

# NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY AREA 36

## MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 7, 2020

Ann Marie Z. called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Ann Marie indicated the theme for this Assembly was Tradition 12 and read the tradition; also read from “How Al-Anon Works”. Welcomed new people here for the first time.

This was 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.

**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, one at a time, no need to repeat an opinion or topic, if anyone needs to leave before end please sign out with Angela

Angela R. Corresponding Secretary requested all voting GRs sign in and kept count of voting members. Total voting members: 46.

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

- Chaired Thought Force on 2020 Vision and will present PowerPoint (PPT) at Assembly
- Ann Marie discussed changes to Service Manual and recommended all please get new copy. Can be purchased or downloaded for free
- Skit: Ann Marie needs 2 volunteers. Joy and Scott volunteered

**Delegate: Donna S**

Report included in packet. Highlights include:

- Attending WSC in VA Beach, 4-20 through 4-24; please have love gifts to Donna by 4-17
- Donna gave the addresses for sending love gifts
- Attending NERD next weekend (3/14).

Member questioned how many love gifts should a group send. Answer: about 100

**Alternate Delegate: Katie O.** gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- Analyzed February *Forum* sales report, NJ as compared with other states.
- *Forum* subscriptions have gone up a little bit. Total subscriptions: 272. Total copies: 295. Numbers do not reflect electronic subscriptions.
- Encouraged a free raffle at each assembly for 2 subscriptions to *Forum*. Members can take a chance. This has been done in other Areas.
- Requested GRs encourage groups to subscribe to *Forum*.
- 2020 Calendars are sold out.
- Thanked District 20/21 for providing refreshments.
- Volunteer for refreshments for June Assembly: District 11 & 14, Kalpana

**Treasurer: Audrey** gave report; included in packet.

Highlights include:

- Donations now average over \$1,000 month
- YTD Income: \$19,281.33
- YTD Expenses: \$13,222.58
- Net Difference: \$6,058.75

Purchased three new laptops; all are now compliant; should last quite a while.

Two checks unable to deposit: Forked River Group in memory of Brian; also have an anonymous donation. If your group has an individual donation, please put it in group treasury or tell who it is from.

**Recording Secretary:** Mary F. requested anyone who had not submitted a report for packet to give when at mike.

Reminded that email address is:  
**recordingsecarea36@gmail.com.**

**Corresponding Secretary:** Angela R. gave report. Included in packet. Highlights include:

- Explained sign-in sheets; voting members are GRs and Alternate GRs.
- 333 active Al-Anon meetings; 292 active Al-Anon groups
- 16 active Alateen meetings
- Printed labels for Alagram and sent to Kalpana
- Maintains an on-going active group list.
- New groups in Rockaway and Phillipsburg

**Alagram:** Kalpana gave report. Included in packet. Highlights include:

- Alagrams mailed to 299 groups; 285 Al-Anon groups and 14 Alateen groups
- If your group did not get Alagram, see Kalpana
- Please make sure mailing address is correct. See Angela to make any corrections
- Alagram is the official notice for Assembly meeting and is mailed free to all groups
- Requested members to contribute any ideas of what they would like to see in Alagram

**Archives:** Mike gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- Going through binders one by one and organizing all loose documents
- Protecting anonymity of members by putting Post-its over last names; can be removed without damage to documents
- Hoping to contact members, especially long-time members, about their Al-Anon history
- Also looking for updated group histories, not done since 2009
- Also contacted WSO to transfer to digital format
- Asked DRs and GRs to see if any group documents might be suitable for archives
- Contact Mike if your group would like to display archives at an event

**Alateen:** Tim S. gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- AMIAS training 11/2019 in Clinton and 2/2020 in Mount Holly
- AMIAS training scheduled 3/2020 in Butler and 5/2020 in Marmora
- New meeting recently registered in South Brunswick
- New meeting also scheduled to start 4/28/2020 in Pohatcong/Phillipsburg

**AAPP:** Frank gave out his contact information and gave his report. Report included in packet. Highlights include:

- There are 48 AMIAS still needed to be recertified by June 15, 2020; last training dates 3/2020 and 5/2020
- 8 new AMIAS and 2 recertifications as of October 2019; 10 new AMIAS as of November 2019; will be recertified by June 15, 2020.
- WSO sends out annual updates to all CMAs. Call Frank if you need help.
- Two new Alateen groups registered as mentioned in Alateen report

