

New Jersey Al-Anon Assembly Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2017
Middlesex County Fire Academy, 1001 Fire Academy Road, Sayreville, NJ

OFFICER REPORTS:

Chairperson - Rich M
Delegate - Ann Marie Z
Alternate Delegate - Donna S
Treasurer - Audrey G
Corresponding Secretary - Millie
Interim Recording Secretary - Carol Ann T

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

Alagram - Open
Alateen - Sue C
Archives - Open
Literature - Kathy B
Public Outreach - Karen P
Website - Angela R

Meeting opens 10:05AM, Chairperson Rich M welcomes all.
Rich asks for a volunteer to record the minutes of the meeting. Carol Ann T volunteers.

Serenity Prayer is said, as well as the 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts and the Warranties. Rich reads the Al-Anon Policy on Dual Membership from pgs. 82, 83 & 126 from the service manual, which can also be found online.

Rich asks that reports be limited to 2 minutes.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Chairperson - Rich M -

CHAIR REPORT TO ASSEMBLY 3/4/17;

Our new theme for the 2017 Conference is:

World Service Conference 2017- Our Members: Our Hope For The Future

Our Theme for the 11/5/16 Assembly will is:

Warranty 2.: "**That no conference member shall be placed in unqualified authority over other members**";

I posted the proposed Agenda today. Please e-mail me with your concerns or additions to the Agenda.

Our new Treasurer Audrey G. is now official. Audrey and I conferenced with Wells Fargo Bank and she can now sign checks. Welcome Audrey.

We still need, desperately, a recording secretary.

We still need a Corresponding Secretary, Archives Coordinator and Alagram Coordinator. We need members for the technology task force and the redistricting task force.

Yours in Love and Service, Rich M., CHAIR Panel 56, NJ Area 36

Assembly Delegate - Ann Marie Z –

DELEGATE REPORT TO ASSEMBLY

March 4, 2017

NJ Al-Anon Family Groups, Area
36 Ann Marie Z, Delegate Panel

The dates for the 2017 World Service Conference (WSC) are Monday, April 24 through Friday, April 28, 2017.

2017 World Service Conference
Theme: Our Members: Our Hope for
the Future

Nuestros miembros: nuestra esperanza para el
futuro Nos membres : notre espoir pour l'avenir

If any group and/or district would like to send me love gifts (by Friday, 4/21) to take and share, they may be sent to my home address will be driving down on Sunday, April 23.

If any individual, group, district wants to send a card or note to me at WSC please follow this suggested procedure:

Conference members receive a large number of letters and packages. Hotel storage space is limited and packages **will NOT** be accepted before April 20th. To help the hotel sort and deliver the mail, please ask others to include the following information on the address label:

Ann Marie Z (Hold for WSC 4124 to 128117)
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel
5700 Atlantic Avenue

Virginia Beach, VA 23451-2236

Please put my name and address in the return address section in the event that mail delivery is

One of the roles of the Literature Committee is to review suggestions that come from the fellowship for new literature or changes to existing pieces. If it involves a major decision, the topic is brought to the World Service Conference for discussion. During the year preceding April, 2016, the Committee began discussing concerns from Al-Anon members regarding the "Prayer for Today." This prayer is included in the Just for Today Wallet Card (M-10) and Bookmark (M-12), as well as in How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics (B-22, B-32) using the five Knowledge-Based-Decision-Making (KBDM) questions. The Literature Committee introduced the topic to the Delegates. The Conference agreed to continue the discussion in 2017, after the Delegates conduct informed, Traditions-based discussions within their Areas, in which all aspects and points of view can be examined prior to reaching any conclusion. This will be an ongoing conversation to gather information and give all Conference members an opportunity to listen to each other and consider all aspects of the topic. I will only have the standard two-minute time limit (which we will also use during our discussion today) to let conference know what I learned from our Area's discussion.

Yours in Service,
Ann Marie Z.

Alternate Delegate – Donna S –

Alternate Delegate Report to Assembly
March 4, 2017

Al-Anon Family Groups - Area 36 Donna
S., Alternate Delegate

I attended the SJIS JSR meeting held in Mt. Laurel in January. I have not attended any SJIS Trustee meetings. I have asked the Chair of SJIS to advise me of the date, time and location of future Trustee meetings.

Applications for use of the Middlesex County Fire Academy for the February 4, May 6, and October 7, 2017 AWSC meetings and the March 4, June 3, and November 4, 2017 Assembly meetings were submitted and have been approved.

I requested information from the Middlesex County Fire Academy for available dates in March and April for the Financial Audit.

The last of the 2017 calendars were sold at the AWSC meeting in February.

The number of paid Forum subscriptions increased in 2016. Continue to encourage your members to purchase a subscription to the Forum.

