

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY AREA 36

MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2, 2019

Ann Marie Z. called the meeting to order at 10AM. 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. Ann Marie Z. read from Page 86 of the Service Manual regarding dual members in Al-Anon service.

Angela R. as Acting Corresponding Secretary kept count of voting members. Total voting members: 41.

Chairperson: Ann Marie led “Etiquette Rap” to remind all of etiquette procedures.

Each speaker would have 2 minutes at microphone and was reminded to stay on topic.

Ann Marie indicated the theme for this Assembly was Tradition 2.

Chairperson report from Ann Marie Z. was included in packet. Highlights include:

- Attended TEAM event in Westchester NY
- Attended 2019 Road Trip in Seattle, WA; one memorable event was Trustees sharing their stories, as all are Al-Anon members first; also had time for sightseeing
- Next year, Road Trip is October 31, no location yet.
- Skit: Ann Marie needs 4 volunteers.

Delegate: Donna S

Report included in packet. Highlights include:

- Participation in conference calls with Panel 59 delegates
- Worked with Policy Handbook Committee and Budget Committee

- Reported about COB letter which came out in June. Encouraged groups to go to WSO website.
- Theme of 2020 WSC is: *Dreaming Big with 20/20 Vision*. April 20 through 24 in Virginia Beach
- COB Letter also asks current Delegates to share their responses to the following questions:
 1. How are your groups/Areas dealing with a cashless society?
 2. How will you, your groups and your Area utilize the 2020 Conference theme?Donna encouraged GRs to think about these questions and contact her with comments and responses.
- Donna indicated that contributions to WSO are trending below budget and historical levels. NJ contributions, 1/2019 to 6/30/2019: \$13,932.20
- WSO made changes to Service Manual; changes to be uploaded to online manual 11/22; hard copies to be available 1/31/2020
- Has 20 copies of WSC Summary available to anyone who wants a copy.

Member questioned why contributions are down. Is cashless society affecting groups? Some groups set up vender accounts to accept payments for literature, etc. Donna suggested GRs send questions to her.

Member questioned whether changes to Service Manual are substantive. Donna indicated changes affect groups and suggested groups get new service manual.

Member questioned whether definitions of open and closed meeting changes were put into service manual. Donna was not sure.

Alternate Delegate: Katie O. submitted report in packet. Highlights include:

- Forum subscriptions down slightly to groups but subscriptions to individuals increased. Total subscriptions: 268. Total copies: 291. Numbers don't reflect electronic subscriptions.
- A number of areas offer a free raffle at each assembly for 2 subscriptions to Forum. Members can take a chance.
- Requested GRs encourage groups to subscribe to Forum.
- 2020 Calendars are now available. \$6 each or \$5 if you buy more than 1. Encouraged GRs to use Assembly calendar instead of outside calendars
- Attended NJIS meetings 7/2019 and 10/2019
- Thanked District 4 for providing refreshments.
- Volunteer for 3/7/2020 refreshments: District 20/21

Ask It Basket passed.
7th Tradition Basket passed.

Treasurer: Audrey gave report; Treasurer's Report included with the packet and uploaded to Google Drive. Highlights include:

- Donations average about \$1,000 month
- YTD Income: \$14,078.76
- YTD Expenses: \$11,477.03
- Net Difference: \$2,601.73
- Member questioned time frame of income and expenses. Audrey indicated balance is as of August 30

Recording Secretary: Mary F. gave the new email address for the recording secretary: recordingsecarea36@gmail.com.

Corresponding Secretary: Angela R., Acting Corresponding Secretary, gave report. Highlights include:

- 294 active groups
- 335 active meetings
- 13 Alateen meeting
- Angela continues to update meeting lists for active meetings
- Clarified new definitions of open/closed meetings
 1. Open: Family, friends, observers welcome
 2. Closed: Family and friends only
- Included new forms to update group information
- Asked GRs to check no mail status for your group or your district and to reach out to affected groups.
- Sent group mailing labels to Jal-Con
- Worked with Spanish Intergroup on all Spanish meetings and updated group records
- Transferred files from old laptop to USB; requested new laptop in 2020 budget
- Printed labels for Alagram

Alagram: Kalpana: gave report. Did not post to Google Drive but brought printed copies. Highlights include:

- Thanked everyone for thoughts and wishes after her husband away suddenly.
- Alagrams mailed to 298 groups 10/19. Also posted on website. Can be downloaded.
- Brought a few extra copies.
- Please make sure mailing address is correct. See Angela to make any corrections.