**Literature:** Lori-Jo gave her report and highlighted Beginner's Packets.

- Four different packets were available.
- Lori-Jo indicated that members can search digital literature online.
- Lori-Jo's contact information is:  
[wigbigb@gmail.com](mailto:wigbigb@gmail.com)  
973-334-6992

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

- Last quarter 2019 slow because of holidays
- Outreach in Stafford Township with help of Tuesday Manahawkin group
- 800 number activity is constant, for Al-Anon and Alateen meetings
- Conferences for spring include:  
February ASAP Conference  
April NASW  
May NJPN
- Karen is available to help Districts doing public outreach

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

- Total users continue to increase
- Average time spent on page down slightly
- People looking at more pages per session
- Renewing subscriptions as they come up
- Search bar added to all pages of the website
- Researching ways to do email alerts and Gsuite
- Can use group email or personal to contact with Martha for info

**DID YOU KNOW: Lori-Jo. presented. On CAL**

Quoted Anita: It's in the book.

Page 113 of the service manual. Why CAL?

Brought Pamphlet: *Why CAL?*

Ask It Basket passed.  
7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Basket passed.

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

**District 2 Morris:** Angela submitted her report, included in packet. Highlights include:

- New women's meeting starting in Rockaway, Thursdays 7PM
- Last district meeting February 10, 2020
- Doing PSA on Fairleigh Dickenson University radio station, WFDU
- Ordering 1000 business cards and 250 AFA 2020
- Looking to start Alateen meeting; GRs looking for meeting place
- Working to establish Ample Reserve for district

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

- Four groups at last district meeting; Katie attended by phone
- Hand-delivering Annual Appeal letter to groups in district
- 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 and to join *In the Loop*
- Distributing *Just for Tonight* to group
- Katie O. is also AMIAS first Monday of each month for Clinton Alateen
- Next district meeting 3/28/2020

**District 4 Morris, Passaic, Sussex:** Christina gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- District meeting 12/12/2019; discussed public outreach
- District meeting 1/16/2020; ordering 300 English/100 Spanish AFA 2020; ordered 500 bookmarks for meeting lists; considering Love Gifts for WSC
- District meeting 2/20/2020; Love Gifts are seed packets “bee attractive;” handed out new bookmarks
- Next district meeting 3/19/2020
- Pompton Valley Friday Night developing Public Outreach for district
- Al-Anon to have presence at Wayne Valley Wellness Day 3/20/2020

**Districts 11 and 14 Middlesex and Union counties:** Kalpana gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- Kalpana has contacted all groups and received responses from all but 5; will be visiting these groups in the coming weeks
- First district meeting 1/26 attended by 8 GRs; 10 meetings represented
- Lots of discussion; folded origami butterflies for love gifts; planned Sponsorship Workshop for fall
- 2 public outreach commitments, speakers at recovery centers
- Next district meetings: 5/3 and 10/11
- First fellowship event 2/22; created more love gifts and included Kathy B. as speaker on service; Mike brought archives.

**Districts 12, 13, and 15 Middlesex and Somerset counties:** Mary S. gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- Now 3 districts combined
- 2020 meetings held in her home to save expense of rent
- District meetings distribute Al-Anon information and educate GRs about the position of Group Representative

- Discussing service opportunities on group and district levels
- Meeting closed in Somerset
- New Al-Anon group in South Brunswick, with Alateen meeting as well
- Planning outreach for Alateen, at conventions, encouraging new GRs, and getting support from other districts

**District 20/21 Trenton, Hamilton, Princeton:** Mary K. gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- Last district meeting 1/5/2020; 10 GRs attended
- Continuing outreach with Footprints for Recovery and Princeton House IOP
- Also donated \$200 to new Alateen meeting in South Brunswick
- Purchased 500 copies AFA 2020 to distribute to public libraries
- 2/17/2020, participated in Recovery Service at St. Gregory the Great church

**District 22 Burlington County:** Liz M. gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- Last District Meeting 1/13/2020
- Adding trifold meeting list as well as business cards
- Will have table at Rancocas Valley Regional HS Student Wellness Fair 3/12/2020
- Still spreading word about “family and friends” or “family and friends only” meeting designations
- Also reminded members to check Assembly website for meeting information

