

# NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY MINUTES --- MARCH 7, 2015

Chairperson, Paul G. called the meeting to order at 10:02 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. reported the new Policy Handbook is a draft. It was added to the Agenda. He's been holding conference calls. Paul asked "how are we doing"?

**Delegate:** Rich M. thanked the group representatives (GRs) and district representatives (DRs) for their service. The theme for this year's World Service Conference is *Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding Our Vision*. At the November Assembly, members were asked to vote which definition they preferred for "Family Recovery".

**Alternate Delegate:** Ann Z. thanked District #25 *Camden County/ Northwestern Gloucester County* for bringing the buffet. For the June Assembly, District #27 *Atlantic County/Cape May County* will bring the buffet. In 2015 only 150 calendars were printed because sales have been declining over the years. Ann participated in a great conference call on leadership. She's continually trying to increase subscriptions to *The Forum*.

**Treasurer:** Angela V. reported Assembly's Balance Sheet is as follows:

Open Checkbook Balance	1-1-15	\$ 6,686.42
Income		\$ 2,205.99
Expenses		<u>\$ 2,334.92</u>

**Ending Check Balance 2-26-15 \$ 6,557.49**

Open Savings Balance	1-1-15	\$16,573.58
Interest Earned		<u>.70</u>

**Ending Savings Balance 2-26-15 \$16,574.28**

**TOTAL \$23,131.77**

Net income for 2014 was \$402.43. Angela is trying to schedule the 2014 Audit. The train posters project raised \$3,350. The picnic raised \$510. The

term "ample reserve" needs to be examined and whether Assembly is complying with it.

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

## Corresponding Secretary/Group Records

**Coordinator:** Millie H. reported World Service Office (WSO) has six NJ groups that are on "No Mail Status" and seven NJ groups that are on the "Bounced Email Status". All members are asked to take the 2015 Al-Anon membership survey. Please go to the World Service Office's website [www.al-anon.alateen.org/members](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members). The password is the name of your home group followed by the letters afg. Under the Individuals tab > Surveys for Members > 2015 Al-Anon Family Membership Survey and complete the survey. Groups use the Al-Anon Registration/Group Records Change Form, WSO Form GR-1 to register. Form GR-1 has been revised to include a group's email address. World Service Office is asking all meeting groups to have an email address. A suggested group email address for your group is: njafg followed by your group's WSO #, and appropriate domain e.g.

njafg12345678@gmail.com. A complete list of all NJ meeting changes will be available at the June Assembly

## THOUGHT FORCE USING TECHNOLOGY:

Kalpna K.'s presentation on the Technology Thought Force is in the March Assembly Packet on pages 31-34. A discussion followed the presentation debating anonymity and some of the social media sites e.g. YouTube and Facebook. Video conferencing was also discussed. One of the goals of the Technology Thought Force is to have a Volunteer Database that lists members who are willing to donate their skills. A member would need to oversee the database. Members who signed up to receive the *Alagram* via their personal email account, will receive a notice reminder when the current issue of the *Alagram* is available. The

*Alagram* will not be sent to personal email accounts as an attachment because of virus threats.

**Alagram:** Katie O. asked and an overwhelming number of members responded that their group had received the hard copy of the winter edition of the *Alagram*. The winter edition of the *Alagram* and prior editions are posted to Assembly's website, [nj-al-anon.org](http://nj-al-anon.org) where all members, potential members and the public have access.

**Alateen:** Sandy B. reported there was an Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service (AMIAS) training in Beachwood, NJ. The Alateen Area Processing Person is a big help. Members need to volunteer and start to participate to learn about AMIAS so they can take over when the current volunteers' terms in office are finished. Comment: There appears to be AMIAS training but there are not a lot of Alateen members. Comment: Getting the kids to come to Alateen meetings is challenging because they have so many competing activities.

**Archives:** Christina M. reported the displays are at today's meeting. They will be going to the Area AA Convention. One goal is to have the displays going around the State of New Jersey. Christina's term is over in December so a member will need to take over as Coordinator.

**Literature:** Susan H. was absent. Her report was included in the March Assembly Packet.

**Public Outreach:** Karen T. reported there are 45 Al-Anon posters in 26 NJ train stations. Twenty-six posters are still up. There has been a great response. Hopefully, the posters will eventually be on buses and shopping carts. Karen attended the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) convention in November and she'll attend the New Jersey Prevention Network Conference. Public Outreach has been contacted numerous times and asked to provide a member to speak about Al-Anon. Smaller versions of the train posters are available for groups to purchase for either \$1 or \$2. The smaller posters can be hung on community bulletin boards at libraries, shopping centers, schools, churches etc. The local group's meeting information can be added to the bottom of the smaller posters.

**Website:** Kalpana K. reported Assembly's website traffic appears to have gone up drastically in September because a search engine feature was

added. One goal is to make Assembly's website ([nj-al-anon.org](http://nj-al-anon.org)) responsive on mobile devices.

Members can send a flyer/announcement for posting to Assembly's website via [www.nj-al-anon.org/contact-us/](http://www.nj-al-anon.org/contact-us/). They can also send an email to an AWSC members via [www.nj-al-anon.org/contact/](http://www.nj-al-anon.org/contact/). Please spread Assembly's website address at group meetings.

