

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY AREA 36

MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 6, 2021

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

Ann Marie reminded attendees that Group Representatives (GRs) are here to represent their group but also to represent Al-Anon as a whole.

Ann Marie indicated the theme for this Assembly was Step 12 and read the Step; also read from Hope for Today, Page 108.

This was followed by Karen P. reading the Twelve Traditions. Christina read the Twelve Concepts of Service and the General Warranties of the Conference. Ann Marie welcomed new people here for the first time.

Ann Marie Z. read from Page 86 of the Service Manual regarding dual members in Al-Anon service. There was a vote count. Attendees were requested to indicate their affiliation after their name for vote count.

Chairperson: Ann Marie reminded all of etiquette procedures for Assembly.

Each speaker would have 2 minutes to speak 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 let Jennifer know.

There was a total of 74 participants.

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

- Attended Officers/Trustee Board Meetings December 4, 2020 and January 7, 2021, establishing procedures for presentations to NJ Assembly and AWSC: any reports or presentations

need to be submitted one week prior to the meeting in which they are to be discussed in order to be put on the agenda.

- With the Officers/Trustees, reviewed presentation by Kalpana and Ken K. regarding LinkedIn for Public Outreach. Trustees voted to move forward with LinkedIn campaign with a maximum budget of \$5,000.
- Worked with ProBono Partnership to engage a volunteer lawyer to assist NJ Assembly and engaged two volunteer lawyers.

Delegate: Donna S

Report included in packet. Highlights include:

- Attended Officers/Trustees meetings December 3, 2020 and January 7, 2021.
- Participated in calls with ProBono Partnership.
- Volunteered as Trustee Liaison for LinkedIn Campaign.
- Member of Sharing Area Highlights Committee for 2021 WSC.
- Met with Thought Force: Dreaming Big with 2020 Vision.
- Considered Opportunities to Serve committees, task forces, and thought forces for 2021 WSC.
- Met with assigned Trustee.
- Attended Delegates session via WebEx in December.
- Attended Town Hall meeting hosted by Florida North.
- Received name of Panel 61 Delegate whom she will mentor.
- Will attend 2021 Virtual NERD Conference on March 12 and 13.

- Present information from WSO regarding WSC 2021.
- Sent Love Gifts from 2020 to all Panel 58, 59, and 60 Delegates.
- Gave update of WSO Finance Committee.
- Gave update of WSO guidance on hybrid meetings and rationale for this guidance.
- Reported job opening at WSO: Director of Programs.
- See Donna's report for details on these and other items.
- Christina asked if WSO will be rethinking hybrid meetings at April WSC; Donna responded that this may be addressed at WSC.

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

- Analyzed February *Forum* sales report.
- *Forum* subscriptions have decreased slightly. Total subscriptions: 245. Total copies: 263. Numbers do not reflect electronic subscriptions.
- Requested GRs encourage groups to subscribe to *Forum*. Members can purchase electronic subscriptions through *al-anon.org* website, or through Amazon.
- NJIS meeting scheduled for January 2021 was canceled.
- Attended NJ Al-Anon Assembly Trustees meeting in December 2020 and January 2021
- Received email from NJAIS that South Jersey groups are welcome to post meetings, flyers, etc. on NJAIS website and would also welcome any literature orders.
- District 11 & 14 to provide refreshments for June Assembly if in person.
- There was a discussion about sharing the electronic version of the *Forum* with others who do not have a subscription. The discussion concluded that such

sharing would be an infringement of the copyright and violate traditions:

- affecting Al-Anon as a whole.
- A copy of the *Forum* order form was included with Katie O.'s report.

Treasurer: Audrey gave report; included in packet. 2020 highlights include:

- YTD Income (2020): \$11,972.82
- YTD Expenses (2020): \$12,521.66
- Net Difference: -\$548.84

For 2021, YTD Income is \$1,737.27; expenses, \$779.89; net income, \$957.38. Audrey indicated donations are coming in from districts and groups; all expenses paid YTD; financial health looking good for 2021.

Recording Secretary: Mary F. reminded anyone who had not submitted a report for packet to speak slowly when giving report.

