

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY MINUTES --- JUNE 6, 2015

Paul G. called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. There was a moment of silence and then a reciting of the Serenity Prayer. Members read the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts of Service and the General Warranties of the Conference.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Chairperson: Paul G. welcomed new Group Representatives (GRs) and thanked the Al-Anon World Service Committee (AWSC) members for their hard work. Paul 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). An Al-Anon member may not also be a member of AA and be in the Delegate position. Rich thanked the groups and members who sent cards and love gifts to him while he was at the 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 PowerPoint presentation on the WSC. The presentation included "thought forces" and "task forces". There was a thought force at WSC entitled "*Create Strategies to Show Spiritual Connection of Being a Registered Group*". Soon Al-Anon E-Communities will change to AFGConnects. Other discussions at WSC were the allowance of memorial gifts, answering why Alateen meetings aren't well attended and the *Meet the Board Event*. World Service Office (WSO) has an ample financial reserve that it had to use some of this year to meet expenses. About fifty-two percent of New Jersey groups contribute to the WSO. The "Big Question" is how do we envision responsible service leadership in Al-Anon? WSC reported there were nine TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) events. The results from the *2015 Membership Survey* were announced. All the delegates were invited to *Stepping Stones* which is now a national historic landmark.

Alternate Delegate: Ann Z. stated District #20 *Mercer County East* volunteered to bring the buffet for the next Assembly in November. She thanked District #27 *Atlantic & Cape May Counties* for bringing the buffet to today's Assembly. Two baskets were passed (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. The *Forum* subscriptions only pays for its printing and postage. Ann 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 AWSC meetings each year and for the three Assembly meetings each year. The meetings are planned by coordinating with the Fire Academy.

Treasurer: Angela V. reported

Assembly's Balance Sheet is as follows:

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

All of the 2015 Calendars are sold. Angela described the Treasurer's position as mainly having the same responsibilities as those for home finances. Responsibilities also include attending six meetings a year and preparing a balance sheet. The treasurer helps prepare the Annual Budget and gets members together for the Annual Audit.

Recording Secretary: Katie O. posted the minutes from the March Assembly to the AWSC website in May. The minutes are voted on after lunch. Katie 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. As soon as possible after the meetings the recording secretary's notes are transcribed and posted to the AWSC website. As soon as the Assembly's minutes are approved by Assembly, they are posted to its website, www.nj-al-anon.org.

Corresponding Secretary/Group Records

Coordinator: Millie H. reported new meetings, changes to meetings and inactive meetings are listed in the June Assembly Packet. Members were asked to tell Millie if they know of any Al-Anon meetings that do not meet anymore. Millie described her position as a combined position of Corresponding Secretary and Area Group Records Coordinator. There are guidelines for the position and one of the responsibilities is updating the records for the WSO. Through her position, Millie's met incredible people and made great friendships

THOUGHT FORCE: TO INCREASE AREA

FUNDING: Angela V. gave the PowerPoint presentation for the committee. Comment: To increase basket donations at meetings there should be a sign in the basket stating what the donations are used for. Comment: Modern technology should be used for members to make donations by phone. Comment: Some groups are struggling to pay rent and buy literature. Comment: 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 about four weeks ago and each group should have received a copy via its Contact Mailing Address (CMA) member. The latest edition contained a questionnaire on insurance for the local groups. The *Alagram* is posted to Assembly's website, nj-al-anon.org.

Alateen: Sandy B. was absent. Please see her report 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. Comment: Alateen loved the displays.

Literature: Susan H. stated everything contained in her report is from World Service. There aren't any

Al-Anon chat rooms. There is an Alateen chat room on the official Al-Anon website which requires registration and is only held at specific times with an AMIAS monitoring it. Al-Anon does not have 12 Promises. The only national official website for Al-Anon is either www.al-anon.org or www.al-anon.alateen.org. Please visit the website. *Many Voices One Journey* is a must have for Group Representatives (GRs).

Public Outreach: Karen T. reported the New Jersey Transit Poster has been a fabulous project. There have not been any Al-Anon public service announcements played in New Jersey. There is a plan to do a public service announcement project. A lot of newcomers didn't come to Al-Anon because of the train posters. The treatment facility in Branchburg wants an Al-Anon member to run a meeting there.

Website: Kalpana K.'s was absent. Please see her report in the June Assembly Packet.

THOUGHT FORCE: CONSIDER AREA

LEADERSHIP: Donna S. and Ann Z. gave the PowerPoint presentation. Question: Why don't you have a tab "Sign-Up for Service" on Assembly's website? Answer: This is a "thought force" not a "task force". Comment: A long time member should work with a new member before a new member takes a service position. Comment: The prior coordinator for my position was always there for me. Comment: South Jersey Informational Services (SJIS) 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. Love gifts were sent by some groups in her district for the WSC. 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 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. The cost of the “early bird rate” has gone down. Jal-Con needs trustees in order to hold its annual meeting. Only three groups sent a Jal-Con Representative (JR) to the annual meeting. The trustees meet nine times a year. Sue A. is the program chairperson. There is an Alateen donation card so Alateen members may attend the convention for free. Some groups pass a separate basket for donations to pay for Alateen members to go to the convention.

North Jersey Information Services (NJIS): Mike G. absent. Please see his report in the June Assembly Packet.

South Jersey Information Services (SJIS): Marie B. reported the first quarterly Informational Service Representative (ISR) meeting had to be held via email. Dave is the new webmaster. There are three board of trustee members. They are hoping to use new technology for having meetings. SJIS participated in the AA Area 45 Convention in March. They’ve been trying to get members from local meetings to come to SJIS. The Fall Luncheon will be Saturday, September 26th. Tickets can be gotten from SJIS’s website two weeks before.
Comment: SJIS has sent out an email about Jal-Con.

Intergruppal Espanol: Mirta S. reported there’ll be a function June 19th – June 21st at St. Mary’s in Passaic. It will be posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Picnic: Stacey P. reported there will be six speakers. Members are asked to bring food. There are flyers and tickets (for selling) to take to member groups. Checks may be made payable to New Jersey Assembly, Inc.

NEW BUSINESS

Minutes of Assembly March 7, 2015: Correction: Under Public Outreach, it should say Public Outreach members ~~Karen~~ attended the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) . . . and they’ll ~~she~~ attend. Leah P. motioned to approve the minutes and Mary S. seconded. Vote: Approved=36 Opposed=0 Abstained=0

2014 Audit Report: The audit was held April 11th. Please see the recommendations in the report. 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. Motion: Table the discussion on liability insurance. Vote: In Favor=Majority.

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 AA especially when there is an infiltration of AA members at the 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. Comment: There is a pamphlet on the subject. Comment: Cooperation with AA only means when AA needs an Al-Anon speaker. Comment: One member’s meeting put in its preamble that members in AA should remain anonymous. Question #5: May individual members send contributions to the WSO? Answer: Yes. Question #6: Why isn’t the Executive Director at WSO rotated? Answer: The service manual gives the history. Rotation applies to local groups. WSO board members can be hired or fired. 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.

Motion to Close: Unanimous agreement to close.

Minutes Submitted by
Katie O., Recording Secretary