

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY AREA 36

MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 5, 2021

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 Concept Four, and read the concept.

This was followed by Sue H. reading the Twelve Traditions. Mike 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.

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

- Gave a description of Chairperson position and responsibilities.
- Attended virtual NERD meeting March 12 and 13.
- Participated in AMIAS training March 27.
- Attended Officers/Trustee Board Meeting April 1, 2021; discussion of

rotation of service and encouraging members to stand for positions; also discussed insurance coverage for groups

- Sent email April 2 to Panel 56 Past Delegates regarding ES&H on rotation of service.
- April 9 had Zoom meeting with pro-bono attorneys resolving possible conflicts between Policy Handbook and Bylaws.
- April 17 posted question regarding insurance coverage for groups on AFGConnect portal
- April 28 with Audrey G., attended Zoom meeting with Insurance Coordinator and Alt Insurance Coordinator of CA North to discuss insurance coverage for groups.

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

- Katie gave a description of her position and responsibilities.
- Analyzed April and May *Forum* sales report.
- *Forum* subscriptions continue to decrease slightly. Total subscriptions: 244. Total copies: 261. Numbers do not reflect electronic subscriptions.
- Continued to ask GRs to encourage groups to subscribe to *Forum*. Members can purchase electronic subscriptions through *al-anon.org* website, or through Amazon.
- Attended NJ Al-Anon Assembly Trustees meeting in April.
- District 11 & 14 to provide refreshments for November Assembly if in person.
- A copy of the *Forum* order form was included with Katie O.'s report.

Treasurer: Audrey gave report; included in packet. 2021 highlights include:

- Audrey gave a description of her position and responsibilities.
- YTD Income (2021): \$4,007.28
- YTD Expenses (2021): \$2,422.16
- Net Difference: \$1,585.12

Audrey indicated donations are coming in from districts and groups; all expenses paid YTD; financial health looking good for 2021.

Recording Secretary: Mary F. gave a description of her position and her responsibilities. Mary F. reminded anyone who had not submitted a report for packet to speak slowly when giving report.

Mary S. asked Mary how many meetings the Recording Secretary needs to attend. Ann Marie Z. helped with the response: Trustee Meetings, AWSC Meetings, and NJ Assembly Meetings.

Corresponding Secretary: Jennifer gave report. Included in packet. Highlights include:

- Corresponding Secretary position not up for election in November.
- Gave Group Records report
- 290 active Al-Anon groups; 328 Active Al-Anon meetings.
- 9 active Alateen groups.

Gave COVID-19 Update:

- 60 Meetings suspended.
- 137 Meetings have published Temporary Electronic Meeting links.
- 131 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. Reminded groups returning to face-to-face meeting that temporary electronic meeting information will be removed.

Roberta asked how groups are labeled inactive. Angela and Jennifer explained that inactive meetings are those that no longer meet.

Rochelle asked about suspended meetings. Jennifer explained that suspended meetings are not meeting on either platform.

Katie asked if the groups remained listed as inactive based on finances. Angela indicated that if groups donate despite being inactive, they remain listed for up to 7 years.

Delegate: Donna S

Report included in packet. Donna gave report from virtual 2021 World Service Conference, including a PowerPoint presentation

Highlights include:

- Summary of Conference
- Audit Report
- Impact of COVID-19 on Al-Anon
- Statement of Financial Position
- Annual Budget
- WSC Annual Report
- Literature
- Policy Discussions
- International Convention Update
- 70th Anniversary Announcement
- TEAM Replacement
- Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect
- Membership Survey
- Thought Force and Task Force Presentations

Donna S. described her position as a communication link between WSO and the Area, as an incredible journey where she met people from all over.

Donna also encouraged members to participate in the membership survey from June 16 to July 27 and to encourage younger members to take the survey.

Donna thanked everyone for their support, guidance, love, friendship, and opportunity to serve.

Ann Marie asked if NJ Contributions in Income and Expenses included individual monthly contributions. Donna indicated they did.

Katie asked if Donor Restrictions had been removed. Donna indicated that WSO does not allow donors to restrict or earmark contributions.

Kathy B. thanked Donna and reminded everyone that groups have the ultimate authority.

Thought Force on Redistricting: Katie O. gave presentation with members of Thought Force, using PowerPoint. Conclusion: Thought Force recommended a Task Force be created to redistrict to fewer districts, set district boundaries along county lines, and strive to have equitable number of meetings in each district.

Roberta asked if there is a difference with dark/inactive districts and inactive meetings. Katie O. responded that dark districts have no DRs but have meetings; there is no representation at AWSC or Assembly to get information to the groups. Roberta also asked if the Task Force would address the question of service. Ann Marie indicated the Task Force would help fulfill this task.

There was additional discussion about redistricting along county lines. Donna was concerned representation would not be equal. Not sure this would solve the problem. Katie indicated this would be an issue for the Task Force to address.

