

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY MINUTES –NOVEMBER 7, 2015

Paul G. called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM. Members recited the Serenity Prayer and then read the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts of Service and the General Warranties of the Conference. All new Group Representatives (GRs) and District Representatives (DRs) were welcomed. Al-Anon's new policy on dual membership was read. "Al-Anon's policy is that members who are also members of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) do not serve as Group Representative (GR), District Representative (DR), Area Delegate, World Service Conference member, alternate to any of these service positions, or on any committee of the World Service Office". Al-Anon's new policy on dual membership is available for download.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Chairperson: Paul G. thanked Assembly for allowing him to serve. Paul read his report.

Delegate: Rich M. said it's been an honor and pleasure to serve Assembly and it's been a busy three years. Having Tim S. as his service sponsor was a great advantage. Rich referenced a letter from the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters. The letter is asking members to identify ways the World Service Office (WSO) can save money.

Alternate Delegate: Ann Z. thanked District #20/#21 *Mercer County East & West* for bringing the buffet. District #4 *Passaic & North Morris* volunteered to bring the buffet for the next Assembly in March 2016. The Alternate Delegate position requires attendance at meetings throughout New Jersey. Ann was able to split attendance at the meetings with Rich M. The Alternate Delegate is responsible for scheduling the AWSC meetings and the Assembly meetings at the Fire Academy. Today there was a miscommunication because the cafeteria needs to be reserved as well as the large conference room for Assembly meetings. The Alternate Delegate is also the World

Service Office (WSO) coordinator for the *Forum* subscriptions. The 2016 Calendars are available for purchase.

Treasurer: Angela V. reported

Assembly's Balance Sheet is as follows:

Open Checkbook Balance 1-1-15	\$ 6,686.42
Income	\$ 10,718.77
Expenses	<u>\$ 13,070.68</u>
Ending Check Balance 10-24-15	\$ 4,334.51
Open Savings Balance 1-1-15	\$16,573.58
Interest Earned	<u>6.19</u>
Ending Savings Balance 10-24-15	\$16,579.77
TOTAL	\$20,914.28
Net Loss	(\$2,345.72)

The checkbook balance listed on the balance sheet is the dollar amount shown in the checkbook. Since Angela's written report, the Calendar sales money was received from South Jersey Information Services (SJIS). The monthly totals of donations is shown on Angela's report. Each local groups' Contact Mailing Addressee (CMA) should have received Assembly's Fall Appeal Letter and brought the letter to the group meeting. Angela was very happy to have served as treasurer.

Recording Secretary: Katie O. thanked Assembly for allowing her to serve. She posted the minutes from the June Assembly to the AWSC website in August.

Corresponding Secretary/Group Records

Coordinator: Millie H. described the duties of the position she's held for the prior three years. There are *Conflict of Interest* forms available for all officers and coordinators who have not signed one already.

SKIT ON SERVICE: A Snow White skit entitled *Am I Too Busy to Get Better* was performed by Chichi F., Paul G. and Angela V.

DISTRICT CAUCUSING: Members were asked to join the other present members from their district to (1) elect a District Representative (DR) if their district did not already have one or (2) allow members of a

local group to decide to join an active district if their local group was in an inactive district.

COORDINATORS REPORTS:

Website: Kalpana K. asked members to please promote Assembly's website, www.nj-al-anon.org, at their home groups. Assembly's website is now available for view on cell phones. Assembly's new responsive website was rolled out in October. When viewing the website from a mobile device scroll from side to side. When viewing from a desktop scroll up and down. There is now an additional page on Assembly's website that lists various outreach service opportunities. Comment: The next Website Coordinator will be appointed by the incoming Assembly Chairperson and all members may apply for the web position.

Alagram: Katie O. sent hard copies of the autumn issue about four weeks ago and each group should have received a copy via its Contact Mailing Address (CMA) member. Enclosed in the *Alagram* was a letter from Paul G. detailing the rewording of bylaw, Article V Trustees; Section 3 Tenure. The letter was intended to give local groups 30 days' notice of the proposed bylaw change. The letter was sent with the *Alagram* to save money by not having a separate mailing. Question: How do I get a copy of the *Alagram*? Answer: Members can go to Assembly's website, www.nj-al-anon.org and download the *Alagram* or they can sign-up on Assembly's website and have the *Alagram* sent to their personal email account.

