

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY AREA 36

MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 7, 2020

Ann Marie Z. called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 56.

This was followed by Donna S. reading the Twelve Traditions. Audrey G. 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 each 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 Angela know.

There was a total of 55 participants.

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

- Contacted by News12 immediately after June 6 Assembly and obtained quotes for air time. However, when checking with WSO, learned WSO was concerned if NJ paid to air PSAs, other stations would

not air for free. Could be a violation of Tradition 4, so idea was tabled.

- Updated Resource information for Safe Meetings, emailed to all DRs to distribution to GRs in NJ.
- Corresponded with Group Records Coordinators in CA North and South for information on number of meetings and districts. Used this for charge on Thought Force for Redistricting.
- Wrote charge for Task Force to use LinkedIn for Public Outreach
- Wrote charge for Task Force to Develop a Coordinated Mission with Religious Organizations
- Participated in Budget Committee meeting.
- Met with Thought Force on Dreaming Big with 2020 Vision to rewrite Panel 59 Mission Statement.
- Indicated member brought up that there may be a contradiction between Policy Handbook and By-Laws; Trustees met via Zoom to discuss. Trustees to contact pro-bono lawyer to investigate.

Delegate: Donna S

Report included in packet. Highlights include:

- Attended official launch party of Al-Anon Family Groups Mobil App; now available for download via Google Play and the Apple Store. 109 participants from 4 countries and 14 states. See Donna's report for specifics.
- CLT recommended and Board of Trustees approved refunding 2020 WSO Equalized Expense to Areas; NJ's refund is \$1,481.69. Area Treasurer is to respond by October 31, 2020 as to how refund is to be handled. Also received information that 2021 WSC Equalized

Expense is \$1,667 and full amount to attend is \$2,381.81.

- Virtual Town Halls for Areas will be held November 14, 2020, December 12, 2020, January 9, 2021, and February 6, 2021. Meetings 45 minutes in length.
- COB letter and committee reports forwarded to AWSC for questions to discuss with Trustee; highlights include contributions for June 2020 were \$509,058, which set a record for most contributions in one month; 2021 WSC theme is ***Moving Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance***; WSC to be held in Tarrytown, NY April 12 to April 16, 2021, including a visit to Stepping Stones.
- Requested Policy Committee revise Service Manual to include abstentions to voting procedure.
- Worked with Delegates on Thought Force: Dreaming Big-Envisioning Our Future. Scheduled to discuss October 4, 2020.
- Participated in Budget Committee meeting early September.
- Working with Sharing Area Highlights Committee to put together session at 2021 WSC.
- Unable to attend live AAPP conference call August 8 but was able to listen to the recording a few days later.
- Al-Anon's 70th Anniversary April 2021 during WSC.
- Al-Anon's Seventh International Convention, June 29 through July 2, 2023, Albuquerque, NM.

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

- Analyzed October *Forum* sales report.
- *Forum* subscriptions have decreased slightly. Total subscriptions: 262. Total copies: 282. 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 October 2020 was canceled.
- Attended NJ Al-Anon Assembly Trustees meeting in October 2020.
- Submitted Use Applications for Middlesex Fire Academy for NJ Assembly and AWSC meetings; no response yet.
- District 11 & 14 to provide refreshments for March Assembly if in person.

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

- YTD Income: \$8,092.85
- YTD Expenses: \$9,147.38
- Net Difference: -\$1,054.53

Audrey indicated there were \$2,000 in deposits in October, which includes refunds for conferences not attended. There have been few travel expenses. Have paid for delegate to WSC in 2021.

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

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

- 303 active NJ Groups; 291 active Al-Anon groups; 339 Active Al-Anon meetings.
- 12 active Alateen meetings.

Gave COVID-19 Update:

- 71 Meetings suspended.
- 114 Meetings have published Temporary Electronic Meeting links.
- Appears 154 groups are meeting face-to-face.

Group records can be updated using form on NJ Assembly website.