The Forum is available in an electronic format for members who are already subscribers and to those who may not yet be familiar with Al-Anon's monthly magazine. The "Electronic Literature" section of the WSO's online store now has hyperlinks that transfer visitors directly to the digital *Forum* magazine page of the respective vendor's websites.

I prepared, printed and mailed the 2017 winter edition of the Alagram. It was sent to each group's current mailing address (CMA) on February 15, 2017. A copy was also forwarded to Angela, the website coordinator for posting on the Assembly's website.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna S.
Alternate Delegate

Passed around the 7th Tradition and Ask-It-Baskets. Donna thanked District 3 for Refreshments and asked for a volunteer for next meeting (June 3rd) refreshments. District 19 volunteered.

Treasurer – Audrey G – See pg 6-13 in reports

Corresponding Secretary – Millie –

Report to AWSC from Corresponding Secretary

March 4, 2017

World Service Office

***Groups in No Mail Status - 10 Groups
with Bounced email - 9 Groups Reported
Not Meeting - 1***

Service Communication -Not all the groups have a Group e-mail address yet. WSO is attempting to take care of the dissemination of most information electronically. If the Group has an e-mail address, it does not change when the GMA and/or GR changes; and there is no loss of anonymity. Does your District have one? Please read the paragraph *Service Communication* found on page 93 of the 2014-2017 *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*.

Returned Mail - The Treasurer receives all returned mail. Copies are sent to the Corresponding Secretary via the AWSC Yahoo! Group. Originals are given to the Corresponding Secretary at the next AWSC or Assembly meeting. I received 13 at the AWSC, all Alagrams. These are researched and corrected/deleted. WSO, NJ Assembly Website Coordinator, NTIS and STIS are notified of any changes.

Address labels - Address labels were prepared and sent to Donna S, Alternate Delegate, for the Alagram. Three sets of labels were requested by Jal-Con.

Conflict of Interest Forms

Conflict of Interest forms will be available for all new AWSC members and those who do not have a current one on file.

Respectfully submitted, Millie H.

Acting NJAWSC Corresponding Secretary

Area Group Records Coordinator

Report to Assembly from Corresponding Secretary

March 4, 2017

New Meetings

Woodbury Holy Angels Parish Ministry Center
Thursday 6:00 PM 8 Green Avenue

Registered Date: 10/19/2016

Changes

Inactive Meetings

Reported Not Meeting

Red Bank First Baptist Church
Sunday 7:30 PM 84 Maple Avenue

Inactive Date, Reason:

The following groups are in **No Mail Status**. Do you have any information on these? Newton -

Lutheran Redeemer Church, Tuesday 8:00 PM, Beg 7:30 PM

Budd Lake - Iglesia Episcopal en Budd Lake. Saturday 7:00 PM Rockaway-
CARES Center, Wednesday 6:00 PM

Frenchtown -Frenchtown Presbyterian Church, Friday 12:00 PM Pompton
Lakes - Pompton Reformed Church, Thursday 1:00 PM

Clifton - Richfield Christian Reformed Church, Monday 7:30 PM, Beg 7:00 PM Red Bank-
Tower Hill Presbyterian Church, Friday 6:30 PM

Freehold- Clubhouse, Thursday 10:30 AM

Bridgeton - Deerfield United Methodist Church, Sunday 6:00 PM Cape May
Court House - Cape May Court House, Sunday 10:00 AM

The following groups have a **Bounced E-mail Address**. Do you have any information on these? Dover - St
John's Episcopal Church, Friday 7:30 Spanish

Clifton - St Andrew the Apostle Church, Sunday 3:00 PM Keyport-
Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Wednesday 6:30 PM Freehold- Clubhouse,
Monday 4:00 PM

Freehold- St Peter's Episcopal Church, Tuesday 7:30 PM

Lumberton- Solstice Counseling and Wellness Center, Monday 5:30 PM Mount
Holly - First Presbyterian Church, Saturday 10:30 AM Bridgeton-Friday 5:45 PM,
Sunday 5:30 PM Spanish

Wildwood-Cape Assist, Thursday 7:00 PM

ALAGRAM – Coordinator still needed. Donna says it's easy to do.

ARCHIVE – Position still open and needed to be filled. Archival material is used for display at various conventions and gatherings. In storage near to the firehouse.

Public Outreach – Karen P –

Public Outreach Coordinator Report Assembly Meeting 3/4/17

Since our last meeting Public Outreach has been a little slow.

In November we attend the NJ Teachers Conference in Atlantic City. Carole M., Carol B., and her husband manned the table for Al-Anon. Since Carol B. is a retired teacher the table was for free. I would like to thank Carol B. for her continued support and her volunteering to do this event.

