

# NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY MINUTES --- NOVEMBER 7, 2014

Chairperson, Paul G. called the meeting to order at 10:12 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 he's mainly holding "thought forces". Three thought forces came out of the last Assembly. As Al-Anon's Calendar sales are down there is now a new thought force on fundraising. Another thought force will be long term planning. An inventory will be taken at today's Assembly. Question: What is a "thought force"? Answer: A group that meets for a limited amount of time with a goal. A thought force comes before a task force.

**Delegate:** Rich M. reported he sent AWSC members a copy of the 2014 World Service Conference Summary. The hotel's storage space is limited where the 2015 World Service Conference (WSC) is being held so packages will not be accepted before April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please include the following on the address label: Rich's full name, Hold for WSC April 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, Wyndham Virginia Beach Ocean Front, 5700 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Members must put their return address on packages in case they can't be delivered. Members may also mail packages for the 2015 conference to Rich's home. The theme for the 2015 World Service Conference (WSC) is *Living Our Spiritual Principles-Expanding Our Vision*. WSC previously discussed the need to define "family recovery". The definition choices are: (1) Family recovery is a process of healing and growth from the effects of living in a family affected by someone's problem drinking. This process helps individuals to make healthier life choices, and to develop relationships that are more positive and supportive. (2) Family recovery is a process of healing and growth for family members affected by someone's drinking. This process helps these individuals make healthier life choices and develop relationships that are more positive and supportive.

**Alternate Delegate:** Ann Z. stated her written report listed the meetings she had attended. Ann had the honor of being the Spiritual Speaker at Jal-Con on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. She thanked District #4, *Passaic County/Northern Morris County* for bringing the buffet to Assembly. At the 2015 March Assembly, District #25 *Camden County/Northwestern Gloucester County* will bring the buffet. Since the calendar sales were down in 2014, there were fewer Al-Anon calendars printed for 2015. Each group is asked to purchase three calendars (1<sup>st</sup>) for the Group itself (2<sup>nd</sup>) for its Group Representative and (3<sup>rd</sup>) for its Informational Service Representative (ISR). The new *e-Forum* is available in annual and monthly subscriptions on the Nook, an app.

**Treasurer:** Angela V. reported Assembly's Balance Sheet for 2014 is as follows:

Open Checkbook Balance 1-1-14	\$6,292.28
Income	13,316.12
Expenses	-12,308.84
<b>Ending Check Balance 10-20-14</b>	<b>\$7,299.56</b>

Open Savings Balance 1-1-14	\$16,565.29
Interest Earned	6.20
<b>Ending Savings Balance 10-20-14</b>	<b>\$16,571.49</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,871.05</b>

Assembly is in the positive financially. The Donations List is in order by months and then by alphabetical order according to donor. Please review expenses made by each officer or coordinator on the Budget Current Year to ensure s/he is not over his/her budget amount.

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

## Corresponding Secretary/Group Records

**Coordinator:** Millie H. reported a list of ten groups that are on "No Mail Status" and a list of six groups that are on "Bounced EMail Status". All guidelines

are on the World Service Office (WSO) website, [anon.alateen.org](http://anon.alateen.org) and the guidelines are available for download by members. Members can simply type in their group's name or their group's WSO number followed by the letters afg. New Jersey Assembly's Treasurer keeps track of mail that is returned. Ideally the information on each group should be coordinated between the WSO, the Group Records Coordinator and the different service arms of Al-Anon.

**Alagram:** Katie O. reported all groups should be receiving a hard copy of Assembly's newsletter, the *Alagram*. The current autumn edition of the *Alagram* is posted to Assembly's website, [nj-al-anon.org](http://nj-al-anon.org) where all members and potential members have access.