Mail is still going out to the groups; groups requested to check group information to be sure it is current.

Provided CMA Mailing Addresses for Alagram 9/24/20 and CMA and Group Email Addresses for Alagram.

Angela thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Ann Marie Z. thanked Angela for the amazing job she did.

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

- Fall 2020 Alagrams mailed to 302 groups; 286 Al-Anon groups and 16 Alateen groups. Mailed October 16, 2020.
- Alagram also emailed to available CMA addresses. Could not be delivered to 15 email addresses; 3 asked to be unsubscribed or changed email address.
- Please make sure mailing address is correct.
- Alagram also posted to NJ Assembly website.

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 who needs them.
- If any groups have old literature, please send to Mike for Archives.

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

- 10 registered Alateen groups are inactive due to COVID-19.
- Since June Assembly, 45 previously certified AMIAS have been background checked and recertified.

- One Alateen group in Phillipsburg meeting face to face; Wayne/Butler group meeting via Zoom.
- Tim S. thanked Frank S., AAPP, for all his hard work.
- Alateen meetings in Hamilton and Cherry Hill reported to be meeting face to face.
- Tim S. reported that Zoom meetings are not popular with Alateen.

Literature: Lori-Jo submitted report late, not included with packet.

- Updated Assembly on status of 2021 calendar.
- Addressed question by member of outside website being used at meeting; referred to page 113 of Service Manual.
- Gave literature updates from WSO:

Hope for Today now available as ebook;

Paths to Recovery now back and available on website;

Having Had a Spiritual Awakening is only available as ebook;

New daily reader in review process; still time to submit sharing.

- Lori-Jo's contact information is:
wigbigb@gmail.com
973-334-6992

Public Outreach: Karen P. gave report; no report 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.

Karen thanked everyone for the opportunity to be of service. Looking forward to face-to-face outreach and meetings.

Kalpna questioned: when she gets requests for meeting information, should she refer those requests to Karen. Karen indicated that would be best.

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

- Total users continue to increase.
- Average time spent on page increasing slightly.
- People looking at more pages per session.
- Working with Angela to maintain list of temporary electronic meetings due to COVID-19; over 100 meetings through September.
- WSO started adding temporary electronic meetings to their website; now, everyone checking our website is directed to WSO.
- Also working to shore up website security, both free services and paid services.
- Added LinkedIn icon to footer of website which links to WSOs LinkedIn account.
- G suite for Non-Profits is \$0 per user for basic plan; also offer packages with additional options with costs per user. Available by application only; would need EIN number for approval.
- Included current website contracts and paid subscriptions with a corresponding budget.

DID YOU KNOW: Kathy B. presented.

“Did you know...the difference between a face-to-face meeting, temporarily electronic meeting, and an electronic meeting?”

There was much discussion about the confusion among the various types. Information was provided how to navigate the WSO website. Discussion included hybrid meetings, not currently included with electronic meetings, and how to get literature to newcomers.

DISTRICT REPORTS

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

- All in-person meetings remain suspended; 9 groups meeting electronically, with very positive feedback.
- District has set ample reserve and established donation structure.
- District 3 referred a rehab facility requesting Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism; working on other ways to distribute AFA.
- Holding off on ordering more business cards with meeting lists until meetings back to face-to-face; looking to direct people directly to NJ website with QR code sticker so that people can get most current meeting information.

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

- District met September 18, 2020 via Zoom; 3 groups represented.
- Most meetings have changed to online meetings because of COVID-19; some groups holding hybrid meetings, online and face-to-face at the same time.
- Phillipsburg Alateen meeting reopened in person, date and time changed to Wednesdays at 4:30PM. Clinton Alateen meeting closed; Knowlton Alateen meeting inactive.
- Distributed AFA 2020 to contact person at treatment centers throughout district; concluded in June.
- Not printing business card meeting lists until pandemic is over.
- Have not rescheduled Day of Fellowship for 2020.
- Treasury has \$865.58; members who are not attending in-person meetings are encouraged to make personal donations to service arms.

