

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY AREA 36

MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 4, 2022

VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY

Donna S. called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM via Zoom. The meeting opened with Donna S. reading the Serenity Prayer.

Traditions 1-6 read by Denise S. Traditions 7-12 read by Maureen N. Concepts of Service 1-6 read by Anne P. and Concepts of Service 7-12 read by Angela O. Holly B.. read the General Warranties.

Donna S. then read from Page 86 of the Service Manual regarding service participation. Donna S. reviewed meeting etiquette on page 4 of the meeting packet.

Liz K. reviewed Vox Vote procedures on page 4 of the meeting packet. Members to download Vox Vote app to smartphone or use google Vox Vote live in a new browser. Vox Vote voting code is 381463.

Roll call participation was taken by Zoom. There were 67 participants, of which 45 were voting members (GRs or Alternate GRs).

OFFICER REPORTS

Chairperson: Chairperson report from Donna S. was included in packet. Donna S. reported that she participated in the April Officer's (Trustee) meeting and the May AWSC meeting. She also reported opening new savings and checking accounts with Bank of America with Mary K. Donna S. also participated in researching new sites for the hybrid October AWSC meeting and the November hybrid Assembly. There were no questions about the Chairperson's report.

Delegate: Katie O. See below.

Alternate Delegate: Liz K. gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- Will have hybrid Assembly this fall. Contract negotiations with new venue Central New Jersey in progress.
- Liz K reached NJ Information Service Center. NJIS needs volunteers.
- Liz K. is learning how to use Vox Vote, which will be used in future AWSC and Assembly meetings.

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There were no questions about the Alternate Delegate's report.

Treasurer: Mary K. gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- NJ Al-Anon Assembly Profit and Loss report for January through May 2022 included Total Income of \$ 5674.16 and Total Expenses of \$5187.88 for a Net Income of \$486.28 to date for 2022
- Total Assets as of May 28, 2022 is \$35,394.98.
- Mary K. is in process of learning Quickbooks.
- Opened new accounts with Bank of America, so no longer banking with Wells Fargo.
- Peter M. asked about total balance of both savings and checking accounts and Mary K. reported a Total Balance of \$35,394.98, which is a total of both the checking and saving accounts.

There were no other questions about the Treasurer's report.

Recording Secretary: Scott A. provided draft minutes from March 5, 2022, which will be discussed later in the Assembly meeting.

Corresponding Secretary: Jennifer B. gave report; included in packet. Highlights include:

- Jennifer B. discussed new forms for registering groups and maintaining/updating meeting status.
- Jennifer B. reported that 67% of the Area's 268 Groups are face-to-face or hybrid
- Jennifer B. reported that there remain groups with no email or contact information.

Peter M. asked question about where to download the forms Jennifer B. discussed and she explained how to download them. Copies of the forms are attached to the Assembly packet.

DELEGATE REPORT

Delegate: Katie O. Delegate report from Katie O. was included in packet. Highlights presented by Katie O. include:

- Katie O. attended WSC (World Service Conference) beginning on April 26, 2022. Katie O. reviewed general details about WSC purpose, members of WSC and various details regarding how WSC is structured
- At WSC a motion was approved to seat non-voting participants at WSO who have a voice but no vote.
- During the conference, WSC gave its approval of the individuals selected to be Regional Trustees, Trustee-at-Large, Board Officers, and Chairperson of Executive Committee for Real Property Management.
- Motion to approve admitting a Global Electronic Area to WSC was passed. Subsequently, there was a motion to amend the WSC charter to reflect this admission of the Global Electronic Area to WSC and this motion passed.