**Alateen:** Sandy B. reported AMIAS is an acronym for Al-Anon Member In Alateen Service. Members must go through a background check, be trained and certified to be an AMIAS. The training runs about three hours. There was a training session recently in Basking Ridge. Another training session is scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> in Teaneck. Currently, a training session has not been scheduled for South Jersey. The qualifications to be an AMIAS are listed at the end of Sandy's written report. Question: There are five members who want to go through AMIAS training. Can there be a training session for them? Answer: Generally eight to ten members are required for a training session. Comment: Assembly should send out a flyer inviting members to become AMIASs. Comment: If members want to attend some of the AMIAS meetings, they must be certified. Comment: There seems to be more AMIASs than there are Alateen members. Comment: Members can attract Alateen members by bringing them to an Al-Anon meeting. Comment: South Jersey will be having a public outreach to attract Alateen members. Comment: After hearing the Alateen presentation at the New Jersey Teachers' Convention, four (4) high schools will now have Alateen meetings. Al-Anon has had calls from other New Jersey high schools that want to set up Alateen meetings.

**Archives:** Christina M. reported her committee produced four new displays. They were put up at Jal-Con, AA Area 44 Service Convention and at the

Pompton Plains Day of Sharing. Money to purchase a second display case was previously approved by Assembly but a transport box for the displays is needed instead. This is Christina's last year as coordinator and she could use an assistant. A future project may be on the history of Al-Anon in New Jersey.

**Literature:** Susan H. reported the 2015 Calendar is missing the February AWSC meeting date. WSO still needs written sharings for its Parents/Grandparents pamphlet. Also, WSO has only received five written sharings for its new daily reader. The task force "When I Got Busy I Got Better" is still in the organizational phase and needs two more volunteers. The task force will meet Sunday afternoons in Ocean County. The service tool *Using Al-Anon Principles to Resolve Conflicts (K-70) Kit* is available for \$9. Question: Can members phone in to attend the task force? Answer: Yes.

**Public Outreach:** Karen T. reported there are flyers regarding the New Jersey Transit Train Station Poster Project. Forty (40) Al-Anon posters will be placed at NJ train stations. The member groups have been giving money for the project. Paul G. did the artwork for the posters. Comment: Groups want to have the train posters as an ongoing project. There was a request received to have a meeting brought to a shut-in in Flemington and a group was able to oblige. More members are needed as speakers. Public Outreach will participate at the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) convention again this year. Carole M. requested an Al-Anon meeting to be started at the rehabilitation center in Branchburg. Public Outreach service arms in New Jersey are: New Jersey Assembly, North Jersey Informational Services (NJIS) and South Jersey Informational Services (SJIS). Question: Is it possible to have train posters in Spanish and English. Answer: At this time the posters are only in English. Comment: The train poster project was a game changer for Assembly. Mirta S. thank you for your idea and Kathy B. thank you for bringing it to Assembly.

**Website:** Kalpana K. did a PowerPoint presentation on how to use Assembly's website [nj-al-anon.org](http://nj-al-anon.org). Traffic has been going up. The numbers usually

change before the Assembly meeting. There are (71) seventy-one Beginner Meetings. Kalpana coordinates meeting information with the Group Records Coordinator, Millie H., and NJIS and SJIS. There was a demonstration on how to contact Kalpana as Webmaster. When contacting, please send the group's WSO # so Kalpana knows it's a legitimate Al-Anon meeting. Flyers sent to Assembly's website should not have personal information on them. They should have a generic email address. From Assembly's website members can add an event to their Google calendar or iCalendar. One feature on Assembly's website to locate meetings is the Table View; (1) go to Search (2) type in the member's town (3) the meeting should appear. If a meeting is not found then go to the Meeting Map; (1) type in the member's town (2) type in the miles the member is willing to travel (3) the meetings near the member's town will appear (4) if an exact address does not show up, it's because the meeting is at an intersection. Comment: There is a column for Beginner Meetings on the Meetings Table View page. Comment: There is a description of what a closed meeting means.

#### **LIAISONS**

**Jal-Con**: Lois reported the New Jersey Al-Anon Convention (Jal-Con) 2014 was nice and successful. The 2015 convention, July 24-26, 2015 will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an Al-Anon convention in New Jersey. Pre-convention committee meetings are held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fords, NJ. Member volunteers and participation is needed and is a great way to do service. The Jal-Con number is 1-888-796-6999. Members can leave a message. Comment: It is not possible to phone in to attend the committee meetings because the way the church is set up. Some members cannot attend meetings but do work for the Convention and attend the Convention. Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month from October to July.