January was a slow month. A few telephone calls questing Al-Anon and Alateen.

February 8-10, 2017 Carole M. and I attended The Association of Student Assistance Professionals of NJ (SAC) in Long Branch. Despite the snow and a smaller than usual attendance we did have quite a bit of traffic stopping at our table picking up literature and asking questions. Friday morning there were new arrivals and we were there until after lunch.

March 10th we will be have an Al-Anon table at Manchester High School in Manchester at their event for the evening an obstacle course with students and teachers. There will be other vendors sponsoring programs for Drugs and Alcohol.

April 28th we will be attending The New Jersey Prevention Network Annual Addiction Conference at (the Atlantic City Convention Center.

April 30th_May 2, 2017 we will be attending the National Associates of Social Works at the Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City.

We have had several other requests however were not able to attend.

If your area has an event where they would like our presence please reach to me. Submitted by,
Karen P.

Outreach Coordinator

Alateen – Sue C – 16b

Area 36 Assembly

March 4, 2017

Alateen Coordinator Report

An AMIAS training session was held in November 2016 in Cape May County. Only one individual attended the training. This new AMIAS is interested in starting an Alateen meeting in Woodbury.

Four to six training sessions will be planned for this year during the months of April, May, June, September, and October. There are a number of AMIAS on the list that have not certified within the last year. Each one will be contacted via phone or email, given the deadline of July 1 to certified, or will be delisted until certification is attained.

Al-Anon members 25 years of age or older with 2 years Al-Anon participation are qualified to certify as Al-Anon Members Involved with Alateen Service (AMIAS). AMIAS must attend a regular weekly Al-Anon meeting in addition to any Alateen meetings attended. Background checks are performed for all AMIAS. A minimum of 8- 10 Al-Anon new trainees or re-certifying members is required to arrange an AMIAS training session. To arrange for AMIAS training, please contact Sue C.

Additionally, group representatives are asked to approach their Al-Anon groups about sponsoring, supporting through the purchase of Alateen literature, and attracting teens to new Alateen meetings. Several requests have been received from individuals and SACs (Student Assistance Counselors) inquiring about Alateen meetings. Other SACs or SAPs (Student Assistance Professionals) are requesting AMIAS to attend health fairs in March, April, and May at several schools. Attempts will be made to fill these requests.

Respectfully submitted, Sue C

NJ Alateen Coordinator

-Sue thanked Karen for the pamphlets.

-Alateen meetings are needed in the schools.

-They are hoping to do three more training sessions before July 1st for certification and re-certification for Alateen.

-Certification is good for one year until the next certification time.

-Alateen meetings not being attended or sponsored is a big issue, and it was requested that individual leaders of groups also be responsible to do outreach in their areas.

Literature Coordinator – Kathy B –

2018 Calendar:

Please provide any dates that you want included on the calendar. Group Anniversary, Information Service Steering Committee, ISR, Conventions with AI-Anon Participation.....

Photos: please provide any photos you want considered for the calendar. Must not show full face or be copy written, and please provide your email address and/or phone number. Format: JPEG files are best.

Updated pamphlets from WSO: The WSO periodically redesigns our pamphlets to keep up with the times and remain appealing. You can locate the information in the Conference Summaries yearly; you can find the Conference Summary on the member's website

Here is a list of the pamphlets that have had any text changes in the last five years. They all have the new covers:

*Information for the Newcomer (S-4), How Can I Help My Children? (P-9), Youth and the Alcoholic Parent (P-21), A Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups (P-29), **Why Anonymity in AI-Anon? (P-33)**, The Concepts-AI- Anon's Best Kept Secret? (P-57), Alateens Share with Adults in Their Lives (formerly Dear Mom & Dad) (P-67)*

These service tools have been revised, but have a different design:

AI-Anon: Then and Now (AR-2), Links of Service (S-28), Joy of Service (S- 57)

Let me know if your group or District wants to hold a writing workshop, there are several presentations available