Alateen: Tim S. submitted report. Highlights include:

- Currently 16 active Alateen meetings and 54 Certified AMIAS.
- Did training 10/27; 10 new AMIAS
- Next training, 11/23, Clinton, NJ
- Thanked Frank, AAPP process person, who keeps all records, WSO etc.
- Thanked Sue in Toms River for putting together training.
- A number of people are requesting Alateen meetings t/o state.
- Ken K. thanked Tim for AMIAS training and brought up one issue. Although one adult required for Alateen meetings, 2 preferred. All other organizations mandate 2 adults. Something to consider. Alateen could consult lawyer pro bono to give input. We should have AMIAS training policy and requirements reviewed and get interpretation in writing. Asked if he could volunteer for Alateen Advisory committee.
- WSO updating mailing/contact info for Alateen meetings. Please check mail from WSO.
- Frank asked to STRESS: Please get AMIAS information verified so that we can do background checks.
- Next Alateen training in the fall. Tim S. indicated it is okay to give out his phone number and email address to those interested in starting Alateen meeting.

Archives: Mike gave report and indicated copies are on back table. Highlights include:

- Reached out to George K for correspondence with Russia (to Russia with Love).
- Went to AA convention in October with Michelle, had display.
- Able to display at Jal-Con as well. Christina also helped. Awesome response.

- Requested if groups or districts have too much older literature, don't throw it away, send it to Mike.

Literature: Lori-Jo gave her report and highlighted Alateen literature. Highlights include:

- Showed 4 booklets available. \$2 each. Written by Alateen members.
- Thanked Ann D. and Donna S. for help proofreading calendar.
- AFA is now available all year round.
- Al-Anon has a member blog. Asking shares on favorite piece of literature, which might also make it into *Forum* or another piece of literature.

Karen indicated AFA 2020 due out January or February 2020

Kalpana asked if it is okay to continue using 2019? All stories still relevant.

Lori-Jo indicated that members can search digital literature on line.

Public Outreach: Karen P. included report in packet. Highlights include:

- Karen P. indicated activity increased in September.
- Literature table in Seaside 9/7
- Spoke at a Serenity Club in Old Bridge
- Working with DR in South Amboy for speaker at Raritan Bay Recovery on a regular basis
- Literature table in Toms River 10/3
- Reminded everyone all posters and flyers need to be approved by Area and/or WSO.
- Two outreach opportunities in Verona looking for Al-Anon/Alateen information and member support
- Has request for November in Manahawkin.
- Karen answers 888 no. with newcomers or meeting requests. Really important, as lots of calls come from professionals for speakers. If your group does not have

a district/district rep, Karen needs a contact to get out public information.

- Thanked for Area for their support.

Question from member: What is the 888 number? Karen indicated it is in the calendar. No call goes unanswered.

Question: Is there a list of people who assist you throughout the state. Karen indicated she reaches out to districts to get contacts for professionals who call.

Website: Martha gave report, included in the packet. Highlights include:

- All renewals for websites coming up, starting in January. About \$500 total to renew
- Website traffic is growing. New launch in January with new content, three free Forum articles every month are included on the website, spread throughout month.
- Metrics provided in her report highlight how people find us through search engines. Top searches are via mobile devices.
- Suggestions for an opt-in email blast so members can receive email when website has been updated.

DID YOU KNOW: Tim S. presented.

Service Structure Exhibit connecting all areas.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District #2 Morris: Angela submitted her report, included on Google Drive. Highlights include:

- June day of Sharing first for district. Very well attended. Hoping to continue. Day of sharing was workshop with speakers and meetings, press was there (with permission).
- Looking into Alateen meeting in Morristown area.
- Public outreach includes AFA and business cards with meeting lists. Also trying to get in touch with radio stations for PSA.

- December 3 next district meeting.

District #3 Hunterdon/Warren Counties: Katie O. gave report, included in packet and Google drive. Highlights include:

- Annual public outreach project provides AFA to local groups and public and private entities.
- Also mails or hand-delivers AFA to local treatment centers. Distribution list includes 22 entities.
- Also encouraging CMAs to set up group Gmail accounts. Also encouraging to join *In the Loop*.
- Also distributing *Just for Tonight* to groups
- Katie O. is also AMIAS first Monday of each month for Clinton Alateen
- Next district meeting 11/22/2019

A question was asked re: redistricting. Issue of redistricting was redirected by Ann Marie. Redistricting moved back to Thought Force.

District 4 Morris, Passaic, Sussex: Christina indicated report included in Google Drive. Highlights include:

- Took a hiatus for summer. Cancelled September meeting for lack of attendance
- Looking into reordering business cards as folding cards are no longer available.