- Katie O. discussed TEAM events, which are networking events between WSC members and Area members.
- Katie O. mentioned service positions available at AFG, Inc., which is the WSO. This was discussed at WSC as a MEGA Issue as well.
- Katie O. reviewed Chosen Agenda Items that are proposed by WSC members (Delegates). There were 64 proposals. Topics chosen were encouraging Al-Anon members to participate in service above the group level and rebuilding Alateen meetings following the loss of Alateen meetings during the pandemic.
- Katie O. talked about her visit to Stepping Stones as part of WSC.
- Katie O. reported on policy discussion at WSC regarding social media and how it may be used to carry the Al-Anon message. Katie O. also discussed policing of entities that are not part of Al-Anon using Al-Anon and Alateen trademarks. Service arms should manage the use of social media, but Groups should not.
- Katie O. discussed growth of Al-Anon, which seems to be growing internationally but not domestically.
- Katie O. discussed future events including a Road Trip by Al-Anon Board of Trustees and Executive Committee to Cleveland, OH for October 22, 2022, for which Registration opens in August 2022.
- Katie O. reported that Al-Anon International Convention with AA participation will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico from June 20 to July 2, 2023.
- Katie O. reported on the fact that the Al-Anon budget for next year will be a deficit budget as expenses are expected to exceed income.
- Katie O. discussed Al-Anon strategic plan, which includes release of a new daily reader, "A Little Time for Myself." Literature sales are down in 2021 but may be better this year. Katie O. encourages members to buy literature.

- Katie O. reviewed WSO financial reports and Auditor's report (2020-2021).
- Katie O. reported that eleven Areas lost the ability to offer Alateen meetings because these Areas did not submit operational guidelines to WSO and/or because the Area(s) did not properly update AMIAS certifications. New Jersey is not one of these Areas.
- Katie O. reported on Al-Anon WSO LinkedIn marketing campaign, which is now managed solely by WSO.

Questions and Answers regarding Katie O.'s report are as follows:

Christina P. commented on Katie's report. Christina P. asked about the questionnaire included in Katie's report. Katie O. pointed out that this questionnaire is from pamphlet G-41, which may be downloaded from WSO website.

Donna S. asked about the new daily reader, and when it will be released. Katie O. is not sure exactly when it will be released.

Kathleen asked about literature income for Al-Anon, in particular, how much Al-Anon profits from electronic literature versus sales of hardcopy literature. Katie O. did not have percentages with respect to profit margins.

Sara E. commented that the daily reader is expected to be released at the Al-Anon International Convention in Albuquerque, NM.

Peter M. asked whether an electronic district may leave its Area. Katie discussed procedures for any district or group to leave an Area and join another Area.

There were no further questions about the Delegate report.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Alagram: Christina M. gave her report, which is included in packet. Highlights include:

- Alagram has been sent out via email.

There were no questions about the Alagram Coordinator's report.

Alateen: Lori-jo gave report, which is included in packet. Highlights include:

- Lori-jo reported that 23 AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service). Requirements with WSO were satisfied by deadline.

Ken K. remarked on how many adults need to be present at each Alateen meetings. Lor-jo answered that if there cannot be two AMIAS in each meeting then one AMIAS and a non-participating adult Al-Anon member will do. Lori-jo remarked that it is best to have two adult AMIAS at each meeting.

Rich M. commented that there should be no one-on-one meetings with Alateen members for safety reasons.

Tim S. commented that Area policy, which has been reviewed by an attorney, does not permit one-to-one meetings of Adults with Alateen members.

There were no further questions about the Alateen Coordinator's report.

Archives: Mike L. gave report, which is included in packet. Highlights include:

- Mike L. continues to archive materials and information on groups but could use additional Al-Anon volunteers.

There were no questions about the Archive report.

Forum: Liz K. gave report, which is included in packet. Highlights include:

- Liz K. reported that NJ Area has more Forum subscriptions than the average Area. Liz K. suggested groups consider having two Forum subscriptions, and she talked about buying Forum subscriptions for relatives and sponsees.

- Liz K. discussed having a writing workshop to encourage article submissions to Forum.

Sara E. commented that as Group Rep she promotes Forum subscriptions. Liz K. acknowledged that this is one of the duties of a Group Rep.

Pat M. asked whether the “In the Loop” newsletter is archived. Liz K. explained that while the articles are archived the newsletter itself is not.

There were no further questions about the Forum Coordinator’s report.

Literature: Angela R. gave report, which is included in packet. Highlights include:

- New Service Manual is now available online and hardcopy will be available this summer.
- New daily reader to be released in 2023 at Al-Anon convention in New Mexico as reported by Katie O.
- Angela R. gave a list of available Al-Anon approved audio books.

Peter D. reported that he could not download the new service manual but could use it interactively online. Angela R. said she will look into it.

David I. asked why ODAT is not available online. Angela R. said she will look into it.

Liz K. mentioned “In the Loop” newsletter and accessing it to learn more about Al-Anon literature.

Kathy B. points out that ODAT is available as an eBook.