Alateen: Sandy B. said it's been three years since she asked the Chairperson for the Alateen Coordinator position. Sandy created a list of the *Top Ten Reasons to be Alateen Coordinator*. Thank you to Lynn M. who was the Alateen Processing Person and very helpful.

Archives: Christina M. thanked Assembly for letting her serve. The Archives are on display in the cafeteria. They were displayed at Jal-Con and the AA Conventions of Areas #44 and #45. Christina received a letter from a Toms River

member who had started a group in Russia but lost all of his literature in Hurricane Sandy. The member's contact information is available for any members who want to help him.

Literature: Susan H. said her service has been a great experience and given her a more spiritual program of recovery. Many Voices One Journey together with the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual are the most important books for Group Representatives (GRs). All groups should be receiving the WSO's newsletter *Group e-news* through their group email address.

Public Outreach: Karen T. reported Assembly members worked "spreading the message" at five NJ conventions in 2015 so far. Karen's learned a lot from the conventions on how to get Al-Anon's name out there. World Service reported that no radio or TV stations have played any public service announcements (PSA) in the NJ area in 2014. Karen's written report contains tables (1) listing radio stations that are willing to play the PSA and (2) radio stations that received the PSA but did not play it. The NJ Broadcasters Assoc. wants \$10,000 from Assembly to purchase \$100,000 worth of airtime to play the PSA. Another idea is to put Al-Anon's message on movie theaters' screens. More Al-Anon posters have been printed and are available for purchase for \$1 or \$2. There was a sign-up sheet passed around for members interested in doing PO service. Question: Is there a *Dear Abby Al-Anon* published online? Answer: Yes.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District #2 Morris County: Pam C., District Rep was present and her report is in today's Assembly packet.

District #4 Passaic & North Morris: Lynn M., Alternate District Rep was present.

District #16 Monmouth Northwest: Diane S., District Rep was present and reported there are 7 meetings in her district but only 4 meetings have GRs.

District #20 Mercer East & West:

Kate O., District Rep reported teens have been coming to the Al-Anon meetings because the district has been losing AMIASs so there aren't enough Alateen meetings.

District #22 Burlington: Paula E., District Rep. was present.

District #25 Camden&Northwest Gloucester:

Chichi F., District Rep was present and reported there hasn't been a district meeting in a while. Chichi is going to the group meetings.

District #27 Atlantic & Cape May: Donna S., District Rep reported the district resumed monthly meetings in September. The GRs reported their groups are doing well. Donna's term is ending and she is hoping one of the GRs will volunteer to be the new DR.

ELECTION PROCEDURE:

Proposed Change to Bylaw, Article V

Trustees; Section 3 Tenure. Motion: AWSC recommends Assembly adopt the rewording as follows: The Board shall be divided into two classes of Trustees. As provided in Article VIII, one of the Trustees will also hold one of the following offices: President (who shall also serve as Chairperson of the Board), Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, Recording Secretary (which position corresponds to the office of secretary as prescribed by the Act), and Corresponding Secretary. At each meeting of the Members at which Trustees are to be elected, each person standing for election as a Trustee shall designate the corporate office which that person will hold if elected a Trustee. The Trustees who are to hold the offices of the President (Chairperson), Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary shall comprise the class of Trustees designated as Class I and shall be elected in for a three year term at the meeting of the Members at which these Bylaws are adopted (November 2015). The Trustee who is to hold the office of Corresponding Secretary shall comprise the class of Trustees designated as Class II. At the meeting of the Members at which these Bylaws

are adopted (November 2015), the Class II Trustee (Corresponding Secretary) shall be elected for a term of two years. Thereafter, each class of Trustees shall be elected for terms of three years. Except in the case of resignation or removal pursuant to these Bylaws, each Trustee shall hold office until the expiration of his or her term and the election of his or her successor.

Trustees may serve an unlimited number of terms but cannot succeed themselves in the same corporate office if they served a full term.

Vote: In Favor=40 Opposed=0 Abstained=0

Policy Procedure: Members Who Can Stand for Officers Positions: Question: Is this

covered in the Policy Manual already? Answer: It is not in the present Policy Manual.