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

**District #2 Morris County:** Pam C. reported they have gone to the heads of the student counseling centers at the colleges in District #2 to inform them about Al-Anon.

### **District #4 Passaic County/North Morris:**

Robin C. reported there is an effort to combine District #4 and District #6 Bergen County South. The Group Representatives (GRs) in her district do the work. District #4 is in the process of contacting 800 organizations and providing them with Al-Anon information. They've had an overwhelming positive response back. Comment: There is a mistake on the Al-Anon logo on page 45 of the March Assembly Packet. District #4 has produced business cards that include all the local group meetings, their day, their time and address.

## **LIAISONS**

**Jal-Con:** Leslie H. reported this year's convention theme is *40 Years of Love*. The convention is July 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Edison Hotel. June 15<sup>th</sup> is the early bird pricing deadline. There will be a credit card payment option available. There's a need for members to volunteer for the planning committee. Jal-Con is asking NJ group meetings to donate a gift basket for the raffle.

### **North Jersey Information Services (NJIS):**

Mike G. reported the Informational Service Representatives (ISRs) meeting was moved up a day because of venue availability.

### **South Jersey Information Services (SJIS):**

Marie B. reported the Board of Trustees is looking for a Vice Chairperson. Donation and Literature Sales have been good. SJIS is in the process of upgrading its computer, hardware and software. A new venue for the ISR meetings is sought. The Fall Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. The SJIS website needs to be upgraded. There is a desperate need for a member to work the literature table.

**Spanish Intergroup (SIG):** There is a new email address: intergrouplatinonj@gmail.com. There is a new Al-Anon meeting in Paterson called Esperanze. SIG hosted the first international convention for Spanish speaking members called First Iberoamericana Convention. Members from many states and South American countries attended. The convention was translated into English, Portuguese and French.

**DISCUSSION AREA HIGHLIGHTS:** Rich M. will be describing at the *2015 World Service Conference* (WSC) what activities New Jersey Al-Anon has been doing; the NJ Transit Train Poster Project, Liability Insurance to cover all meetings held in NJ, Revision of the NJ Assembly Policy Manual, the various NJ Assembly Thought Forces and Task Forces, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jal-Con, the first Latino Al-Anon/Alateen Convention, and the Picnic.

**TASK FORCE USING “WHEN I GOT BUSY I GOT BETTER”:** Paul G. led the discussion for Sue H. The goal is to encourage members to do service. A guideline entitled “*Carrying the Message*” was put together for groups to use as a six meeting series. The meetings implement the principles from “*When I Got Busy I Got Better*” and other Conference Approved Literature (CAL). Question: Can we make the guideline into a handy dandy booklet? Question: Can groups go through the lists on the guidelines and pick out one as a meeting topic? Comment: Groups can use one of the guideline topics with the daily readers. Question: Can it be put on Assembly’s website? Answer: No because it’s a public website and NJ Assembly doesn’t speak for all of Al-Anon. Comment: Eventually, when there is a members’ only website, the guidelines could be put there.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Policy Manual Revision:** Rich M. stated the old Policy is still on Assembly’s website. The committee is still in the process of drafting the new Policy Manual. Comment: The two policy manuals are on the website in order to allow members to compare the old one to the new one and make comments. The committee will try to schedule a meeting before the next Assembly. Comments: The old Policy Manual listed motions as old as 1997 and now there is an effort to incorporate them into the text of the new manual. If there is any disagreement

with the new Policy Manual, it should be brought to AWSC then Assembly.

**Election Clarity:** Paul G. stated there will be an informative discussion to define the elections.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Minutes of Assembly November 7, 2014:**

Millie H. motioned to approve and Pam seconded.

Vote: Approved=40 Opposed=0 Abstained=1

**Assembly Inventory:** Paul G. handed out a series of questions at the last Assembly and asked members to respond. There were 48 submitted responses. Comment: Make the answers to the questions on a scale of 1-10. Comment: It was surprising how many members don’t know what a service sponsor is. Comment: The Fire Academy facility may not have the bandwidth to broadcast live the Assembly meetings.

**Picnic:** District #16 *Monmouth County Northwest* is planning to host it on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Ask It Basket:** Question #1: Is there a list of online discussion meetings? Answer: Go to WSO’s website [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org) >How to Find a Meeting or Electronic Meeting List. Question #2: A regular member continues to talk about other members outside of the meetings *i.e.* sharing names and confidentialities. What should be done? Suggestion: Use the Al-Anon Closing as a topic of discussion for the meeting. Question #3: If there is a picnic can it be only on the problem of alcoholism?

Suggestion: The Service Manual asks that Al-Anon meetings are to be on the problem of alcoholism.

Question #4: If a member has to sign up to be a public outreach speaker for an organization, isn’t that breaking anonymity? Answer: If there isn’t any press than “no”. The language says “anonymity” at the level of “press, radio, TV and films.” Comment: At the Convention in Vancouver, members were asked not to take pictures of other members and post them on social media. Comment: Public Outreach should ask people to turn off all recording devices. Question #5: There is only one man at one of the meetings. He feels alone. What can be done?

Suggestion: Please give him the pamphlet “Al-Anon is for Men.” and welcome all members.

**Motion to Close:** Donna S. made the motion and Susan G. seconded it. Unanimous agreement to close.

Minutes Submitted by  
Katie O., Recording Secretary