Corresponding Secretary: Jennifer thanked Angela for her help in the transition and gave report. Included in packet. Highlights include:

- 291 active Al-Anon groups; 329 Active Al-Anon meetings.
- 12 active Alateen groups.

Gave COVID-19 Update:

- 70 Meetings suspended.
- 131 Meetings have published Temporary Electronic Meeting links.
- 128 groups are meeting face-to-face.

Group records can be updated using form on NJ Assembly website. Please check the status of your group on the website and inform Jennifer of any changes.

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

- Winter 2020 Alagrams mailed to 301 groups on February 15
- Alagram also emailed to available CMA addresses. Could not be delivered to 8 email addresses. Please make sure mailing address is correct.

- Alagram also posted to NJ Assembly website.
- Report also describes responsibilities of Alagram coordinator.

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

- Continuing to digitize paper archives onto hard drive.
- Received two Personal History forms from long-time members.
- Included forms with report for anyone interested.
- If any groups have old literature, please send to Mike for Archives.
- Archives will be retained at the Assembly level.
- Kalpana asked if the Personal History and Group History forms can be published on the Assembly website; Mike indicated that he is currently focusing on archives.
- Carol Ann asked if there is a time frame to submit these forms; Mike indicated that there is no rush.
- Mike's contact information is included with his report.

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

- Hoping to do virtual AMIAS trainings in late March and April. AMIAS registrations/applications can be found on website.
- Needs two volunteers for technical assistance; Lori-Jo and Donna volunteered to host.
- Flyer included in report.
- Discussion followed about cost of background checks (\$125) which is paid by NJ Assembly for AMIAS.
- Discussion also followed comparing WSO requirements with NJ requirements for AMIAS training.
- Tim gave status of existing Alateen groups: Cherry Hill face-to-face

meeting; Tuesday Wayne meeting via Zoom; Route 22 meeting needs 2 AMIAS as current AMIAS have fulfilled their two-year commitment.

Literature: Lori-Jo gave report, included with packet.

- 2021 calendars are out; each registered Al-Anon meeting received a calendar, sent to CMA for the meeting. 400 calendars ordered; 300 mailed; 11 sold. The remainder of the calendars were dropped off to Audrey; for sale at \$5 each.
- 2021 calendars are ready; please send photos to Lori-Jo at the email address on her report.
- Gave literature updates from WSO:

There is an electronic version of the Al-Anon Newcomer Packet (K-10) in development; in the meantime, Lori-Jo gave information so that newcomers can receive electronic newcomer information (see report).

There is a new daily reader under development; planned for 2023 publication and to be available at International Convention.

There is a Members Blog: al-anon.org/member-blog.

Sharings are needed for "CAL Corner."

Lori-Jo highlighted *From Survival to Recovery* in her report.

Audrey thanked Lori-Jo and Angela; only one calendar was returned; mailing list appears to be up-to-date

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

- Public Outreach has been slow.
- Answering emails, mostly questions about meetings and requests for literature.

- Answering 888 number; directs callers to website, explains what meetings are all about.
- Attended WebEx meeting for Public Outreach by WSO; 23 out of 50 states represented; many good ideas were shared; Karen included these in her report.
- Karen asked that groups/districts share information about what they are doing for Public Outreach on the website.
- Tennille asked if there is a formal program of writing to prisoners about Al-Anon. Karen indicated that groups/districts could contact prisoners on their own; no formal program at WSO level.

Karen thanked everyone for the opportunity to be of service.

Website: Martha gave report, included with packet. Highlights include:

- Total users continue to increase.
- Average time spent on page decreased slightly.
- Average pages per session also leveling off.
- Working to maintain list of temporary electronic meetings due to COVID-19; updates are done several times a week.
- Please use the temporary change form to update meeting information.
- Applied for G-Suite/Google Workplace; updated website calendar; updated credit card information for GoDaddy; using a combination of free security plug-ins.
- Working with Kalpana and Ken on LinkedIn Campaign.

DID YOU KNOW:

“Did you know...What happens when ‘face-to-face’ and ‘electronic’ meetings collide?” Donna S. presented.

This continued the discussion of ‘hybrid’ meetings and how they are treated by WSO. Also how ‘hybrid’ meetings impact groups/districts/areas. There was much discussion about which Area meetings are hybrid meetings and how they are functioning. Donna S. indicated that there may be further at WSO in April.