Mary T. pointed out that PDFs of the service manual are online.

There were no further questions about the Literature Coordinator’s report.

Public Outreach: Debbie A. gave her report, which is included in packet. Highlights include:

- Debbie A. has reached out to all groups in the Area.
- There will be Public Outreach activities in Lindhurst, NJ on June 18th, 2022 and in Irvington, NJ on June 18th, 2022 as well.
- Public Outreach activities in October 2022 to be determined.

There were no questions about the Public Outreach Coordinator’s report.

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

- AnnaMarie discussed virus that infected website from a plug-in. AnnaMarie reports more problems with the website, which she is having difficulty resolving. AnnaMarie proposes hiring outside help to help maintain the website.

Peter M. had question about how difficult it is to find the Al-anon website with google search. AnnaMarie reports that this is an SEO optimization issue.

Scott A. asked about splitting the Website Coordinator position into a content position and a technical position, wherein the technical position is a paid position, and whether the Assembly needs a thought force or task force on this issue. Donna S. pointed out that she and AnnaMarie are looking into this issue.

One member suggested using a QR code to facilitate access to the Website. AnnaMarie indicated she would look into it. One member asked how much it would cost to hire help with the website.

Angela O. commented that she gets good search results for NJ Al-Anon with Chrome.

Jennifer B. asked whether, blocking access to all countries except the United States due to the recent Ukraine events, has affected search results for NJ Al-Anon. AnnaMarie does not believe this factor should affect search results for NJ A-Anon.

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Katie O. asked whether Google is using old data about NJ Al-Anon that may be affecting search results. AnnaMarie is looking into it.

Sue H. shared certain search techniques she uses to search for the NJ Al-Anon website. AnnaMarie expressed her opinion that she does not see a practical way to get this information to the general public.

Tennille J. volunteered to help AnnaMarie with the website.

There were no further questions regarding the Website Coordinator's report.

Assembly broke for lunch at 12:16 P.M. Donna S. provided an online white board for the Ask it Basket. During lunch, there were Fellowship Rooms to join and chat has been enabled so members may communicate via chat as well.

Assembly meeting resumed at 12:25 PM with Donna S. reading the Serenity Prayer.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 2 Morris County: Ken S. gave report, included in packet. Highlights include:

- Eleven active groups conducting twelve meetings.
- District 2 had its last meeting on May 25, 2022 via zoom. District 2 has elected a new district treasurer.
- District 2 has been sending literature for public outreach to one or more organizations in District 2.
- Treasury is at \$516.16, so District 2 made distributions to WSO, NJIS and NJ Area Assembly.

There were no questions regarding the District 2 report.

District 11 Middlesex and Union counties: Angela O. gave report, included with packet. Highlights include:

- District 11 has eleven meetings, which are back to face-to-face. Turnout has been low.
- Angela O. characterizes District 11 as in a "rebuilding" mode.
- District 11 has a picnic organized for next weekend (see flyer attached to report).
- Angela O. commented that if there is redistricting in accordance with the presentation for today, then there will be more groups to draw from for volunteers.
- Status of funds not reported.

There were no questions regarding the District 11 report.

District 20/21 Trenton, Hamilton, Princeton: Peter M. is DR. Peter M.'s report is included in packet. Highlights include:

- Had last district meeting via zoom on May 23, 2022, and next scheduled district meeting is in June 2022.
- New meeting established in Princeton Junction. District 20/21 also has an Alateen meeting with 4-5 Alateens in regular attendance. Number of active groups and meetings in district not reported.
- District 20/21 has a planned Unity Day at the Stone Hill Church for October 29, 2022.
- Treasury is at \$1844.36.

There were no questions about the District 20/21 report.

District 23 Northern Ocean County: Karen P. gave report, which is included in packet. Highlights include:

- Two district meetings, one in February and one in March, have been held since last Assembly. Next district meeting is scheduled for June 2022.
- The number of active groups and meetings were not reported.

- District 23 has almost \$1000 in its treasury.
- District 23 is discussing virtual online workshop for the fall of this year.
- District 23 has completed the literature donations to libraries in the district according to its plan that was reported at last Assembly
- At the District 23 March district meeting, the term “qualifier” for alcoholics was discussed. District 23 interprets the term “qualifier” to be the Al-anon member and commented that the term “qualifier” is not Al-Anon terminology.
- District 23 is hoping to consolidate with some other districts in the future.