**North Jersey Information Services (NJIS)**: Mike G. reported he will be the chairperson for the remaining term because the new chairperson had to step down. At the Informational Service Representatives (ISR) meeting, a decision was made to eliminate the one part-time special worker position but to retain the one full-time special

worker position. Members can get orders filled via Assembly if they call the order in a full week in advance. NJIS did not sell a lot of literature at the AA Convention in September nor at the AA Day of Sharing in October.

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

Sheila B. reported her term has ended and Marie B. reported she is the new liaison. The ISRs unanimously support the decision to recruit and appoint a South Jersey Alateen Coordinator. The trend has been that Alateen meetings are in decline. SJIS is getting ready to participate in the AA Area 45 Convention. SJIS will be holding a workshop and will continue to support Jal-Con. SJIS's website, southjerseyal-anon.org has been mainly used to find meetings.

**Spanish Intergroup**: There wasn't a report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Minutes of Assembly June 7, 2014**: Amended as follows: page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> column, line 12 strike ~~Packet~~ and enter Guideline Book; page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> column, line 14 strike ~~Packet~~ and enter Guideline Book. Motion: to approve by Peggy K. and seconded by Carole B. Vote: Approved=43 Opposed=0 Abstained=1

**Picnic**: Stacey P. reported the picnic was awesome. There were 75 attendees. Hopefully, next year the picnic will have six speakers and there will be a time change.

**Policy Manual Revision**: Rich M. reported that Kathy B. will send something out to NJ Area members by the end of November. Committee members will get it to review. The new Policy Manual should be ready by February.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2015 New Jersey Area Assembly Budget**: Angela V. reported they met in October to discuss 2015 Budget. Phone expenses are moved to the miscellaneous column and other changes were made. On the conference call for the Budget were: the Delegate, the Alternate Delegate and Robin C. was the District Representative (DR). Motion: to approve the 2015 New Jersey Area Assembly Budget made by Sue H. and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carole B. Vote: In Favor=41 Opposed=0 Abstained=2

**Election Corresponding Secretary**: Millie H. read a description of the Area Group Records Coordinator. Currently the language in the new Bylaws states the Corresponding Secretary will run for a two year term. The language should have

stated the Corresponding Secretary will run for a three year term. Motion: to table the election until after the next AWSC meeting. Vote: Unanimous to table election.

**Ask It Basket:** Question #1: Can we have a data base of Group Representatives (GRs) so we can reach them with information from WSO? Answer: Yes. There is a need to decide who will manage the database. Question #2: Does a GR have to be highly skilled with the use of a computer to be successful and informed? Answer: No. The GR doesn't have to be computer skilled but s/he or another member who can help him or her should know how to use email. Comment: As a GR, all s/he has to do is show up and do what s/he can. Question #3: Can Assembly officially encourage the establishment of Alternate Coordinators to promote continuity? Answer: It will be discussed at AWSC. Comment: The Chairperson appoints coordinators and if there was an alternate it would take authority from chairperson. Question #4: Is just the Delegate going to Stepping Stones in April? Answer: The members from the World Service Conference 2015 are making the trip in April. Rich M. will be going as he is NJ Assembly's Delegate to the Conference. Question #5: How does a slogan get approved? Answer: It would have to go through the WSO and procedures. Comment: The procedures are in Conference Approved Literature (CAL). If there is a suggested slogan send an email to the Delegate to bring to Conference. Comment: Slogans are listed in the indexes of the daily readers. Recent daily readers have newer slogans. Comment: See Many Voices One Journey. It addresses these issues. Question #6: How is a New Beginners Meeting different than a regular meeting's format? Answer: There is a description in the Service Manual pages 37-45. Comment: Google "Al-Anon meetings Beginners" and a pdf. File will come up. Comment: Princeton House has a four week beginner meetings series. Comment: St. Clare's has a beginners meeting that is just for beginners. Comment: One group does readings from How Al-Anon Works. Comment: Beginner meetings are posted on Assembly's website on the Meetings pages. Comment: Freehold has a six week beginners meeting that is not just for beginners. Comment: One group does a 4<sup>th</sup> Step meeting before a regular meeting. Comment: Some groups run a questions

and answers session for beginners after their regular meeting.

**Motion to Close**: Jesse A. made the motion and Anita seconded it. Unanimous agreement to close.

Minutes Submitted by  
Katie O., Recording Secretary