Ann Marie clarified that the Thought Force moves to a Task Force. The recommendation was that the Thought Force move to a Task Force

Alagram: Kalpana unable to attend but submitted her report. Included in packet. Highlights include:

- Spring 2021 Alagram mailed to 301 groups on May 15
- 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.
- If any groups have old literature, please send to Mike for Archives.
- Archives will be retained at the Assembly level.

- Found a Braille copy of ODAT included with Archives and received a summary of history of Braille literature from WSO. Asked GRs if any groups would have use for this.
- Mike included blank forms for long-time members as well as for group histories with his report.
- Mike's contact information is included with his report.

Alateen: Frank S. (AAPP) attended in place of Tim S. and gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- 9 active Alateen groups listed in report, which also gives location instructions from WSO website.
- 3 recent group closures: Phillipsburg, Linwood, Columbia/Blairstown.
- Alateen meetings need to let NJ Assembly know when group status changes.
- 15 recertified AMIAS, 29 deactivated AMIAS; 7 new trained AMIAS with 3 certified at time of report.
- Frank will be rotating out of position at end of year and is available to help next AAPP.

Mary F. asked if Alateen meetings have GRs and are welcome at Assembly. Ann Marie indicated yes to both questions.

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

- 2022 calendars are being compiled; please give Lori-Jo pictures and dates to be included; Ann Marie Z. and Donna will review.
- Virtual literature table created by Morgan R of Connecticut is available for Public Outreach.
- Gave literature updates from WSO:

There is an electronic version of the Al-Anon Newcomer Packet (eK-10) in the final stages of production.

Reviewed 3 literature motions from WSC.

Many Voices, One Journey now available for \$8.00 as part of Al-Anon's 70th Anniversary celebration.

New Al-Anon daily reader in production; hoping to debut at 2023 Al-Anon Convention.

- Lori-Jo encouraged members to check out Member Blog.
- Sharings are needed for "CAL Corner" and members are encouraged to write about how a piece of CAL enhanced their recovery.

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 remains slow.
- Answering emails, mostly questions about meetings and requests for literature.
- Answering 888 number; directs callers to website, explains what meetings are all about. Also receiving inquiries from therapists asking about meetings.
- Many facilities beginning to meet face-to-face, with the hope of getting back to normal in the fall.
- Provided speaker for Franklin Township Youth Council and also attended Zoom presentation to speak about Al-Anon and Alateen.
- Hoping to attend workshop in Ocean County and set up literature table.
- Please let Karen know what your group or district is doing for public outreach.

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 is leveling off.
- Average pages per session also leveling off.
- Working with Jennifer to maintain list of temporary electronic meetings due to COVID-19; updates are done several times a week.
- Continuing to work on email system for AWSC which observes anonymity; working with GoDaddy to resolve any issues.
- Renewed website domain registration, Website Essentials, and updated website to Wordpress 5.7.2.

DID YOU KNOW:

"Did you know...How Rotation of Service Works in Al-Anon?" Ann Marie Z. gave presentation which included descriptions of positions available.

Lunch Break from 12:00 to 12:30PM

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 2 Morris County: Angela R. report, gave included in packet. Highlights include:

- Last District meeting May 18; next meeting, June 15.
- District has 12 Groups and 14 Meetings, 7 GRs.
- 2 suspended meetings; 8 temporary electronic meetings; 4 face-to-face meetings; Rockaway face-to-face meeting to try hybrid format.
- District Treasury: \$ 959.85.
- Holding District elections for all positions in October.
- Sending out Public Outreach packet to 21 treatment/family service centers.

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

- District met in May via Zoom.
- 3 face-to-face meetings; 4 online meetings; 3 hybrid meetings; 2 suspended meetings; 2 closed. 2 Alateen meetings in district have closed.
- Day of Fellowship held on April 17; held virtually with two speakers and workshops.
- Mailing current copies of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* to treatment centers in and around District 3.
- Working with groups to establish a contact email list for the group, to time with launching of LinkedIn campaign.
- District is financially healthy and has donated to NJIS.
- Next District meeting, September 17.

Mary S. asked how many groups attended May district meeting. Katie indicated three groups were present.

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

- District Meeting April 15, 2021: most meetings in district meeting via Zoom; Wayne meeting is face-to-face. Discussed success of public outreach.
- District meeting May 20 was well-attended. Discussed Delegate's Report, Redistricting Thought Force, Election Flyer, and DR's term ending this year.
- Next District Meeting: October 21, 2021
- Treasury balance: \$436.07
- Will provide assembly refreshments if held in person.

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

- First Day of Unity held May 16, with 35 participants from NJ, FL, WA and Canada, including 2 newcomers. Theme: "Sowing Seeds of Hope & Recovery."

- One meeting in District 11 converted to face-to-face from Zoom: Sunday night Rahway 7PM.
- Other meetings considering returning to face-to-face or hybrid format.
- 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; 2 have GRs.
- Gave status of suspended and active meetings.
- Zoom meetings are well-attended, with many newcomers. Members mailing 7th Tradition funds to group treasurers and funds are being sent to the service arms.
- Newcomers are reaching out almost daily.