Districts 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 Middlesex, Union Somerset: Mary S. gave report, included on Google Drive. Highlights include:

- Districts consolidated January 2019
- Looking for new day and location for district meetings to promote better attendance
- All learning finer points of being DR or GR through discussion at district meetings
- Attempting to compile an accurate list of meetings

- Remind members to submit change forms for groups when there is a new GR
- Soliciting ideas and donations for public outreach
- GRs or DR visiting meetings to help reinforce traditions and attendance
- Approximately 45 meetings in these combined districts
- Next meeting 11/29 9AM

District 18: No Report. Jesse represented District at Assembly

District 20/21: Trenton Hamilton Princeton Mary K. included her report in Google Drive. Highlights include:

- District is growing. Was dark a few years ago.
- Facilitates two outreach programs, one at Footprints for Recovery and one at Princeton House Behavioral Center. Looking for more opportunities
- Alateen meeting relocated to St. Gregory the Great Academy, Sundays, 7:30PM. Al-Anon and AA meetings at same time.
- Working with South Brunswick for Al-Anon and Alateen meetings. Looking for location. Looking for AMIAS.
- 9/7 Unity Fellowship Day. Every meeting in district represented; 43 people attended; very positive feedback

District 22 Burlington County: Liz M. attended and gave report. No report submitted for packet. Highlights include:

- District 22 works closely with District 25 Camden County. Marie B. is District 25 DR. May join as one big district.

Questions: How many meetings in District 25? 19. 14 meeting in District 22.

Two DRS will combine efforts for their districts.

District 23 Northern Ocean County: Sue H. was standing in for DR and gave report. Highlights include:

- District had workshop June 22. 68 people attended.
- Over \$1,100 in treasury.
- Looking for outreach coordinator.
- GRs not attending district meetings. Made request for any GRs at Assembly: please show up for November meeting.
- Trying to get every group to have GR in order to fill service positions.

District 26: Keith attended the assembly but submitted no report.

District 27: Holly submitted report to Google Drive. Highlights include:

- Potluck 10/19: "Changing Seasons, Changing Attitudes." 15 people. Hoping to have another potluck in April 2020
- New Linwood Alateen meeting has up to 4 kids. Also contacting local high schools to make aware of meeting
- Hoping for another Alateen meeting in southern Cape May County, where AA and Al-Anon meetings already held
- Still need district treasurer
- 15 meetings in district with half of the meetings represented at district meetings
- Tourism community presents some interesting challenges but usually solved through the Traditions
- Lots of interest in Jal-Con because of its location Toms River.

DISTRICT BREAKOUT. 15 minutes

Districts 1-5

Districts 6-10

Districts 11-15

Districts 16-20/21

Districts 22-27

Results:

- District 19 new DR: Marianne, Al-Anon member 10 years. Served as GR for 5 years. 2 GRs in District 19
- Districts 11 and 14: Kalpana possible new DR; will talk to sponsor and HP. Thinking about it for 3 years. Kalpana questioned whether it is easier to do District 11 or 14 or both. If anyone has suggestions, reach out at lunch. May do one or both. Each district has one group that does public outreach at group level. Kalpana found program in India in 1990s, 10 years in US program. Experience includes GR, Alagram, AWSC.
- District 18: Jesse new DR, decided to coordinate Districts 16, 17, 18 19, working together to get group reps to pool resources until there are enough GRs to break out.

Jal-Con: Diane S. submitted report. Highlights include:

- Jal-Con was fabulous. Special presentations by Alateen coordinator, Archives, many from AWSC. Over 200 people attended. Held in Toms River. Hoping for a profit to use toward next convention.
- Bought a new Jal-Con computer with all new software.
- Annual business meeting well attended.
- All trustee positions filled.
- Ann is venue search person, planning for North Jersey next year (2020).
- Committee meeting 1/11/2020 in Fords NJ

NJIS: No report. Did attend to sell literature.

Spanish Intergroup: No report. No one attended.

12:05P: Broke for lunch.

12:35P: Reconvened.

Skit: *The Outside Literature Zone* from 2013 WSC
 Maureen N #2
 Elaine A. #3
 Dee K # 1
 Ann Marie Narrator
 Martha Newcomer
 12:40P-12:52P

Copy of the skit & workshop can be obtained from Ann Marie

OLD BUSINESS:**Audit Committee:**

Motion: The AWSC recommends to the Assembly the approval of the Audit Committee review of the 2018 Audit Committee Report.

Report approved 40 for, 1 abstaining.

Technology Task Force:

Ann Marie gave report for Rich M.

Geography of Area 36:

NJ 171 miles long N/S

NJ 55 miles wide E/W

There was a question concerning NJ nonprofit regulations about voting and virtual meetings. Technology Task Force should have report next meeting.

Minutes of June NJ Assembly approved with two amendments. Tim S. made motion to approve. 40 approved. 1 abstained.

Policy Handbook: Kathy B.

Task Force set up to correct typos and grammar in existing handbook. Stayed tuned for progress report.