- New Paths to Recovery workbook is \$10, Combo Book & Workbook is \$25.
- Please write articles for the Forum, for literature, Alateen Talk
- In January's Forum, Assoc. Dir. For Literature wrote an article about the different kinds of literature and what is needed.
- If you get an article published in the Forum, you get a letter and five copies of the Forum
- The pamphlet with the biggest change is Why Anonymity In AI-anon?
- Please take a look at the revised new openings. AI-anon is not an anonymous fellowship but now a public outreach. Anonymity is an important aspect only.
- At individual group business meetings, maybe bring up that there is a newer opening. No steps, traditions, or concepts will be ever be changed, but because of the influences of social media, other things have changed.
- Kathy also recommended that groups consider changing the use of first name ONLY suggestion. It is recommended to allow members to use whatever form of address they are comfortable with, rather than limiting them to a first name only basis
- For outreach, it was also mentioned it was okay to share the WSO AI-Anon page and links to personal pages, but not to share selfies and personal remarks regarding AI-Anon, as the face of AI-Anon
- The question was raised about using full names in email addresses. The recommendation was made to look at motives and for principles above personalities, and to be in accordance with the legacies. The discussion continued with noting the upside to using last name in correspondence, especially at group level, where last names are needed for clarity in making sure the correct people are being communicated with. The question was restated to focus on what is benefit of sharing full name on a meeting level. Paul responded that he shares his full name as he is comfortable with who he is

and it created a situation where he was able to be of service to someone who recognized him from childhood because of the last name. It was recommended to read the pamphlet Anonymous Among Members. Another person read from the service manual (page 92) what it said about the name disclosure issue which was to allow each person to decide for themselves what their comfort level is.

-It was asked if groups should eliminate the first name only section of the opening because it was limiting people and it was responded that it should be a group conscience decision.

-It was requested that no full names or phone numbers be posted in things that get uploaded to the calendar and to the website

-There was a question on when the opening had been changed. Kathy replied that it was changed years ago. The change was made in the Policy section of the manual. What Al-Anon actually is versus what it was in 1972. Outreach has changed. See page 21, and pages 10-11 in the service manual for revised opening. Newer welcome is also in the smaller book (also pg. 10)

-The new service manual is accessible on the website, and it is more up-to-date.

-Kathy mentioned about the possibility of having writing workshops posted on the website. Having someone talk on the topic of writing articles for the literature in order to encourage more people to send in submissions.

Web Site Coordinator – Angela R – See report page 21

-Over 115,000 visits to website with over 73,000 being unique. January 2017 more than 1100 from January 2016. Getting most visits on Tuesdays.

Printer friendly meeting list on the website in the works.

Changes to meetings need to go through group coordinator not sent directly to the website. Form GR-1 is used to make any changes. Flyers need to be approved before they are published on website (like for anniversaries).

Comment – Butterflies cannot be on flyers, they are not official al-anon symbols.

Comment – Events came up under meetings tab. Lakehurst anniversary from last year. Will check on that.

Comment – Angela can be point person for any changes or anniversaries.

SKIT – Kate O

History skit from last year 65th birthday of Al-Anon. Today is Lois' birthday. Al played part of Bill W. Kate is narrator. Sandy is Lois W. Oxford Group roots. Lois threw her shoe and had a spiritual awakening after reasoning it out at meeting. 1951 Al-Anon started with Lois and Ann.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 3 – Hunterdon/Warren Counties Report – AWSC 2-4-17 - Katie O –

Our recent district meeting was held on Friday, January 20th at St. Luke's Lutheran church in Washington (Warren County). The following local groups were represented, Alpha, Flemington Noon, Frenchtown Noon and Hampton. There was not a call-in option offered to Group Representatives (GRs) who could not attend.

We have distributed all of our business cards. We hope to have our second printing of business cards as soon as we can verify that all the meetings listed are still active, their time and day has not changed and they have decided to join District #3 Hunterdon/Warren counties. We have ordered one hundred (100) pamphlets of "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2017". We will be continuing our public outreach project of providing our business cards together with the

pamphlets to police departments, treatment centers, clergy, AA meetings, health organizations and newcomers.

Our annual appeal letter to local groups asking for donations has been drafted and we've decided to send just one letter for the year with quarterly donation information attached. We hope the local groups will begin to send financial donations per fiscal quarter without a written request from our district.

We will again hold our "Getting to Know You, Potluck Luncheon/Silent Auction" on Saturday April 22nd at the Clinton Presbyterian Church. Please note the wrong date is printed on Assembly's calendar as the facility was not available on the original date printed on the calendar. Sorry for the error. We hope to add an AA speaker to our panel of speakers.

There has been concern posted by other district representatives on AFG Connects. The concern is with Al-Anon meetings that have folded and have left behind boxes with personal information *e.g.* telephone lists and materials. I've contacted two facilities that had Al-Anon meetings that folded in the past year. A representative from both facilities got back to me. One assured me there was no personal information left. The other facility said if there was any Al-Anon materials left they would have been picked up by the AA meeting that is still active there. I hope to be in contact with the AA representative.

I've joined two Assembly committees, Redistricting and Technology.

I'll continue attending, on a rotating basis, the local group meetings in our district to distribute business cards, pamphlets and get to know the other members. Our next district meeting will be Friday, March 31st.