There were no questions about the District 23 report.

District 25: Liz K. gave report, which is included in packet. Highlights include:

- District 25 has held monthly zoom district meetings since last Assembly, which are open to any Al-Anon members who wish to participate.
- District 25 maintains a spreadsheet on Google sheets listing available locations to hold Al-Anon meetings within the district. District 25 has a form for updating this information.
- District 25 has twelve active meetings, which includes one Spanish language meeting. The number of active Groups was not reported.
- District 25 had lost track of its funds as District 25 had been without a District Rep. for a while. The District 25 funds have been recovered from previous District 25 officers; however, the amount of these funds was not reported. District 25 is looking into opening up a new bank account in which to maintain its funds.
- District 25 is planning to elect new District officers.

There were no questions regarding the District 25 report.

District 27 Cape May and Atlantic Counties: Anne A. gave report, which is included in packet. Highlights include:

- District 27 had its last district meeting on May 11th, 2022 and next district meeting is scheduled for June 15th, 2022 at 7 PM.
- District 27 has a new seasonal meeting (Memorial day through Labor day) meeting on Tuesday nights at 7 PM at Stone Harbor, with first hour conducted as a Beginner’s meeting and second hour conducted as a 12 step and 12 tradition meeting.
- District 27 has set up a District zoom account, which may be used for all online meetings in District 27.
- AA Waves round-up is December 2-4, 2022 at the Showboat in Atlantic City, and District 27 is participating.
- District 27 has a local meeting list that is updated regularly.
- Treasury balance not reported.

There were no questions about the District 27 report.

Attendance after lunch taken. There are 62 participants. Voting members (GRs and Alternate GRs) are 43 individuals.

LIAISON REPORTS

Jal-Con: See report by Eileen K. and presented by Ezra T. There is a shortage of volunteers so there will be no Jal-Con this year. There is a full set of officers but need some more members for Board of Trustees. Jal-Con is the name of the organization and the convention has been renamed to “NJ Alacon.” Website is NJAlacon.org.

The NJ Alacon is currently under funded and has asked for 7th Tradition donations from the Groups. A donation form is attached to the Jal-Con report.

Mary S. commented that she emailed name of a possible volunteer and got no response. Ezra T. is looking into this issue.

Liz K. indicated that the website for JAL-CON and for the convention were revised for clarity.

One member asked whether shortening the NJ Al-Anon convention is affecting attendance. Ezra T. reports that attendance has been good in the past.

Donna S. reported that there is new president of JAL-CON.

NJIS: No report. No one attended, position vacant.

Spanish Intergroup: Aura B. No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Task Force Redistricting:

Christina M. and Angela R. gave presentation from Redistricting Task Force to explain need for redistricting and to propose a plan for redistricting. See slides included with Assembly packet. The Redistricting proposal will reduce the number of districts from 27 to 10, which includes a district for permanent electronic groups.

Denise S. asked about specifics of re-districting, and Christina M. addressed these questions.

Katie O. questioned whether there should be a district for permanent electronic meetings because there are currently no permanent electronic meetings in the NJ Area. In Katie O.'s opinion, this would overrepresent the few, if any, PEG groups in the electronic district at NJ Al-Anon Assembly.

Christina M. expressed that Districts have no vote at NJ Al-Anon Assembly because it is the GRs that have votes at Assembly so there should be no overrepresentation with respect to electronic groups.

Peter M. commented that those groups he knows plan to become permanent electronic groups do not want to be part of the new electronic district because they want to remain in their current geographic district.

Kathy B. expressed her support for the redistricting proposal.

Rich M. asked whether a permanent electronic group may choose to join the electronic district or to join a previous physical geographic district in NJ where the permanent electronic group previously resided. Christina M. indicated that such groups will have that choice.

Rich M. asked whether permanent electronic groups could participate at the NJ Area Assembly above the group level. Christina M. and Donna S. remarked that this issue has been considered but how to handle it will be addressed in the future.

Ken S. asked how the new redistricted districts will be communicated to the previous groups and districts, and whether new district elections will be needed. Ken K. voiced similar concerns regarding implementation of redistricting. Donna S. commented that there are Area resources to communicate out the redistricting to the previous districts and groups.

Motion from AWSC:

The AWSC recommends to the N.J. Area Assembly that the redistricting proposal be approved as presented.

