

## NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY MINUTES ~ JUNE 7, 2014

Chairperson, Paul G. called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 New Jersey Area World Service Committee (AWSC) members for the efficiency of their prior meeting. Paul will be holding Thought Forces (discussions to get ideas to resolve Al-Anon issues) on Leadership, Fundraising and Planning. He will also be conducting an inventory.

**Delegate:** Rich M. reported his written report was included in Assembly's paper packet so members may read it at their leisure. He also suggested members read the 2014 World Service Conference Summary as soon as it is published in the next few months. The 2014 theme is "Our Spiritual Principles in Action". Several Al-Anon definitions have been enacted including "family recovery" and "dual membership" (members who belong to both AA and Al-Anon). Dual membership has been changed in the Al-Anon Service Manual to allow AA (Alcoholic Anonymous) members to also hold certain positions in Al-Anon including Informational Service Representative (ISR), Coordinator and Alateen Sponsor. A new Al-Anon daily reader is coming out. World Service Office has had to take money out of its ample reserve to meet its expenses. The financial projection for 2014 is for World Service Office (WSO) to have to take \$200,000 from its reserve. The World Service Office pays approximately \$260 per year to support each member group. Spirituality & Abundance: Abundance is not about material things. The Big Question: In 2051 what will Al-Anon look like? Technology is changing Al-Anon too. Most nonprofit groups disappear if they do not change. Memorial Contributions by Non Members: 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. The Al-Anon term "family member" needed to be defined. Electronic Devices in Meetings: Rich M. and several other delegates made a motion from the floor of the WSC to allow electronic devices into the WSC meetings. The motion passed and electronic devices are now allowed for note taking only. 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 trustees of the World Service Conference (WSC). 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. Question: Did WSC approve the definition of family members? Answer: Yes. Question: How many years will it take WSC to change the wording "we have no dues or fees" if they decide to change it so members are more aware that World Service Office has financial obligations that it pays from members' donations? Answer: The suggestion to change the wording "we have no dues or fees" will be brought back to WSC.

**Alternate Delegate:** Anne Z. thanked District #16 Monmouth Northwest for bringing the morning buffet. District #4 Passaic offered to bring the buffet for the next Assembly in November. Ann's attended a number of meetings. The 2014 Calendar has been a sixty-two dollar (\$62) loss so far this year. There are 2014 Calendars left and available for purchase for any dollar amount members want to donate. Groups should be purchasing their calendars from Assembly. World Service Office (WSO) posted the difference between the *Forum* and *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*.

**Treasurer:** Angela V. reported Assembly lost money on sales of its 2014 Calendar. If members read the World Service Conference financial report, they will see where each dime World Service receives goes to. Assembly's Balance Sheet for 2014 is as follows:

Open Checkbook Balance 1-1-14 \$6,292.28  
 Income 5,971.21  
 Expenses 6,845.85  
**Ending Check Balance 5-17-14 \$5,417.64**

Open Savings Balance 1-1-14 \$16,565.29  
 Interest Earned 2.72  
**Ending Savings Balance 5-17-14 \$16,568.01**

**TOTAL \$21,985.65**

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

**Corresponding Secretary:** Millie H. reported there was a good response from the groups to the Annual Update Sheet. WSO has had mailings to some group meetings returned to WSO thus triggering "No Mail Status". Each group should have a Contact Mailing Address (CMA) where their group's mail is received. The following meetings are on "No Mail Status" with WSO: **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). Mailing labels were given to Jal-Con by Assembly.

**Alagram:** Katie O. All groups should be receiving Assembly's newsletter, the *Alagram*. The current spring edition of the *Alagram* is posted to Assembly's website nj-al-anon.org where all members and potential members have access. Approximately half the members at Assembly acknowledged their group had received the *Alagram*

and it was read at either the group's general meeting, the group's business meeting or left on the group's table for members who wanted to read it. **Alateen:** Sandy B.'s written report is posted on the AWSC website and included in today's Assembly packet.

**Archives:** Christina M. asked for help making displays for Jal-Con. The displays will be created at a working meeting to be held in late June or early July. Members are also needed to assist picking up the archives from the storage unit, dropping them off at Jal-Con, setting them up and breaking them down. Members who are available to help, please contact Christina.