Your Friend In Service,

Katie O., District Representative

District 4 – Millie H –

NJ District 4 Report to AWSC March 4, 2017

The last District 4 meeting was held on October 18, 2016, I was voted in as the new District Representative. I hope to have our first 2017 meeting in March.

The District will continue the annual Public Outreach mailing of AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM 2017, some pamphlets and copies of our business card.

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.

We would like to collaborate with another District in the making of Love Gifts for the WSC. We plan to make 'Shrinky Dinks' bookmarks, estimated cost: \$150.00.

Millie H

District Representative District 4
njdistrict4afg@gmail.com

District 16 – Diane S –

District 16-Northern Monmouth County Report for
Assembly 3-4-17

Date: January 18, 2017 Submitted by: Diane S.

After hearing Kate O. the District Rep of District 21 speak about the Public Outreach event she held in her districts 20/21 in October, I was very enthusiastic about planning a similar event, I approached Kate who was happy to share her planning information sheets with me. We are proud to announce that District 16 is hosting a "Throwing of the Shoe" 65th Birthday Party in Bayshore Hospital on February 19! Mark your calendars if you would like to attend our celebration! The event has been posted on our website, and I have put in a request for a speaker from Assembly to talk about Public Outreach.

One of the most exciting parts of this venture has been watching our members step up into service. I was very happy to extend the invite to my GR's and have 5.5 out of 7 attend, but more surprised to see the number of other guests who came to find out more about this project. I actually did not make enough copies from everyone who was there, but that was a minor problem.

We have secured our location, made flyers, and had a very successful planning session in which signup sheets were distributed to share with groups to see how they wish to participate as we need many people to fill positions in order to get this off the ground and running.

We discussed new ideas, like using a small waiting room as a "meditation room" with an LED candle lit for those who have not yet found their way into the rooms of Al-Anon. We are planning to have a table for literature as well as a display of Public Outreach materials.

As hosts we are relying on donations of finger foods, but will provide the birthday cakes and coffee, tea, and water from our district's budget. We plan to show the DVD *Lois Remembers in* both sessions, and to have 4 topic meetings, in addition to our guest speaker. I should be able to have a full account of how the day went for the March Assembly. But, first I must sincerely thank Kate O. for sharing her vision with me and for helping me carry the message to my groups. I love you, Kate- you have a beautiful spirit, no doubt a gift of the program which you have given me. I will pass it on to anyone else who would like to carry our message of hope.

Also, as District Rep, and grateful member of Al-Anon I have taken on being the Basket/ Raffles Chairperson for Jal-Con again this year, serving on the committee has given me much needed opportunities to expand my personal growth. I have been meeting with my GR's and passing out the information on the flyer sent out by Jal-Con, we need more members on to join the committee to fill vacant positions

District 20/21 – Kate O –

District 20/21 Report

AWSC - Saturday, 4 February 2017

NJ Area 36 Assembly - Saturday, 4 March 2017

We held our most recent District Meeting on Sunday, January 15, 2017. Two members were attending for the first time to experience what we do. Before much time had passed, they were willing to actively serve our District - our good fortune! Dates for District and Assembly meetings in 2017 were announced.

We have a second ongoing service commitment at a local IOP, *Footprints to Recovery*. This is in addition to our speaker commitment at *Summit Behavioral Health*. One of our guest members, Chris H., volunteered to serve as the contact person for our two standing service commitments, and will be responsible to recruit members as speakers for the IOP's Family Days. One of our GRs, Mickey S., represented District 20/21 at the *Capitol Kids Wellness Fair* in November 2016. Our Princeton House Beginner Meeting with four groups rotating as leadership is thriving.

The main focus of this meeting was Outreach Projects. We agreed to purchase copies of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2017*. After discussion, we decided to price a large quantity of copies of our comprehensive District Meeting List to attach to the copies of AFA to distribute. Another of our guest members, Bob C., offered to do the pricing.

Sandy B. will be gathering information about Mercer County's Domestic Violence Resource Team with the intention for our District to provide Al-Anon literature for their work. Chris H. offered to look into additional outreach opportunities for us.

We decided to design and purchase a quantity of District business cards. Mickey S. is investigating options along with Kate O. Our plan is for the business cards and our meeting list copies to be simple and match each other.

The enthusiasm of the group and their free-flowing ideas made it an exciting meeting. The members understood the need for the DR to delegate the various responsibilities to make things happen, and they accepted the challenge.

We ended with an idea for outreach to our members that would take place later this year. Discussion will take place at our next meeting on April 23.

With love in service,

Kate O'Connor - DR njdistrict2021@gmail.com

District 25 – Chi Chi -

Minutes of District 25 Meeting – 2/1/17

Attending: ChiChi, Mary, Sue, Angelique, Al and Lisa

Minutes read: Completed business cards referenced, as well as availability of directions for setting up group e-mail. Angelique and Lisa requested copies of directions.