- Next district meeting, November 20, 2020 at 6PM, 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. Upcoming District meetings, 11/9 and 12/17; GRs to brainstorm about how to distribute AFA 2020. Reprinted bookmark meeting lists but holding off distributing until safe to meet face-to-face.
- District meeting 10/15; 5 GRs present; discussed how meetings are meeting virtually and when they could possibly meet fact-to-face.
- Treasury balance: \$561.73

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

- District meeting held October 25.
- Currently \$194.70 in treasury; hoping to use for public outreach.
- Groups meeting both virtually and face-to-face.
- Friday morning Iselin step meeting closed.
- Discussed what literature is available to newcomers digitally.
- Distributing AFA 2020 to two facilities, High Focus in Cranford and Raritan Bay Recovery Center in South Amboy.

District 19: Mary Ann G gave report orally, not included with packet. Highlights include:

- Most meetings in district are held on Zoom.
- 2 meetings in park through the warm weather.
- Continuing to support service arms.
- In July, district held writing seminar with Diane S. A few people submitted their writings to *The Forum*.

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

- Last district meeting October 19, 2020 via Zoom, attended by 11 GRs and two visitors.
- Most meetings now via Zoom; some listed on website, some not listed. There is one hybrid meeting and one new in person meeting at 7:30PM in Yardville.
- October 10, 2020, virtual Unity Fellowship Day with 3 Al-Anon speakers; attendance ranged from 50 to 100 people throughout the event. Received permission from each speaker to record them. At next district meeting, will discuss how to use the recordings.
- Discussed need for insurance at some meetings. Some groups being asked to provide proof of insurance. Considering purchasing insurance or relocation meetings. No decision made at this time.

Ann Marie questioned what type of insurance was requested. Mary K. indicated that personal liability policy was requested.

Ann Marie also indicated that Unity Fellowship Day was amazing and speakers were great.

District 22 Burlington County: Liz M. unable to attend and did not submit a report.

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

- District held Zoom meeting October 14, 2020; very poor attendance, only 3 GRs. Tabled decisions on public outreach and Day of Sharing on Zoom.
- \$1,448.75 in treasury; will be used to fund district's Day of Sharing and outreach projects.
- Still 9 GRs.
- Most meetings returned to face-to-face; several still using Zoom or phone. There are also some hybrid meetings.

Sue H. also commented that Day of Unity was fantastic.

District 26: No report submitted. Jeanne reported that Keith has stepped down as DR. Jeanne was encouraged to get GRs together to see if she or another GR would take DR position. Jeanne indicated this was her first Assembly.

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

- District has not met since February.
- First in person district meeting November 9; 3 GRs in person and one virtual have committed to attend.
- \$670 in treasury; hoping to hear from GRs how to dispense the funds.

Holly had a question about the terms of officers. Ann Marie Z. indicated Panel 59 terms are up 12/31/2021, which includes all Assembly officers and coordinators except Group Records coordinator, which was a staggered term, 1/1/2018-12/31/2020.

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

- Jal-Con held virtually October 17, 2020; 176-190 people attended. Offered 9 Al-Anon meetings, 3 Alateen meetings, and 3AA meetings, as well as speakers from all 3 fellowships. Linked 7th Tradition to PayPal account; donations helped offset cost of building website. Tech firm handled Zoom platform.
- Working on new website.
- Annual Business Meeting October 24, 2020; filled four Trustee positions; has Technology Trustee who is new webmaster. Also Venue Liaison to handle location when in person event can be held.
- Audit committee to meet December 3, 2020.

Donna asked if Jal-Con accepts contribution from groups. Diane indicated yes, cash donations but no raffle or gift cards. Diane indicated that there is a

donate button on the website and also includes mailing address for donation.

Angela indicated visitors to website did not know about Jal-Con. Diane was not clear how to get the word out about the Jal-Con website.