Discussion: AWSC's motion needs to be amended. Amended Motion: "Election eligibility for any officer position, first qualification be a current or past district representative (DR)." "If no eligible DR

candidate volunteers then the position be opened for current officers or coordinators, or past officers or coordinators who have remained active at the Assembly level." "If there are still no qualified volunteers then the position will be opened up to all members." Vote: In Favor=40 Opposed=0 Abstained=0

ELECTION PANEL 56 ASSEMBLY OFFICERS:

Terms begin January 1, 2016

Delegate: Ann Z. elected.

Chairperson: Rich M. elected.

Alt. Delegate: Candidates: Donna S. Katie O. Donna S. elected by substantial unanimity.

Treasurer: Stacey P. elected.

Recording Secretary: Barb C. elected

Corresponding Secretary: No eligible candidate stood for the position.

NEW BUSINESS

Minutes of Assembly June 6, 2015: Paula E. made Motion to Approve Sue H. seconded.

Vote: In Favor=40 Opposed=0 Abstained=0

2016 Budget: Angela V. reported the 2016 Budget has been reduced by 10% compared to

the prior year's budget. **Motion:** AWSC recommends Assembly approve the 2016 Budget. **Vote:** In Favor=39 Opposed=0 Abstained=1

LIAISONS

Jal-Con (NJ Al-Anon/Alateen Convention):

Sue H. reported she is the new Chairperson for 2016. The first planning meeting will be November 14, 2015. The Convention will be July 22nd-July 24th, 2016.

North Jersey Information Services (NJIS):

Mike G. reported the 3rd quarter of 2015 was good financially. Literature was sold at Jal-Con and at the AA Area 44 Convention and at Assembly. There was a good turnout in October for the Fall Workshop.

South Jersey Information Services (SJIS):

Marie B. reported she will no longer be the liaison to Assembly. Liz M. is the new liaison. All of the trustee positions are filled. Marj M. is the new chairperson for SJIS. The Fall Luncheon was very successful. SJIS will be going back to just two Informational Service Representative (ISR) meetings. The meetings will be utilizing phone conference calls. In March, a lot of young people came to the Area 45 AA Convention where SJIS participated.

Intergruppal Espanol: Mirta S. was thankful for her service to Assembly. Posters were purchased from the train poster project and the posters were put-up by members. Members were asked to obtain a business card from the places where they hung posters. The binder with the 300 business cards that were brought back was passed around to Assembly members. Another local group has started in Passaic.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Picnic: Stacey P. reported it was a great picnic. Members loved having more speakers. There was a recommendation for next year that there should be a topic and speakers be limited to 15 minutes.

Group Liability Insurance: Paul G. stated it needs to be resolved whether Assembly as a body can purchase liability insurance covering the local groups.

Ask It Basket: Question #1: It needs to be determined what "one meeting one vote is"?

Answer: It means when a member is a GR for more than one group meeting, the GR only has one vote in Assembly. The vote does not go by meeting; it goes by the GR. **Question #2:** Define a regularly meeting group?

Answer: The group members should reach a consensus to define it. See the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual. Ask the members who regularly attend the meeting to have a group conscience and vote to define what is "regular".

Comment: Some NJ shore towns only meet in the summer. **Question #3:**

Are there plans to redistrict the group meetings so they are aligned? **Answer:** It was brought up at the AWSC meeting and there wasn't much interest in redistricting the group meetings. The GRs would need to decide if they want to redistrict.

Question #4: How can we use *When I Got Busy I Got Better*?

Answer: Some groups have a service meeting when there is a fifth meeting in the month. The groups can use *When I Got Busy I Got Better* at their service meeting.

Question #5: One member's young adult son feels out of place at the regular Al-Anon meetings. May he start a group for young adults?

Answer: He may start the group but he needs to be careful of what the group calls itself because Al-Anon will not allow members to exclude other members. Examples of meetings that cater to certain members are Al-Anon for Men meetings and Al-Anon for Gays meetings. **Comment:** AA has meetings for members under 30 years of age.

Contact Information & Appointment of Coordinators

Coordinators: Members please send Rich M. your contact information for your new service position. Any member interested in one of the coordinator positions (Alagram, Alateen, Archives, Literature, Public Outreach or Webmaster) please send Rich your resume.

Motion to Close: Karen P. made motion and Christina M. seconded. Unanimous agreement to close.

Minutes Submitted by

Katie O., Recording Secretary