Treasurers Report: Al reported we have \$1764 in our account. This led to a discussion of how to spend money on behalf of the group, starting with literature enclosed in the letter to school guidance counselors.

Discussion of Letter: We reviewed it and decided to include in the letter the time and place of the current Alateen meeting and ask for their feedback on interest in their areas for additional meetings. We also will include in the mailing an Alateen Poster (if available), the "this is Alateen" pamphlet and information for the professional pamphlet which Sue will determine.

Reports on meetings: Cherry Hill Sunday night, good attendance; Thurs. 1:00 Haddonfield Good attendance; Thurs. Stratford is a literature meeting, small but Good format; Friday Night Starting Point good attendance, but looking for ways to shorten prolonged business meeting. Ideas were shared. Mt. Ephraim Monday night is well attended. All meetings have been discussing possible changes to CAL re: Prayer for Today. ChiChi will ask what our precise choices are since there was some confusion.

New Business: District Business Cards were passed out for distribution to groups.

It was decided to order 400 copies of the Outreach Forum Magazine 2nd Printing to be distributed to the groups free of charge as part of using our excess treasury funds.

Next District Meeting is 4/19/17

They decided on a love gift which has been ordered and delivered to Ann Marie

LIASON REPORTS:

JALCon Assembly – Lois G –

Jal-Con Report to Assembly "Building Unity" March
4, 2017

Jal-Con 2016, the 42nd annual Al-Anon convention, will be held on July 28-30 at the Sheraton Edison Hotel. We have held the convention at this hotel for the past several years. It has served our purpose by having sufficient meeting rooms and especially by being centrally located In NJ: close to the Parkway, the Turnpike, Rte 287 and not far from the Metro Park train station.

The cost for registration has been determined, as have the costs for the banquet and hotel rooms. Unfortunately, hotel costs have risen considerably and these costs will have to be passed on to attendees. The registration fees will remain the same as 2016 but the cost of a hotel room has risen by \$10 and the cost of the banquet has risen by \$6. Early Bird registration by mail has been eliminated and all mail-in registrations must be post marked by **no later than July 22, 2017**. Online registration will once again be offered using the www.whoscoming.com website and there will be a 4% surcharge for the use of online registration. Online registration will remain available after July 22, but the cost for registration will thereafter increase by \$6 and the cost of the hotel room will increase by \$5.00, plus the 4% surcharge for credit card use. Walk-in registration anytime during the convention weekend will be \$40, the same as in 2016.

In 2016, the Trustees voted to keep the banquet cost at \$49.00 and Jal-Con did underwrite the increase of more than \$2.00 per person. However, the per person banquet rate was again raised by the hotel, and we must now pass that cost on to those attending. Nevertheless, the banquet charge for Alateens will be \$50 and Jal-Con will underwrite the remainder of the cost. Alateen registration will remain free of charge but any Alateen attending the convention must be accompanied by a responsible adult, who must pay the applicable registration fee.

The NJAI-Anon Convention registration form has not yet been finalized but it is hoped to have it available shortly. The registration forms should be available for distribution at the Area 45 AA Convention with AI-Anon participation the weekend of March 24th, as well as for posting on the Assembly web-site, and also those of NJIS and SJIS. It is expected that the forms will be e-mailed to past attendees who have supplied an e-mail contact, and mailed to groups and those past attendees who have asked to be included in such a mailing by mid-April. A "Save the Date" flyer will be available shortly for posting on websites and encourages members to begin saving now to have the opportunity to enjoy the full convention experience.

The theme of the Convention is "Building Unity" and we are very fortunate that Suzi G. is serving as the Committee Chairperson. Suzi's Committee has worked hard to get the convention planning off to a good start but additional help is much needed. The March meeting of the Convention Committee will take place next Saturday, March 11, 2017, at 9:30 am at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fords, NJ. Anyone may attend the meeting to help plan the convention, and there still remain some open voting positions on the Committee. Please bring this message back to your groups and encourage members to consider serving on the Jal-Con Committee as a way of doing 12th step service. A "help needed" flyer is available for you to bring back to your groups and contains information about the March Committee meeting as well as contact information. You may call the Jal-Con number 1-888-796-6999 or use the Jal-Con e-mail jalconinc@yahoo.com and leave a message for Suzi to contact you, or simply come to the meeting and see what you can do to help. The Committee is working to make this convention memorable but volunteers to help on the Committee and at the convention are desperately needed.