“Why is the number of registered groups different than the number of meetings?” Jennifer presented.

Some groups consist of more than one meeting, with one WSO ID number. Also presented Guidelines (G-12) on Starting an Al-Anon Group.

DISTRICT REPORTS

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

- Last District meeting February 9.
- District has 12 Groups and 14 Meetings, 7 GRs.
- 4 suspended meetings; 8 temporary electronic meetings; 2 face-to-face meetings.
- Designed QR Code sticker to direct to NJ Al-Anon website; for *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*; researching a mailing to local treatment and family services centers.
- Randolph meeting location expressed interest in an Alateen meeting.

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

- District met in November and January via Zoom.
- Not requesting quarterly donations in 2021 since District is financially healthy.
- Annual letter to groups sent via email with request to forward to members.

- Asked members to familiarize themselves with LinkedIn to understand LinkedIn campaign.
- Mailing current copies of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* to treatment centers in and around District 3.
- Day of Fellowship online Saturday, April 17, 2021, 12:30PM; flyer included with Katie O's report.
- Next District meeting, March 19, online.

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

- All meetings in district meeting via Zoom.
- District meetings were suspended throughout the summer. District meetings held 11/17/2020; 12/17/2020; 1/21/2021; 2/18/2021
- Public Outreach mailings prepared for treatment facilities and other facilities.
- Treasury balance: \$436.07.
- Report includes details from meetings throughout district.

Districts 11 and 14 Middlesex and Union counties: Kalpana submitted report, included with packet. Highlights include:

- 10 GRs attended District meeting 2/21/2021
- 3 new meetings in District; all in person meetings
- Wednesday night Westfield Parents meeting at 8:30PM restarted.
- Currently \$244.70 in treasury.
- Public Outreach: bringing *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* and meeting lists to police stations in District.
- Virtual Day of Sharing May 16, 2021; flyers to come.

District 19: Mary Ann G gave report; included with packet. Highlights include:

- No money in District treasury.
- 6 meetings on Zoom; only 2 have GRs.

- Gave status of suspended and active meetings.
- Serving newcomers by sending meeting lists and passwords for Zoom meetings; also provide telephone list of members willing to sponsor.
- Disabled chat on Zoom meetings due to inappropriate behavior.
- Public Outreach working to send IDs and passwords for Zoom meetings to those who reached out as reminders meetings are on-going.

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

- Last district meeting January 17, 2021 via Zoom, attended by 12 GRs, 1 Alternate GR, 2 visitors.
- Most meetings now via Zoom; some listed on website; 1 suspended, 1 face-to-face.
- Alateen group not meeting but hopes to resume in 2021.
- Planning another virtual Unity Fellowship Day.

District 22 Burlington County: No report.

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

- District held Zoom meeting February 10, 2021.
- 25 meetings and 1 Alateen meeting; 7 meetings temporarily suspended 1 Alateen meeting not active 9 meetings face-to-face 8 meetings on Zoom 1 meeting on phone
- Day of Sharing 2021 held February 21 on Zoom and telephone; 59 attendees; 3 topic meetings; big success!
- Term ends in May; trying to find replacement.
- Next District meeting March 10, 2021.

District 26: No report submitted.

District 27 Cape May and Atlantic Counties:

Holly attended and brought report. Highlights include:

- Reported 5 GRs from District attending Assembly today.
- District now has 1 face-to-face meeting; remainder via Zoom.
- 50% of GRs comfortable with face-to-face district meetings; 50% not ready.
- Only Alateen meeting in District suspended; losing 3 AMIAS.
- District using group texts, emails, and personal calls to communicate among GRs and DR.
- Next District meeting March 8, 2021.

Jal-Con: Diane S. submitted report; included with packet. Highlights include:

- Theme for 2021: *Courage in a Changing World*. To be virtual, via Zoom, October 16, 2021; full day
- New website to be released shortly.
- New URL: njalacon.org.
- Next meeting March 13, 2021 10AM. See report for meeting ID and Passcode.
- Liz K is Committee Chair; Diane is Chair of Trustees

Tim asked if there was a cost for the convention. Liz indicated the convention was free of charge. Flyer is included with report.

