

# NEW JERSEY AREA 36 ASSEMBLY

## MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 3, 2017

Chairperson, Rich M. called the meeting to order. The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer followed by members reading the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts of Service and the General Warranties of the Conference. Rich states that the theme for the Assembly Meeting is Warranty 4: “That No Conference action ever be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy. Rich read pages 82 and 126 regarding service participation by members of Al-Anon Family Groups who are also members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Rich asked for a volunteer to take the minutes of the Assembly Meeting as the Recording Secretary had to resign. Betsy G. from the Montclair Saturday morning meeting agreed to take the minutes. She asked it if was ok to record the meeting to make it easier for her.

**Chairperson:** Rich M. welcomes everyone to the meeting and gave thanks to Paul G. for chairing the AWSC meeting in his absence. Rich asks that each officer and coordinator, with the exception of the Delegate, keep their report to 2 minutes. Rich notes that the Delegate’s report will take up most of the meeting.

**Delegate:** Ann Marie gave a detailed report on her time at the World Service Conference in April. She began her presentation as they did at every session at WSC, with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The theme of the conference was “Our members, our hope for the future”. Ann thank everyone for giving her the opportunity to serve as the NJ State Delegate, as well as for the cards and the many Love Gifts that were sent to her. Ann Marie identified the love gifts that she received and acknowledged the groups that sent them. Ann debunks the myths about the World Service Conference. She begins her presentation with an outline of the rules that are followed at the Conference. Ann presentation included open opportunities for work at World Service - Executive Director is needed; area highlights are summarized. NJ contributions to World Service up 117%;

WSC needs help in attracting members; highlights of trip to WSO, including staff and physical layout of site; WSO has flow-chart for decision making — how groups can implement changes for issues such as high-pressure sponsorship and use of non-CAL at meetings; Policy discussion on Financial Matters (4/27/17) passed 91 yes 1 no — only vote all week; Started to planning for 2023 International Convention- possible sites are Albuquerque, Denver, Seattle; 2017 is the 60th anniversary for Alateen; Policy meeting discussions guided by Tradition 4 and Warranty 4; Road Trip — You and Your Board Connect; 2018 Al-Anon Convention Update, July 6-8 in Baltimore, MD; starting 9/17, please see website [www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org](http://www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org); Policy discussion about language; motion was passed; Discussion of spiritual principles of service as a trustee; Discussion of how to use spiritual principles of Al-Anon to guide financial discussions and decision-making. Ann Marie presented at Finance Presentation; if you want material, please contact Ann Marie Z. In April 2018, WSC will be in NYC area; there will be a trip to Stepping Stones; more info to come. Ann Marie Z. asks if there are questions. Prayer for Today Discussion – Ann was able to share NJ’s group conscience and the final decision was to discontinue the discussion until more information comes to light.

One question about how to distinguish if retreats/workshops/events are Al-Anon approved. Thanks for report and service

**Alternate Delegate:** Donna S. reported that she participated in the 2016 Financial Audit. The Audit Committee’s findings and determination of the 2017 Ample Reserve have been posted to the Yahoo site and will be discussed later in the day. A request for availability of the Fire Academy for AMIAS training was submitted and the use application was filed and approved for Sunday April 23, Sunday May 21 and Saturday June 17. Thanks District 19 for bringing the refreshments for the June Assembly and asks for a volunteer to bring the refreshments for the November Assembly meeting. \$55 will be reimbursed. Mary F. from District 27 volunteered. An Ask it Basket and 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Basket are being passed around.

**Treasurer::** Audrey G. reports as of 3-31-17

Checkbook Balance	\$ 5,123.18
Savings Account Balance	<u>16,592.23</u>
Total	<u>\$ 21,715.41</u>
Total Income	\$ 4,482.79
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 4,907.85</u>
Net Loss of	\$ (425.06)

**Recording Secretary:** There is no Recording Secretary. The minutes from the March Assembly meeting were taken by Carol Ann T. and posted to the Yahoo site.