NJIS: No report. No one attended.

Spanish Intergroup: Aura attended but gave no report.

Lunch Break. 15 minutes

Ann Marie indicated 3 votes were coming up and needed an accurate count. Attendees were requested to indicate on Zoom their name, position, district, and if they were a visitor.

The resultant vote count was 39 GRs, 55 total attendees, with 29 votes required for substantial unanimity.

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.

Rich provided status:

- Too busy to chair or be on committee.
- Thought Force needs a chair.
- Rich has gathered some information from Ohio area and can share that.

Thought Force: Dreaming Big with 2020 Vision

Ann Marie Z. gave report:

Thought Force has revised Proposed Area Mission Statement.

The NJ Area Al-Anon Assembly will expand the public and professional communities' knowledge of Al-Anon/Alateen as a vital recovery tool for the families and friends of alcoholics by expanding the use of technological resources.

There were no comments or concerns.

Motion to Approve:

Yes: 38 No: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes from 3/7/2020 Meeting:

After amendments, motion was made to approve the minutes:

Yes: 37 No: 0 Abstain: 2

Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes from 6/6/2020 Meeting:

After amendments, motion was made to approve the minutes:

Yes: 39 No: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion passes.

Audit Committee:

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

Group Records Coordinator:

Angela gave synopsis of position and skills needed.

- Excel, organizational skills, time management skills, and attention to detail.

Katie asked when Angela assumed position. Angela was elected at June 2019 Assembly.

Ann Marie summarized the voting procedure and the eligibility for the position.

Angela indicated she would be available to help new coordinator.

Katie O. asked about equipment that comes with position. Angela responded: laptop and login to WSO database.

Jennifer B. indicated she would be willing to stand for the position and gave her qualifications. Jennifer indicated she would love to be of service and is willing to learn. She is familiar with Excel and has computer science background.

No others willing to stand, so vote was taken.

Yes: 33 No: 0 Abstain: 0.

Jennifer elected to position.

Insurance Coverage for Groups:

Rich M. gave report.

Men's group has a new meeting space and needed insurance.

Northern CA Area has a system in place.

- Assembly purchases general liability policy (\$1,300-\$1,400/year for 908 groups).
- Insurance certificate available to groups who need insurance (not all groups).
- Forms are available on the Northern CA website.

Rich indicated AWSC needs to make a motion to go forward and bring to Assembly.

Ann Marie Z. indicated she will contact insurance agency and bring more information to Assembly.

Thought Force on Redistricting:

Ann Marie gave background on the Thought Force and read the charge.

Katie O. agreed to chair, Sue H. and Christina volunteered to be on Thought Force.

Katie O. setting up Zoom meeting. If any GRs are interested in attending, please message her in Chat.

Task Force for Using LinkedIn for Public Outreach:

Ann Marie gave background from WSO use of LinkedIn.

Task Force gave report at AWSC and was met with many questions.

Ken and Kalpana, on Task Force, gave report on what LinkedIn is and how it can work.

Ken indicated there were some misconceptions about LinkedIn, and is working with Kalpana to address

these issues. Trustees have the authority to approve the recommendation.

This was followed by a number of questions on cost, traffic, budget (\$5,000 suggested), and risks. Trustees agreed to consider Task Force recommendations.

Task Force on Coordinated Mission with Religious Organizations:

Greg and Vos gave report.

During COVID-19, religious organizations having difficulty achieving their missions. Task Force believes this is not the right time to go forward. Better time in a year or more, when religious organizations have stabilized.

Budget Committee:

Audrey presented summary of Budget Committee. NJ Assembly remains fairly healthy. Performing well compared with budget.

After review of the budget, motion was made:

The AWSC recommends to the NJ Assembly to accept the 2021 Budget as proposed.

Yes: 31 No: 0 A: 1

Motion to adjourn at 1:55PM

Closed with Al-Anon Declaration

Minutes Submitted by
Mary F. - Recording Secretary