Incorporated previous markups. Took a look at other discrepancies. Please read updated policy handbook on website to see all the changes. Committee came up with a list of items to present to AWSC to become policy to amend spelling and grammatical errors in motions. Trying to make policy manual more usable. AWSC will review.

Voting for Corresponding Secretary: Angela gave description of position.: Manages all group records, etc., in the Area, or any questions about groups. Reports to WSO and to Groups.

Vote: 40 approved. 1 Abstained

Budget Committee: Audrey presented 2020 Budget. Audrey presented highlights and additions.

- Increased insurance, PO Box, storage unit costs.
- Line items for laptops for Recording and Corresponding secretaries.
- Updated version of Quicken.
- Other items going down. Trying to keep within budget and should be fairly close in 2020.
- Actual expenses are usually below budget, with excess used for outreach.

Question: Is the \$14,000 the prudent reserve? What happens when there is an excess? Does excess go to WSO?

Answer: Prudent reserve is a three-year average.

Question: What do we do with the excess?

Answer: The number is reviewed throughout the year. The excess above the 3-year average goes back to operating account.

Use of the excess will be the subject of a Thought Force.

Motion: The AWSC recommends to the NJ Assembly the approval of the proposed 2020 budget.

Motion Approved: 37

Abstaining: 4

Thought Force regarding Do Not Refer/Re-Refer Policy:

Paul reported he had not yet formed Thought Force. Lost the original list of volunteers. Sent around a sheet for a list of new volunteers.

Synopsis: Do Not Refer/Re-Refer Policy applies to a group acting outside AI-Anon traditions, dangerous to AI-Anon in some way. First thought is do we even want to have this.

Paul proposed a conference call or email exchange, with presentation at a future assembly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Thought Force: Dreaming Big with 2020 Vision
WSO has challenged areas to use conference theme to move into the future.

- Ann Marie will come up with vision statement and will set up five goals to bring to AWSC and Assembly.
- Can then become a Task Force before the end of 2020
- Will use KBDM: Knowledge-Based Decision-Making
- Will do brainstorming at AWSC
- Topics:
 - Growing members
 - Growing service
 - Growing Alateen
 - Advertising/special service for outreach.

Diane S., Mary F., Sue H., Paul G, Ann Marie on Thought Force; also request for GR/DR involvement. Ann Marie will be in touch with any new volunteers.

Ask It Basket

Question 1. Can we print more report packets next assembly?

Answer: YES!!!! Will print at least 75 for next Assembly.

Question 2: Where do I send NJIS Contributions?

Answer: On calendar or see someone after meeting.

Question 3: Can NJIS change name as they serve all of NJ?

Answer: NJIS and SJIS are separate and individual corporations and are liaisons. Suggested questioner attend NJIS meeting to learn more.

Question 4: Regarding Jal-Con, why was Toms River picked for the past couple of years? Geography?

Answer: Please see Mary Ann, who is the new person to find venue for Jal-Con, with suggestions for new location. Diane uses copy of demographics. Ocean County, Middlesex Monmouth, biggest areas. Venue was at no cost this year. Did make cash donation and supplied with literature.

North Jersey may be a choice for future Jal-Con.

Question 5: When districts have workshops or days of sharing, can someone please indicate on flyers if HP accessible?

Answer: Noted by groups and DRs

Question 6: How do I access the Google Drive?

Answer: AWSC access only. Not accessible to GRs. Katie O indicated there is still some confusion with Google Drive.

Question 7: If you are a GR, can you be a DR at the same time?

Answer: Yes. Check regarding reimbursement. If you are voting at Assembly, your group reimburses mileage.

Question 8: Where do we send donations to state group?

Answer: See calendar. Address is inside for donations.

Question 9: Are we still giving "Carrying the Message" at new GR orientation?

Answer: Purpose of new GR orientation is to let GRs know what to experience at Assembly and to let experienced GRs share ESH.

Question 10: What should I say to a person who wants to be a GR who is also a member of AA?

Answer: AA member need not divulge dual membership at meeting, that's a no-no. Otherwise, if we know personally, we can have a private conversation with that person.

Also, see Service Manual Concept 9. This concept includes an essay by Bill Wilson which defines good personal leadership. Karen read this.

Read from *Many Voices One Journey*. See pp 184-185 for Bill W. and Lois input on this issue.

Tradition Two applied to Al-Anon as a whole.

Many discussions and opinions.

These all developed from group conscience. Inform the group that the Al-Anon group conscience has decided.

Discussion on focus. AA members cannot vote.

Encouraged to embrace dual members.

Jesse put in a good word for *Many Voices One Journey*.

Question 11: Can a person who is a GR in one district become a DR for another district which is currently dark?

Answer: Yes. Referred to p 138 in Service Manual.

Meeting adjourned: Paul motioned, Tim seconding. 2:15P

Minutes Submitted by
Mary F. - Recording Secretary