**Corresponding Secretary:** position is open- Millie reported that not all groups have a group email address; this should be corrected. Directs attention to NJ assembly website. If you need help, contact Millie through the Assembly website.

**Alagram:** Position is open - Donna S. reports that the Spring Alagram was sent out May 12; need a volunteer to handle.

**Alateen:** Sue C. Alateen will be represented at JalCon

**Archives:** Position is open

**Literature:** Kathy B. reports that she needs dates and photos for the 2018 calendar. So far she has not received any. Kathy provided an update of literature news: Sharings still needed. The Literature Committee has received enough sharings to proceed with developing introductory text for intimacy book and the parents/grandparents pamphlet. However, more sharings are needed for the new daily reader. Forum Article or Daily Reader Sharing—What’s the Difference? The “Inside Al-Anon Family Groups” article in the January issue of The Forum addressed the difference between writing a sharing for The Forum and writing for a daily reader. If you are still wondering what the difference is, please read the attached article and pass it on! Paths to Recovery Workbook (P-93), which was introduced in January has been so well received that it has already gone into a second printing. CAL Sample Chapter: Each quarter we post a Sample Chapter of Conference Approved Literature on both the Public Outreach site, [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org) and the Members’ site, [www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members). The Sample Chapter for April through June will be From Survival to Recovery (B-21). From July through September it will be Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses (B-29).

Sharings needed for “CAL Corner”: We always need more sharings about how CAL has helped members with their recovery. Please submit your message. Articles about Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses (B-29), Alateen’s 4th Step Inventory (P-64), Hope for Today (B-27), and The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage (B-4) are needed. Please see the writing guideline for “CAL Corner” in the Guidelines in the member’s website.

**Public Outreach:** Karen P. reports that she has been a little busy with Public Outreach since the March Assembly meeting. March 10th we had an Al-Anon table at Manchester High School in Manchester at their event for the evening an obstacle course with students and teachers. There were other vendors sponsoring programs for Drugs and Alcohol. On April 28<sup>th</sup> we attend the NJPN ( New Jersey Prevention Network) their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Addition Conference at the Convention Center in Atlantic City. Carole M. and I manned the table for Al-Anon. There was over 1200 attendee at the conference and we gave out plenty of literature. Since we are a program of attraction rather than promotion, by sitting out a basket with candy attracted quite a few attendees. April 30<sup>th</sup>-May 2, 2017 we attended the National Associates of Social Works at the Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City. We gave out a lot of literature and answered questions about Al-Anon and meetings in New Jersey. Since this was the second year that I was able to attend both events we talked to quite a few people who remembered us from last year. It is always nice to see a familiar face. Some attendees who have attended Al-Anon meetings thanked us for our volunteer service. Please inform members that the WSO is now accepting orders for the new Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2018 magazines. Orders must be received by WSO by 9/1/17. The AFA 2018 issue features a redesigned cover, which incorporates suggestions received from the fellowship: •New master head (“Help and Hope for Families and Friends of Alcoholics”) emphasizes the purpose of the magazine •Less prominent placement of the AFA title and year publication.

**Website:** Angela reported on Website Traffic and indicated that there are four major areas tracked: *Unique Visitors:* the approximate number of different people to reach the website, tracked by IP

*Address Number of Visits:* a new visit is a connection to the website who has not connected the previous 60 minutes. *Pages:* the number of times a page is viewed. Only counts pages, not images or files. *Hits:* the number of times a page, image, or file is viewed or downloaded. She also reported that the Domain Name Registration was renewed and Transferred on 4/13/17 Website Hosting was transferred on 4/18/17. Benefits of moving our domain name and hosting: The domain is safe and with a trusted company The domain name is owned and controlled by NJ Al-Anon Assembly Peace of Mind with daily backups and restore option 24/7 Customer Support Developmental Website -- for website changes before publishing on the Production Site -- password protected Meeting Page has updated meeting information