Liz K. raised certain hypotheticals regarding permanent electronic districts, then Liz K. seconded the motion.

Tim S. proposed voting on this motion until after the presentation and vote on permanent electronic districts. Scott A. supported voting on this motion later in the meeting, after the presentation on permanent electronic districts.

Karen P. expressed her desire to proceed with the vote now before the next presentation.

Vote Tally: 33 yes, 3 no, 7 void votes. Motion passed by substantial unanimity.

Task Force Permanent Electronic Groups (PEGs):

Donna S. presented. See slides included with Assembly packet.

Debbie F. commented that she is from a group that is now a permanent electronic group. She believes it would be better if permanent electronic groups belonged to the permanent electronic district.

Ken K. points out that under the current Bylaws there can be no group in the NJ Area that is located outside of New Jersey.

Donna S. commented that there may need to be future revisions to these guidelines, but that the present proposal is bare bones for initial guidelines.

Kathleen O. commented positively on the guidelines that allow permanent electronic groups the choice to join the permanent electronic district or to join the geographic district in NJ in which the permanent electronic group originated.

Christine P. had question regarding whether this proposal is for joining the electronic district or NJ Area. Donna S. clarified that the guidelines are for admitting permanent electronic groups into the NJ Area.

Rich M. voiced concern regarding whether permanent electronic group GRs and DRs would attend NJ Assembly in person. Also, Rich M. is concerned regarding conflict between the Bylaws and the motion.

Holly raised concerns regarding how permanent electronic groups would be vetted into geographic districts if they are not located in NJ.

Maureen N. voiced concerns regarding finding a home for electronic groups so they have a home district. Where does a purely electronic meeting go?

Pat M. has questions regarding the Global Electronic Area. Karen P. gave her comments regarding how

she understand the Global Electronic Area and the choice of whether a permanent electronic group wants to belong in the Global Electronic Area or in a Geographic Area.

Tim S. expressed his opinion that Bylaws do not need to get revised before the motion passes. The Bylaws may be changed after the Motion passes.

Katie O. requested to amend the Motion. The request was not granted.

Motion from AWSC:

The AWSC recommends that the proposed procedure for allowing Permanent Electronic Groups to be admitted to the NJ Area be approved as presented.

Scott A. asked if the motion needed to be seconded. Donna S. stated that because the motion come from AWSC it does not need to be seconded.

Vote Tally: 34 yes, 5 no, 4 void votes. Motion passed by substantial unanimity.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2022 Assembly Meeting:

After discussion of amendments, Kathleen O. motioned to accept the revised minutes and Michele M. seconded. 39 in favor, no opposition. No abstentions. So, motion passed and amended minutes are approved.

2021 Financial Audit

Donna S. presented results of 2021 Financial Audit, which includes:

- Checking Account: \$21,000.97
- Savings Account: \$13,891.62
- \$777.30 transferred from Checking Account to Savings Account.
- Ample reserve for 2022 is \$13,839.76.

Ken K. commented that the new guideline G-41 reduces ample reserve to fixed expenses. Donna S. commented that the new guideline is just a guideline. Katie O. pointed out that the new guideline was probably drafted before the pandemic and does not reflect the current environment.

Kathy B. asked about interest of one dollar. Donna S. pointed out that NJ Al-Anon Area switched banks.

Motion from AWSC:

The AWSC recommends that the 2021 Audit Report be approved and that the ample reserve for 2022 be set at \$13,839.76.

Vote Tally: 38 yes, 1 no, zero void votes. Motion passed by substantial unanimity so 2021 Audit Report has been approved.

Budget Committee:

Donna S. needs volunteer DR to participate on the Budget Committee. Meetings will be virtual. Peter M and Ken S. volunteered. Next Budget Committee meeting is on July 22, 2022 at 7 pm.

NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING – Saturday, November 5, 2022 10:00 am – 3:00 PM via Hybrid meeting. Location to be determined.

Ask It Basket: No ask it basket questions. Mike asked from the floor where the next Assembly will be held. Liz K. believes it will be in Mercer County but contract negotiations have not been completed.

Motion to adjourn made by Tim S. and Michelle seconded. Motioned passed by unanimous vote at 3 PM. Meeting closed with Al-Anon Declaration

Minutes Submitted by
Scott A. - Recording Secretary