The Trustees voted to once again hold the Jal-Con Annual meeting at the convention site during the convention weekend. Attendance at the 2016 Annual meeting was far greater than it had been in past years and we were able to get new volunteers for Trustee and Committee positions. We will once again be taking a consensus vote on whether to hold a NJAI-Anon convention in 2018, given the close proximity of the International AI-Anon convention in Baltimore in early July 2018, and the fact that attendance at the NJAI-Anon convention has been decreasing. The 2017 Trustees have agreed to table the final vote on that question until the transition meeting in October 2017, when both the 2017 and 2018 Trustees will be present to vote and we will have more feedback from the Annual meeting attendees.

In closing, I once again ask you all to "save the dates", July 28-30, 2017, and to plan to attend the NJ AI-Anon convention: for the weekend or just for the day. It is a wonderful way to strengthen your program, to have fun, to experience the wonders of the fellowship, and to meet AI-Anon members from all over NJ as well as from the surrounding states.

Yours in Fellowship, Lois G.,

Jal-Con 2017 Trustee President

NJIS Report to the AWSC – 3/4/17 - Mike G –

1. NJIS has a new slate of officers in 2017. The slate is largely the same as last year's, except we have a new Chair, Doug L, a long-time member of the NJIS Steering Committee, and a new Treasurer, Ward L, a newcomer to the Committee. Mike G has stepped down as Chair, although he will continue to serve as Member-at-large, and as Liaison to the Assembly and AWSC.
2. Although the office continues to be financially stronger than it has, due to a bequest received in 2015, we had a large loss for the calendar year 2016 of \$5,564. In part, this resulted from finally being able to invest in many things that were long overdue - a complete overhaul of our web site, purchase of a new desktop computer and two new chairs for the office, as well as software to help our necessary applications remain current. But

literature sales were down 18% from prior year. Member contributions were essentially flat, down less than 1% (excluding the impact of the bequest.)

3. We are hopeful that literature sales will rebound in 2017. We hope we will have Jal-Con this year, which has been a large opportunity in the past. Also, we will have a new book. (*A Path to Recovery Workbook*) coming out soon.
4. On November 12, 2016, the office attended two different AA Days of Sharing (with Al-Anon participation.), in Hawthorne, and in Pompon Plains. Two Steering Committee members attended the workshops, and we sold almost \$200 worth of literature between the two events.
5. At the last NJ Assembly, we sold \$553 worth of literature to the gathered GR's and other attendees.
6. The next ISR meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, at First Lutheran Church on Park Street in Montclair, at 7:30 PM

- New work book is out. 75 copies are available.
- 100 copies of new form of newcomer packet are available.
- Literature sales are significantly down in past year. Please support local literature distribution instead of WSO.
- WSO literature sales also went down but not sure

BREAK FOR LUNCH - 12:00-12:30PM

NEW BUSINESS

NJ Area Assembly Task Force To Determine Ample Reserve

Presented by: Angela R, Ann Marie Z. & Donna S. – see presentation pages 28-42

MOTION PRESENTED:

Comment: Checking account – treasurer authorized to transfer money between accounts at WSO level. Audit Committee only determines amount. Never remembered moving money from prudent reserve to checking account.

Comment: In the past, money has been moved from checking to savings.

Comment: There is always money in the savings account. This presentation shows why there is a certain amount in the prudent reserve.

Comment: If money had to be moved from the prudent reserve to the checking account, it would not be a personal decision, but done by AWSC.

Comment: Policy states that money can be moved around by AWSC.

MOTION VOTED ON:

Voters raised hands and counted off.

35 total on list

34 counted off

Recount

36 on list (someone new walked in)

Lois left so 1 short, 35 on list, 35 hands

Recount – 35 on list is correct

35 in Favor of Motion – no abstentions and no opposed

OLD BUSINESS – ONE DAY AT A TIME CARD

Katie O presented concerns from Al-anon members about prayer/saying from

How Al-anon works, wallet card and bookmark contain prayer.

Acceptance on other people's religions and cultures skit – discussion had previously been tabled and brought back to areas for input. WSO believes it to be an ongoing discussion.

TAKING COMMENTS FROM GROUPS – 2 minutes to state opinion and what group conscience is. If share was already spoken please sit down. P. 29 CTC Prayer is from unknown author from the 1900s, a Franciscan priest liked the prayer so he put it on a Saint Francis card.

Comment – Anita – Keep prayer. Traditional. Take what you like and leave the rest. Keep quiet and don't participate if you don't like the prayer. Picking away at the program weakens it.

Comment – Lisa – two 10 minute discussions had a meeting. Voted 23 keep 2 delete 7 modify.