**District 23 Northern Ocean County:** Sue H. gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- Last District Meeting 2/12/2020
- Outreach projects for Northern Ocean County
- "Your 2020 Toolbox" Al-Anon Day of Sharing 4/25/2020 in Toms River: Sue brought flyers
- District funds are used for Public Outreach and Day of Sharing
- Al-Anon Parents meeting on Drum Point Road closed and attendees are now attending Parents meeting at Ocean Medical Center.
- Currently 13 GRs for 23 groups; working on recruiting new GRs for groups with no GRs

**District 27 Cape May and Atlantic Counties:** Holly attended and brought report. Highlights include:

- Strong district; most of 15 meetings in district have GR or alternate GR; three new GRs
- All district service positions filled
- Last District Meeting 3/2/2020
- Purchased and distributed 400 copies of AFA
- Put together Love Gifts for Donna at WSC
- District Pot Luck 3/14/2020 to celebrate Lois' birthday; Sea Isle City UMC
- AMIAS training scheduled for 5/9/2020 in Marmora
- New Alateen meeting in Linwood still getting on its feet; district gave \$75.00 to purchase literature
- One large meeting in district now has service position of host/hostess to have snacks and drinks at meeting, paid out of group funds.

**Ann Marie explained after District reports what a dark district is:**

- **No vote at WSC**
- **No direct link to WSC**
- **Showed map with districts highlighted in green (except 25 who now has a DR)**
- **164 are represented by a GR; total no. of groups in Assembly is 308**
- **8 DRS represented**

**DISTRICT BREAKOUT.** 10 minutes

Districts 1-5

Districts 6-10

Districts 11-15

Districts 16-20/21

Districts 22-27

**Results: Ann Marie**

- Any new DRs?
- Please thoughtfully, prayerfully consider bringing your district some light

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

- Ukrainian American cultural center 10/17 tentative
- Need another trustee
- Need volunteers
- Need positions filled on committee
- See anyone from Jal-Con if interested in joining committees; meeting dates are on the Assembly calendar
- May be returning to gift baskets with Al-Anon appropriate gifts; no gift cards
- Jump in attendance at 2019 Jal-Con; received lots of good feedback from attendees

**NJIS:** No report. Did attend to sell literature.

**Spanish Intergroup:** No report. Aura gave report

- Doing activities; last in Nov., workshop 11/25 (Sunday). 80 attended.
- Participate in AA convention 11/30
- No convention going on. 3 days too costly
- 1-day workshop in September instead
- Diane requested joining Jal-Con; Aura taking flyer back to intergroup
- Mac question: did Spanish groups feel separate? Aura indicated they are now participating; encouraged every GR to attend assembly. Aura is from District 6; Aura's district dark and she is looking into being DR.
- Groups are listed in directory and are up to date.
- Aura's contact info:  
973-816-0455; [auragallo@hotmail.com](mailto:auragallo@hotmail.com)

12:02P: Broke for lunch.

12:40P: Reconvened.

### **Technology Task Force:**

Rich M. gave update, Monica and Katie on committee

Highlights:

- For use at AWSC, virtual meetings literally too expensive, need quality microphones, speakers, etc. Cost prohibitive. Hoping to attract more DRS, but not cost effective.
- Kathy Boyd suggested policy, committee meetings via Zoom video.
- Blue Jeans is free; Terry will talk to Rich after meeting.

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

Paul had no report; down in Puerto Rico helping to build homes and did not attend.

Katie O. asked if Ann Marie could explain what this policy is.

Ann Marie: WSC came up with a review process, for Area to determine if it needs this policy.

Groups have popped up (CA, NY south) that are registered with WSO but are part of a different organization. Some Areas have this policy (TN, CA South), a guideline on what traditions your state believes the group is violating, what your process would be to ask them to comply with guidelines/traditions and what the steps would be if they do not. If they are taken off of your state's listing, WSO would not refer. Re-refer would be steps the group needs to take to once again be referred.

Thought Force is just thinking about an issue. Thought Force charge was to think about this issue, if we need it, we have to have it approved by WSO before we could institute it. So, if we need it, thought force would bring to Assembly for GRs to decide.

Question: is it a specific group or just that some groups are not abiding by certain Al-Anon principles?

Ann Marie gave examples. In Ohio, counsellors not referring because groups are so dysfunctional. Some other states having problems with a certain organization because they are registering as Al-Anon but not following traditions. If a group in NJ is not following tradition, we could decide not to list, but WSO could still refer. We would need to have a policy to give to WSO to not refer. GRs/Assembly would ultimately decide this policy.