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

- Last district meeting April 7, 2021 via Zoom, attended by 11 GRs.
- Alateen group at St. Gregory the Great resumed face-to-face; 5 teens attend regularly; 4 AMIAS have recertified.
- Literature Awareness and Distribution Program to facilitate what Al-Anon has to offer for public outreach and to groups; particularly focus on helping newcomers access Al-Anon resources.
- Donated 25 copies of *How Al-Anon Works* to Books through Bars program, to be distributed to prisoners.
- Planning another virtual Unity Fellowship Day in the fall.
- May 20 held special district meeting with Donna S. to discuss hybrid meetings.

District 22 Burlington County: No report.

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

- District held Zoom meeting May 19, 2021; next district meeting June 9 via Zoom.
- 25 meetings and 1 Alateen meeting; 5 meetings temporarily suspended
1 Alateen meeting not active
11 meetings face-to-face; including 3 hybrid
8 meetings on Zoom
1 meeting on phone
- Treasury balance: \$1,587.
- Public outreach on-going, to judges, police departments.
- Updating meeting list is challenging because of lack of GRs and out-of-date CMI information.
- Extending term to June to allow more time to find new DR.

District 26: No report submitted.

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

- District now has 5 face-to-face meetings.
- Next district meeting September 13 in Marmora. All service positions are filled.
- Holly is using email or text to communicate.
- Holly's term is up in December.
- Next District meeting June 7, 2021.

Jen S., GR from District 8 had a general question for the group regarding help for running a hybrid meeting.

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; program still being worked out. Asked for volunteers. Annual business meeting to be held during Jal-Con.

- New website under construction.
- New Facebook page.
- New URL: njalacon.org.
- Carol Ann T. is Trustee Tech as a Board position.
- Trustees voted to change By-Laws regarding fiscal year; also discussed dropping liability insurance as meetings are virtual.
- Looking for new Trustees.
- Liz K is Committee Chair; Diane is Chair of Trustees.
- June 12 is next planning committee for Jal-Con via Zoom.

Katie O. suggested having a CPA review the By-Laws.

Ann Marie Z. recommended ProBono Partners to review By-Laws.

NJIS: No report. No one attended.

Spanish Intergroup: No report.

Task Force for Using LinkedIn for Public Outreach:

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

- Updated on work with WSO
- Anticipated start in September.
- Campaign looking for more volunteers.

Ken gave a summary of Linked In, the WSO campaign, and progress working with WSO. There are now six volunteers working on campaign. Ken asked that anyone interested in being involved contact him.

Donna presented PDF developed by Ken. This provided sample ads, information taken from Al-Anon member survey, and would be developed to be most interesting to professionals.

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

Thought Force on Redistricting:

Discussion continued after lunch and a recommendation was made to move to a Task Force. The vote was 29 in favor to move to a Task Force.

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.

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.

Audrey reported on her research with 3 difference insurance brokers, may take 30 to 60 days for a response.

Madeline asked what exactly comprises coverage. Audrey indicated they were researching liability insurance coverage.

Rochelle asked who would be responsible for payment. Ann Marie indicated that the answer depends on how the insurance would be structured.

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: 40 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: 35 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passed.

Electronic Meeting from WSC Discussion:

Donna S. gave a presentation regarding WSO and electronic meetings. WSO is recognizing electronic meetings and hybrid groups. Temporary electronic meetings are not impacted. However, groups can now choose to remain electronic or hybrid. A platform is in place to provide representation at WSO for electronic meetings. Donna presented a chart indicating the process.

Donna questioned whether Assembly needed to form a Task Force. The response was the Task Force was formed by WSO.

Discussion followed as to how the process would develop and how geographic differences would be handled. Also discussed how meetings would be classified within the Area. Liz K. gave experience from her district.

How Best to Handle No WSO Annual Update Sheet Being Sent from WSO

Jennifer gave presentation.

Next Annual Update will be March 2022.

Explained why keeping group information up-to-date is vital.

Working with DRs to update group records in each district. Also working to help groups to make these updates.

Creating a cover letter to send to groups requesting updated information.

Ask It Basket:

1. Question about reinstating an Assembly newsletter.

Ann Marie Z. indicated NJIS and SJIS had been responsible for any newsletters.

Calendar portion of the website addresses some of the items typically handled in a printed newsletter.

Could bring the idea to AWSC as a possible new service opportunity.

Kathy B. indicated Alagram used to be 12 pages, but kept decreasing in size with fewer contributions over time. The purpose of Alagram is to inform groups of NJ Assembly and AWSC events and meetings.

2. Why do we have Jal-Con meetings? Is Jal-Con not part of NJ Assembly? Since both entities are clamoring for support, can't they join forces?

Kathy B gave the history. Approximately 1990 Jal-Con became its own entity and is now its own corporation.

Motion to adjourn at 2:30PM. Closed with Al-Anon Declaration

Minutes Submitted by
Mary F. - Recording Secretary