### **DISTRICT REPORTS**

**District #3 Hunterdon/Warren Counties:** Katie O. Our recent district meeting was held on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Washington (Warren County). The following local groups were represented, Alpha, Flemington Noon, Frenchtown Noon, Hampton, and Washington. We have distributed all of our business cards to the local meetings. We hope to have our second printing of business cards completed during July. The members from the four meetings that are in Warren County but are currently in District #1 seem reluctant to move into District #3. Some members have told me they live in either Pennsylvania, Sussex County or Morris County and they feel moving their meeting to another district just to be in the same county as other local meetings isn't important. After District #3 gets permission from them, any of the local groups currently listed in District #1 that are in Warren County, can be listed on the second printing of the business cards. District #3 feels it's important to have all of the meetings in Hunterdon and Warren counties listed on the card. We have distributed one hundred pamphlets of "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2017" to local meetings asking members to help us continue our public outreach project of providing the pamphlets to local organizations *e.g.* police departments, hospitals, AA meetings and treatment centers. Surprisingly, some doctors' offices have refused to allow us to leave a pamphlet.

Our annual appeal letter has been hand delivered to all the local groups. Many groups made donations the 1<sup>st</sup> fiscal quarter but only two groups made donations the 2nd fiscal quarter. We held our annual "Getting to Know You", Potluck Luncheon/Silent Auction on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a beautiful day enjoyed by all. This year there was an Al-Anon speaker, an Alateen speaker and an AA speaker. They graciously shared their stories of recovery and healing with us. There were \$101 raised through the Silent Auction and \$155 in door donations. Thank you to all who attended, contributed and helped to set-up and clean-up. In May, I attended my first Alateen meeting in Clinton. I'll continue attending, on a rotating basis, the local group meetings. Our next district meeting will be Friday, September 29th.

**District #4** –Millie - A District meeting is in the planning stages. The District will continue our annual Public Outreach mailing. Copies of AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM 2017 have been received at a cost of \$190.00; business cards and pamphlets will be ordered. The treasury is currently at \$820.63. The District sent pens for Love Gifts this year. They were ordered from Pensexpress.com at a cost of \$103.53. The Delegate told me they went like hotcakes. District 4 has ten Groups: Butler, Hewitt, Pompton Lakes, Pompton Plains, Ringwood, Vernon (2), Wayne (2) and West Milford. Only five of these have GRs. Only five have a Group email addresses. Current Mailing Addresses (CMA)

One group has a PO Box

Three groups the GR is CMA

Six groups the CMA is the meeting location.

**District #16 Monmouth Northwest:** Diane S.- District 16 held a "Blue Shoe" event in February and our main objective was to get people together to enjoy a day of Al-Anon meetings, the story of Lois and her blue shoe, and give people an overview of Public Outreach. We had a viewing of the DVD "Lois Remembers", a skit provided by Kate O., a guest speaker, Kate O., who spoke about her experience with Public Outreach, and 4 meetings on the topics of our Twelfth Step Work. The day was successful and our attendees generously supported the event. We had about 40 people who came and many donated food, water, and contributed monetarily which added @ \$250 dollars for District 16's Public Outreach projects.

In a follow-up meeting held on April 19th the GR's were given packets to share with their groups on several different ways to do Public Outreach projects. They can bring these packets back to their groups to share the ideas and generate some feedback as to which groups would like to take on a project, during a special business meeting. Some of the ideas included a letter writing campaign for professionals using the Open Letters found on the website along with the wallet card and a simple piece of Al-Anon literature; and distribution of the AFA pamphlets to community agencies.

**Districts #20/#21 Mercer East & West:** Kate O.- We held our most recent District Meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017. After bringing up general information, we spent our time discussing our outreach plans, distributing our materials, and discussing another district unity day. We have Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2017 with our District Meeting List attached, and our new District business cards. We will place AFA at locations for general distribution, and give our business cards to physicians and our local police departments who can offer them to people they encounter who may need us. We have donated Al-Anon books and pamphlets to Womanspace in Lawrenceville in an effort to establish an ongoing relationship with the organization. One of our GRs had a table with Al-Anon materials at a local Community Fair in April. We decided to hold our second District Unity Event this October in Hamilton. Our GRs are scouting locations. Our Alateen AMIAS' have decided to make efforts to grow their group. They are reaching out to the local schools before summer break with the goal of increasing Alateen membership. The groups that lead our Princeton House Beginner meeting promote Alateen to those who have children in the age group. We are distributing a flyer to as many of our district's Al-Anon and AA meetings as possible to encourage membership, and making efforts to have our meetings' host churches place a notice about Alateen in their bulletins or websites. We are reaching out to libraries to post our flyer and asking local media to do the same. The District is doing what it can to help Alateen succeed.