The process is:

Thought force: recommendation

Task force: action

Approved by assembly

On to WSO

**Skit:** *Jane of the Jungle Discovers Choices*

12:50P-1:00PM

Joy: Jane

Scott: Tarzan

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

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Minutes of November NJ Assembly approved with no amendments. Greg. made motion to approve. Linda seconded: 45 approved. 1 abstained.**

### **Audit Committee:**

To review the books of NJ Al-Anon incorporated in accordance with state laws

Chairperson

Treasurer,

Alternate Delegate,

Recording Secretary

DR (Holly)

GR (Mary S. District 3)

Past Active Delegate: Karen P.

### **THOUGHT FORCE: Dreaming Big with 2020 Vision**

#### **Thought Force: Dreaming Big with 2020 Vision**

WSO has challenged areas to use conference theme to move into the future.

Diane S., Mary F., Sue H., Paul G, Ann Marie, Ken on Thought Force

Ann Marie presented overview of thought force and its mission. Summarized work of thought force and came up with the PPT presentation (attached to report)

After PowerPoint presentation, Ken gave presentation based on his test of one of the goals. Ann Marie connected Ken with Catholic Charities (CC); Paul's wife had connection with Presbyterian Church, but this did not materialize. Ann Marie contacted CC who agreed to meet with Thought Force. Ken gave presentation to Scott, CEO of CC (Passaic, Morris, Sussex). Straight and Narrow is one of oldest treatment centers/programs run by the Catholic Church. Purpose of meeting was to test messaging. Asked these people to critique PPT to see how it meets their needs and needs of their peers.

Greg came with Ken and helped with presentation.

Scott at CC, 23 years. Only 5 mos. As CEO.

Scott had never heard of Al-Anon.

The professional counsellors were really interested in psychological attributes of members before and once they have been in Al-Anon. Ken gave some statistics from our survey. Slides pretty dramatic how Al-Anon affects mental health. Counsellors requested we present these statistics in more detail.

Question: Can I/Can I not refer families and friends of people who are having problems with drugs? Ken told NO. However, based on survey, 35% are coming in only for drugs. 75% of these then realize that they also have a problem with alcohol. Ken assumes this question will be common. Official answer is no.

Straight and Narrow serves 300 clients per day.

CC has officially requested a weekly Al-Anon speaker for their family orientation permanently. So, here is the victory. This is the impact of the Thought Force already.

However, do we have the service manpower to live up to these responsibilities? When are we coming?

After Ken's presentation, Vision Statement brought to Assembly. Would anyone be willing to put this forward to be our vision statement for Panel 59?

Karen made a motion that Assembly approve the Vision statement through the end of 2021. Scott seconded.

#### Discussion on Vision Statement:

1. Ques: at state level not WSO? Yes
2. Ques: Isn't AL-Anon inclusive at an organization level? Yes
3. Inclusive as to kinds of people; trying to be more inclusive, more people
4. Ques: Mac vote on Vision Statement first? Discuss details next? Yes.
5. Comment: need to clarify "inclusive." Survey members as to why they are there? No. Mary F. explained traditions.
6. Member suggested removing "be inclusive."
7. Karen indicated a need to define what inclusive means.

8. Kathy B. indicated can't change Vision Statement. Approve as is or create a new one.
9. Member liked "inclusive": to reflect all people.
10. Member indicated that language is confusing. How is Al-Anon not inclusive? Al-Anon is open to all people.
11. Greg: Amendment to strike "be inclusive and" Mac seconded.
12. Ann Marie called for a vote on Vision Statement as written.  
15 for; not approved as written  
Amended to: **Panel 59's vision is to expand the public's knowledge of Al-Anon/Alateen.**  
Vote on vision statement as amended  
36 for  
5 abstentions  
1 No  
Motion passed.

Ann Marie: Motion to accept the Mission Statement

Linda made motion

Joy seconded

Discussion:

1. Mac: suggested leaving out wording after tool.
2. Member indicated we need wording to tell what Al-Anon is.
3. Karen indicated that is our primary purpose. Being for families and friends of Alcoholics. Taking it out would dilute our purpose.
4. Lori-JO: Tradition 5  
Keep it in: don't give people false hope. Also to end of 2021. Next panel could continue or change.
5. Member brought up cross-addicted nature of addiction. Thought wording was misleading. But not our primary purpose.
6. Scott brought up problem with alliance. Our only alliance is with AA. Community based recovery assistance. When professionals send people to AL-Anon, the

people do get better. Statistics show that. Alliance is confusing, assumes we are promoting.