**Literature:** Susan H.'s written report is posted on the AWSC website and included in today's Assembly packet.

**Public Outreach:** The coordinator position is still open. Jeannie M. set up a Public Outreach (PO) display table and rack containing Al-Anon literature to demonstrate to members how the literature is exhibited at conventions. Angela V. followed up on an invitation from the Girl Scouts to inform them about Al-Anon. Thank you to Assembly and North Jersey Information Services (NJIS) for providing literature to the Girl Scouts. 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. PO will pay two thousand dollars (\$2K) in rental fees to New Jersey Transit to have the posters displayed. Each poster will be displayed for at least a month. If another organization does not subsequently rent the space, the Al-Anon poster will remain indefinitely. Al-Anon groups and districts are asked to sponsor a poster by making a \$150 donation to Assembly. All posters will be the same design. Question: Are groups allowed to donate money to Assembly just to be used for Al-Anon posters? Answer: It is not considered to be delegating funds. Comment: Some groups are combining to make a donation to sponsor an Al-Anon poster.

**Website:** Kalpana K.'s written report is posted on the AWSC website and included in today's Assembly packet

**DISTRICT REPORTS**

**District #4 Passaic/North Morris:** Robin C. reported the Group Representative (GR) from the Tuesday Night Passaic Alateen is Emma F. and she will be a speaker at the West Milford AA Day of Sharing with Al-Anon participation. The district received a great response to its public outreach mailings to doctors, lawyers, police departments and other organizations. The Substance Awareness Coordinators (SAC) from the high schools have been in touch asking for more information about Al-Anon.

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

### **LIAISONS**

**Jal-Con:** Lois reported the New Jersey Al-Anon convention (Jal-Con) will be July 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Thus far, registrations are down from past years and it may be due to distributing the registration forms too early to the groups. There will be a gift raffle again this year at the convention and member groups are being asked to donate a gift basket or gift cards.

### **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 are openings on the NJIS Steering Committee including a need for a treasurer and a vice chair. As long as they remain in business, NJIS will continue to sell literature at all Assembly meetings. The next Informational Service Representatives (ISR) meeting is in July. Comment:

Members can contact any of the officers on the Steering Committee and they will provide all the financial information. Comment: More members need to step up to do service for NJIS. Comment: Some members have volunteered to do service for NJIS and they've been turned away. Question: What will happen to the groups who order their literature from NJIS if NJIS closes? Question: Is it appropriate to have two Informational Services Centers in one Area? Question: Why isn't New Jersey's one Informational Services Center? Comment: 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 Information Services (SJIS):**

Sheila B. reported SJIS is a Literature Distribution Center and Al-Anon Information Service (AIS). They have a new secretary. Rich did a presentation on "Being There for Beginners". Kate O. started a four meeting beginners series at Princeton House. There will be a link to order the Newcomers/Beginner's Packet for meetings. Cost will be about \$20. Comment:

Newcomers/Beginner's meeting packet is a binder for the group. It is different from the traditional newcomer's packet that is given to new members.

**Spanish Intergroup:** Mirta S. reported the Latino Al-Anon/Alateen Convention will start Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> and run the whole weekend. Hopefully, members will support the convention by attending. The members from Brazil will be doing a presentation for the Portuguese members. As a public outreach campaign there was a written list of approximately forty-six (46) organizations and businesses that were given Al-Anon literature.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Minutes of Assembly March 1, 2014:** Motion to approve by Robin C. and seconded by Pam. Vote: Approved=25 Opposed=0 Abstained=1

**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 gave suggestions on redrafting the Policy Manual already.

**Public Outreach Awareness:** Jeannie M. made a plea to the members at Assembly for someone to volunteer to be the Public Outreach Coordinator. 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 asked Assembly members to please go back to their local groups and announce that Public Outreach needs a coordinator. She 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 17<sup>th</sup> Rain or Shine from noon until sunset at Holmdel Park, Hilltop picnic area. Tickets were available for members to sign for and take back to sell to the local group members who want to attend.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Audit:** Angela V. answered questions on the 2013 audit and the written 2013 Audit Report. Paul G. made a motion to approve the 2013 audit and it was seconded by Tim S. Vote: In Favor=26 Opposed=0 Abstained=0

### **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: Comment: My sponsor said when I got busy I got better. Comment: I purchased the publication *When I Got Busy I Got Better*. Comment: Have a Conference Approved Literature (CAL) tool box. Comment: Group Representative meeting was a good idea. Comment: When contacted by the Branchburg group, there was not a resource to go to. There is a need for a database of speakers etc. Comment: Perform an Al-Anon skit in public with distribution of CAL literature. Comment: If there was a database, it will be easier to get Al-Anon Member In Alateen Service (AMIAS) members and speakers. The prerequisites to becoming an AMIAS are: (1) Twenty-five (25) years old (2) Two years in Al-Anon (3) Take the AMIAS training (4) Go through background check. Comment: Doing a skit was a great experience. Comment: A prior Public Outreach Coordinator previously passed out a list of members who were willing to be speakers.

**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:** No questions were submitted.

**Motion to Close:** Tim S. made the motion at 2:30 pm and Christina M. seconded it. Unanimous agreement to close.

Minutes Submitted by  
Katie O., Recording Secretary