

Paul G. – Program of Attraction in meeting. My home group is active in service. Not sure how we do anything with districts. Let the groups tell us.

Mirta – In favor of redistricting. We are going to have 21 meetings, who is going to come to meetings? Need big meeting in NJ, inviting every group. Suggestion – Why don't we have an Assembly meeting in a hotel? Look at history. California has 1 Assembly per year. We are talking and taking no action. We need to do something.

Carole – agrees with Mirta. I believe we go to the people who know. GRs take the time to look at meeting in area and send email to Rich M.

Carole – not happy

Self serving

Who decides

If forming a district, we will help, talk a to a meeting. It is a group's responsibility to support district, if they do, they will be interested.

Anita – Pg. 57 in Service Manual states how the group supports. Pg. 99 states how the group supports local and Area structures and WSO. Pg. 157 talks about Finances.

Ann Marie – Pg. 148 Explains who pays the DRs expenses

Katie O. – Already in budget, we should support members trying to do service

Rich M. will bring it back to AWSC

#### **ASK IT BASKET**

1. According to some Al-Anon members Lois said that Al-Anon members can celebrate the personal sobriety with the coin celebration.
  - a. Pg. 97 The WSO does not stock or offer program-related jewelry or trinkets for sale because these actions could divert our service office from our primary purpose. In keeping with Tradition Six, the WSO does not provide list of suppliers for articles associated with the fellowship. E.g., plaques, jewelry.
2. Cell phones must be turned off or mute and off the tables. Takes from meeting attention.
  - a. This is for each meeting to decide. Meetings are autonomous. For example, in this Assembly, Our Chairperson asked everyone at the beginning of the meeting to turn all phones off or on vibrate.
3. Are there Guidelines for how a group chooses a speaker for an Anniversary? I couldn't find anything in the Manual or the WSO website?
  - a. The Guidelines are listed on G-1.

#### **Closing**