7. Ann Marie indicated Thought Force also had problem with Alliance. NO one in favor.

8. Members offered different suggestions to amend the Mission Statement.

Scott made a motion statement to accept the Mission Statement amended to include "dialogue."

Greg Moved

Holly Seconded.

Tim indicated we already have dialogue. Mission to increase dialogue.

Scott indicated he is willing to amend his motion to include the wording to "an Increased Dialogue." Joy Moved, Holly Seconded

Discussion: MAC made punctuation changes.

1. One member very uncomfortable. Feels not included with the groups. Very uncomfortable, anxious.

2. Member questioned use of "includes" Scott questioned use of "Dialogue and Includes."

3. Kathy Boyd questioned procedure. Suggested Thought Force look at Mission Statement again. Joy okay with that, removing from floor. Will go back to AWSC.

Ann Marie brought up goals for a vote. Would like to start with the easiest: The assembly calendar.

- Presently a fundraiser. We net about \$300. We would not have this \$ anymore, about \$500 loss. If the

assembly approves, may not need to go to Task Force. Lori-Jo already assembling calendars.

- Kathy B. questioned if some would also be available for individual sale.
- Member suggested given to DRs to distribute. Statistics indicate 164 groups in active districts, 144 in inactive districts, not coming here. Purpose is to educate these inactive groups. Angela indicated only 9 groups in no mail status, so others are getting mail.
- Holly bought calendars to encourage groups to come.
- Member questioned if calendars will be effective to get people to Assembly. We don't know.
- Greg: do we endorse these.

MOTION: Greg: adopt these goals as written, MAC seconded.

Discussion:

- If we adopt, task forces would need to be set up for each goal. Can't act on Linked In yet but could put task force in place.

- Annette H. very uncomfortable and wants to withdraw the motion. Greg not willing to withdraw motion.
- Karen P questioned if work would be done on second goal (PSAs, Third party)
- Kathy B. interpreted: if this were voted on and approved, it is not to do these things, just to investigate how would we use these ideas. Task force will make an action plan, then present to AWSC, voting on this today if it moves forward nothing gets done until it comes back to assembly.
- Peter: these are fantastic goals, well within parameters of trusted servants.

- Member unclear: are we done Mission Statement? Do we need to vote on Mission statement before goals? Also need to change wording on goals.
- Kathy B. clarified proceeding. Need to vote as is. If it fails, Thought Force needs to review and revise. Vote: Adopting 5 goals as written: 19 for, 14 abstentions, 4 against Motion carries. Agree that "Forging a relationship" will be changed.

**Task Force for linked in: Ken, Kalpana**  
**Task Force for PSAs: No volunteer**  
**Task Force for counsellors: No volunteer**  
**Task Force of religious institutions: Greg, Bob**  
**Task Force for Calendars: Lori-jo, Liz**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Ask It Basket**

Question 1. Can a map of the NJ districts be included in the Assembly packet and I would suggest it be separate in packet? Ann Marie will meet with person. No problem

Question 2: Has the reporting system for Assembly changed from Google Docs? Yes. Switched from Google docs to Groups io.

Question 3: Do PSAs show up on any NJ TV stations? Yes. Can be gotten through WSO. Angela's district actually contacted radio station

Question 4: Our group had to move because the church where we have our meetings has installed cameras all over the grounds. What is the WSO policy on this? Donna: I don't know. Members shared that decision to move was a group conscience. Donna indicated that cameras are everywhere and not to spy on us. Mostly done for security reason. Donna will try to find out more.

Member also indicated cameras were inside meeting room, spoke with church which agreed to turn off cameras

Question 5: Where can we send contributions to NJ Assembly?

Katie O: address is on the inside cover of calendar.

Question 6: Can a GR serve more than 3 years?

Karen P read from service manual, explained rotation of service. Disservice to the group to serve longer

Question 7: Social media policy: Al-Anon member read aloud a poem at a meeting as her share. Another member copied poem verbatim and posted on internet and revealed on internet what was shared at meeting.

Kathy read from Page 99 of service manual on anonymity. Great topic of a business meeting. Kathy brought up trust; posting what you hear at this meeting is violating anonymity.

Meeting adjourned: Karen motioned, Mac seconding. 2:47PM

Minutes Submitted by  
Mary F. - Recording Secretary