Our next District Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 13th.

**District #19:** Mary announce the picnic for August 6<sup>th</sup> at Turkey Swamp Park; please take flyers and tickets. \$5 – advance sales are preferred.

### **LIAISONS**

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

Mike G. The financial position of the office has been shored up over the last few months, bolstered by stronger book sales, including the new title; higher member contributions; and a rebate from the federal government for our employee's health care, purchased through the exchange. As of the end of April, we are now \$829 in the black for the year to date, which is a nice change. On May 2, 2017, our Public Outreach chair attended a Health Fair in Hillsdale, met with many other NJ area health professionals, and distributed Al-Anon literature.

At the last NJ Assembly, we sold \$795 worth of literature to the gathered GR's and other attendees, an NJIS record for sales at Assembly. A local Montclair group sponsored a spring dance to support the North Jersey Information office. NJIS did not organize this event. It took place May 20 at First Lutheran Church in Montclair.

**South Jersey Information Services (SJIS):** Marj M. reports the need for more ISR's to step up and they are trying to figure out how to get more teens.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**2016 Financial Audit and determination of ample reserve for 2017.** – Donna S. presented the results of the 2016 financial audit and the determination of the ample reserve for 2017.

**MOTION:** The Audit Committee recommends to the Assembly that the 2016 Audit Report be approved as submitted. **MOTION PASSED 33-0.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Approve Minutes from March Assembly Meeting:**

The minutes begin on page 42 of the package. Comment: page 46 revise Anagram to read Alagram; page 42 hyphens should come out;

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the minutes with revisions. Minutes approved: 32-0.

**Technology Task Force:** Monica – met 2 weeks ago to figure out how to stream this meeting using SKYPE, Go To Meeting, etc. – if there are any recommendations, please let Monica know. Need to do some research about what the meeting room can support.

**Redistricting:** Millie reports nothing has been done.

**New position, answering email** Tim S. — reports discussion of putting together a Thought Force to figure out the job description. Comment: Carol moves that this discussion be tabled until the next AWSC. Consensus.

**Recording Secretary:** Rich M. announces the need for a Recording Secretary.

**Alateen Trainers:** Need Alateen trainers

#### **ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS:**

Question: Some people come to our meetings for help with drug addiction. Why don't we just change the format & wording? Response: Karen P. suggests answering this on a one-on-one basis. Keep focus of Al-Anon on Al-Anon and families of alcoholics.

Carol suggests putting this issue on next meeting agenda. Question: Aster asks about the practice of reading all the Tradition at every meeting instead of just the Tradition on the month. Response: Rich M. replies that all groups are autonomous. Question:

Can you give us more info on the Road Trip in October? What happens at this meeting? Response: Ann Marie Z. reads information; explains that the content of the meeting will be based on the World Service Board's decision. Question: Can you tell me more about transitional meetings for teen members?

Response: Robin responds that there are a variety of Al-Anon and Alateen meetings. Question: We have a problem keeping people on topic and/or complaining about their week-non program. How can we keep people on topic? Response: Donna S.

noted that at her meeting, the chairperson reads the following: "Please keep the focus on yourself and the topic. We may gently interrupt you if your sharing is focused on someone or something other than the topic. This is to allow Al-Anon to work for everyone." She also read page 353 from One Day at a Time and said her home group reads this at the beginning of each meeting and it seems to have helped.

**MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING:** All in favor.

Minutes Submitted by  
Betsy G. and Donna S. Volunteer Recording  
Secretary