NJIS: No report. No one attended.

Spanish Intergroup: Aura attended; did not submit report but gave the following information:

- Trying to update the list of meetings as the result of so many changes.
- Hoping to do a workshop via Zoom; few volunteers due to pandemic.
- Will provide Jennifer with updated meeting list.

Karen requested Aura’s contact information for Spanish-speaking meeting requests; Donna S. reminded information available on confidential phone list.

Discussion regarding the voting procedure:

- If meeting is suspended, they have no vote.
- If meeting on Zoom, group has vote.
- Temporary Zoom meetings can vote.

Liz D. asked how to reopen a suspended meeting via Zoom; Ann Marie connected Liz with Ken for this process.

Groups were asked to check assembly website to be sure their meeting information is correct prior to voting.

Lunch Break. 20 minutes

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Ann Marie read original charge and gave its history and explanation. Thought Force is currently in limbo.

Audit Committee:

Postponed until after pandemic; Ann Marie Z. will schedule as soon as it is possible to meet face-to-face.

Thought Force on Redistricting:

Katie O. submitted a report and presented with her committee, Sue H., Jeanne L., Christina, and Peter M. using KBDM Questions. Goal is to determine if redistricting is necessary to encourage more participation by DRs and GRs. See report for details. Presentation ended with a recommendation to create a Task Force on redistricting.

Discussion followed regarding history of Thought Force, how redistricting along county lines would work. Ann Marie reminded Assembly this was a Thought Force. If a Task Force goes forward, these questions will be addressed. Additional discussion followed about lack of members doing service, lack of information getting to groups. Katie thanked everyone for their input and encouraged GRs in dark districts to reach out to Assembly for information.

Task Force for Using LinkedIn for Public Outreach:

Ken K. and Kalpana K. prepared report, included with packet. Highlights include:

- Presented campaign vision.
- Presented campaign goals.
- Updated Assembly on status (\$5,000 budget approved by Trustees, coordinating with WSO moving forward).
- Task Force now working with WSO; met on 2/26.
- Campaign now looking for volunteers. See report for tasks/skills needed.

Ken indicated that WSO intends to do a national campaign later in 2021, so NJ will be a “pilot” campaign working with WSO.

Kalpana gave a synopsis of how campaign would reach professionals and carry the message of Al-Anon.

There was significant discussion as to how the program would work, how information would be disseminated, what content would be provided on LinkedIn page, etc.

Ann Marie thanked the committee and indicated cooperative effort with WSO is an invaluable resource.

Insurance Coverage for Groups:

Ann Marie Z. gave report.

Nothing new to report. May need to change brokers and insurance companies to get more specific coverage. Delegate from British Columbia offered contact in Canada for input.

Discussion followed as to cost and timing of coverage, as some groups may need it once pandemic is over and face-to-face meetings resume.

A vote count was taken: 47 voting GRs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes from 11/7/2020 Meeting:

Finding no amendments, a motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted:
Yes: 39 No: 0 Abstain: 4

Motion passed.

2021 WSC Equalized Expenses:

Donna provided an explanation. As the cost to send a delegate to WSC is \$0 in 2021, with WSC being virtual, WSO gave groups a number of options:

1. WSO would return the prepaid costs to the Area.
2. Area could donate all or part of the costs to WSO.

The Trustees decided to donate the cost, as it is already spent and included in the 2021 budget.

Question was raised whether this would occur again for 2022. However, this will not be known until later in the year, based on the pandemic. Question raised as to the cost: \$2,300+/-.

Ask It Basket:

1. What are 20 Questions? (Karen P.)
Al-Anon pamphlet S-17, found on WSO website; free download which can be printed.
2. If you have a home group that met face-to-face, can you now meet electronically forever going forward? (Liz J.)
Yes. Liz offered to help group with this question.
3. Is Agenda for Assembly available to follow along? (Kathy B.)
Yes, it is available on the Assembly website and can also be provided by DRs.

Ann Marie thanked all GRs and members attending Assembly for the first time.

Motion to adjourn at 1:44PM. Closed with Al-Anon Declaration

Minutes Submitted by
Mary F. - Recording Secretary