Comment – Debbie – 16 keep – 6 keep portion – 1 delete

Comment – Joe – Attends two meetings. Group conscience meeting one – 4 keep 4 replace
Group conscience meeting 2 – 4 keep 2 remove or replace

Comment – Monica – 8 – edit and 3 – delete

More discussion on the other option to replace declaration

Comment – Home group is appalled about controversy over prayer. Don't they have anything better to do?

Comment – keep the prayer

Comment – Confused about which prayer but group wants to keep it.

Comment – Joanna – 99% agreed to keep and 1% wanted to change it

Comment – Discussed over several meetings. 13 – keep, 2 – edit, 0 – remove

Comment – Joyce – Hamilton Wed. 2 – remove, 8 – keep

Comment – Carol, GR Colts Neck. 2 meetings of 15 people. Majority to keep, 1% to remove

Comment – Carol, Pompton Lakes – No group conscience but feedback was 2 – edit, 1 – replace, 1 – keep

Comment – Mary, Hampton Sat AM. 4 – remove, 1 – replace (with got busy), 2 – keep, 1 – abstain

Comment – Bob, St. Marks – keep as is

Comment – Linda, Toms River. Group conscience 6 – keep, 1 – against

Comment – Betty, Absecon Mon AM. Group Conscience 9 – keep, 2 – amend, 3 – eliminate

Comment – Beth, West Milford. 9 – Keep prayer, 5 – revise

Comment – Tim, Huett Sun PM. Trying to be all things to all people doesn't work. He thinks the delegate should vote his own conscience.

Comment – Millie, Vernon Mon PM. Tradition 1 – pg. 13, 211 CTC. When someone doesn't come back (humor)
5 – change, 4 – keep as is

Comment – Barbara, Flemington 12Noon. Keep as is.

Group conscience is that the majority will prevail. It won't happen this year, and maybe not next year either.

Options on table if prayer is deleted. To increase the font, or to replace it with something else.

Took group conscience of the room (three times)

Final vote: 28 – keep, 1 – delete, 5 – edit, 2 – abstain

TECH TASK FORCE – Monica / Pam

Looking at new ways to improve Al-anon – technology-wise. Make it more accessible and lower costs.

Suggestions made from the floor:

Presentation screen, microphone, etc.

Send suggestions to Rich

REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE – Millie / Tim / Katie

There are 27 districts in NJ, but only 8 at meeting. Combining and redistricting could strengthen districts and have a larger representation. California has 1200-1300 meetings, but only 28 districts. NJ has 320 meetings with 27 districts. We have too many districts. Last redistricting was done in 1999. Committee of three people right now, looking for more.

AL-ANON SUMMER PICNIC – CHAIR?

No one seems to know who the chair actually is. 7 people want the picnic, 3 don't want, lots of people didn't vote at all. Picnic was chaired by District 16 for past few years. Takes a couple of months to plan. Securing the picnic site is the most crucial early on decision. Next assembly flyers and tickets need to be distributed. Coordinate with other event. District 19 volunteered to chair this year's picnic. It will be Ala-teens 60th birthday.

CALENDAR – KATHY B

Calendar needs to be done and approved before the June assembly so it can debut at JALCON. Send all photos, events, info to Kathy B.

Photos for calendar are needed before May 15th.

OLD MINUTES CORRECTIONS with thanks to Cheryl for taking minutes last month.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES AS AMENDED

Tim Accepted minutes

It was seconded

35 voted to accept, 1 abstain

QUICK COMMENTS

April 3- 7pm Audit Committee needs recording secretary for audit in Toms River. Karen P, coordinator of public outreach, thank you for volunteering.

Recording secretary to go through past five years of motions to be put into policy book.

QUESTIONS FROM ASK IT BASKET

1. Many Al-Anon members' kids 13-18 are not going to Alateen, why not? Why aren't they urged to attend?

Answer: encourage bringing them to a meeting. Making it a "must" behavior. Bribe them if necessary to go to at least 6 meetings. Open AA meetings to announce Alateen meetings. Alateens should go to their own meetings. Give ala-teens the dignity of their own recovery. Attraction not promotion.

2. Has there been enough education to school nurses and guidance counselors about ala-teen?

Answer: Back of phone book has most information on all the education districts contacts. There is also a database for outreach info. Outreach should also be taken to PAL (police), lawyers, hospitals etc.

3. Can a group donate literature to another group that is struggling financially?

Answer: yes, absolutely

4. What does outreach include/do specifically?

Answer: Goes to different conferences throughout the state. Guidance counselor conferences. Answers service calls. Addiction therapy conventions. Municipal alliances (DART). Underage drinking prosecutors, police, etc.

Personal responsibility to carry the message. Step 12 tells us we all need to be doing outreach. Mike pointed out there is a box of old forums that can be handed out or left at convenient places where someone might pick it up.

CLOSE OF MEETING

All in favor