NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY AREA 36

MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 5, 2022

HYBRID ASSEMBLY

Donna S. called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. The meeting opened with Donna S. reading the Serenity Prayer.

Traditions 1-6 read by Sara E. Traditions 7-12 read by Debbie F. Concepts of Service 1-6 read by David I. and Concepts of Service 7-12 read by Cynthia K. Marni E. read the General Warranties.

Donna S. then read from Page 86 of the Service Manual regarding service participation. Donna S. reviewed meeting etiquette on pages 5-6 of the meeting packet.

Liz K. reviewed Vox Vote procedures on page 7-9 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 Vox Vote. There were 51 participants, of which 46 were voting members (GRs or Alternate GRs).

OFFICER REPORTS

Chairperson: Chairperson report from Donna S. was included in packet and posted on Groups.io. Donna S. reported that she reviewed an issue raised by an Al-Anon member before the last Assembly. This issue is on today's agenda for later in the meeting. Donna S. reported that she participated in the Al-Anon road trip to Cleveland OH in October 2022. There were no questions about the Chairperson's report.

Delegate: Katie O. Delegate report from Katie O. was included in packet and posted on Groups.io. Katie O. reported that a WSO survey is in progress. Katie O. reported that a detailed sheet regarding the

next International Convention in Albuquerque, NM has been posted by WSO. Katie O. reported she is on a task force, Area Web and/or Tech Coordinator, which is responsible for drafting guidelines for webservice coordinators and additional web support.

Katie O. reported that not enough members are stepping up to be Trustees. To be a Trustee, an Al-Anon member needs at least 10 years in Al-Anon and 2 years of service above the Group Level. Katie O. encourages those interested in serving as a Trustee to contact her for more details. There were no questions about the Delegate's report.

Alternate Delegate: Liz K. gave her Alternate Delegate report, which is included in packet and posted on Groups.io. Main issue Liz K. is working on is researching a liability insurance policy for the Area that will cover any group whose host venue requires a certificate as proof of insurance. Liz K. intends to have more details for the next Assembly. There were no questions about the Alternate Delegate's report.

As Alternate Delegate, Liz K. will be reviewing the Ask It Basket questions during this Assembly.

Treasurer: Mary K. gave report; included in packet and posted on Groups.io. Highlights include:

- NJ Al-Anon Assembly Profit and Loss report for January through September 2022 included Total Income of \$ 10,509.48 and Total Expenses of \$9107.21 for a Net Income of \$1402.27 to date for 2022
- Total Assets as of September 30, 2022 is \$36,310.97.

Mary K. explained that the Excel sheet provides record of actual expenses and budgeted amounts and

the differences. Pat. O and Greg O. had questions regarding the difference between actual expense vs. budgeted expenses, which Mary K. addressed.

Rick asked about the prudent reserve. Donna S. explained that the prudent reserve is based on three-year average from the annual financial audits.

Denise S. asked about whether there were losses. Mary K. explained the finance sheet. There has been a net income year-to-date. Pat S. commented that managing the budget is a lot of work and expressed thanks to Mary K. for her service.

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

Recording Secretary: Scott A. provided draft minutes from June 4, 2022, which will be discussed later in the Assembly meeting.

Corresponding Secretary: Jennifer B. gave report; included in packet and posted on Groups.io. Highlights include:

Jennifer B. reported that WSO is now registering new electronic meetings and changes in meeting status from in-person to PEG status. Jennifer B. reviewed registration information on page 1 of her report. Jennifer B. reported that there are 6 new PEGs in the NJ Area, two more undergoing processing, and one new PEG meeting request.

Jennifer B. reported that redistricting has been completed and District and Group records updated.

Tina H. asked for Jennifer B's contact information, and Jennifer B. put it in the chat.

Peter asked whether every district has a WSO number like a group. Jennifer B says no.

Angela O. asked whether PEGs will be listed on the website. Jennifer B says yes.

There were no further questions regarding the Corresponding Secretary report.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Alagram: Christina M. gave her report, which is included in packet and posted on Groups.io. Highlights include:

The Fall 2022 Alagram has been emailed and mailed out to 265 groups in the NJ Area.

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

Alateen: No report for this Assembly.

Archives: Mike L. gave report, which is included in packet and is posted in Groups.io. Highlights include:

Mike L's report included a group history form and a long-time member form for those members who wish to submit historical information to the Archives.

Mike L. reported that he went to the 44th AA conference in September 2022 and displayed the Al-Anon archive materials there. Mike L. continues to work on digitizing records from paper copies. Mike L. asks for volunteers to help him with this project.

Mike L. pointed out that there is an Archives display in the hall way, and that there is a braille copy of the ODAT to borrow or take.

There were no questions about the Archive report.

Forum: Liz K. gave report, which is included in packet and is posted on Groups.io. Highlights include:

Liz K. explained that as Alternate Delegate she is also responsible for promoting Forum subscriptions and distributing them. Liz K. pointed out that GRs also serve as Forum representatives (see literature F-2). Liz K's goal is to reach 300 forum subscriptions for the NJ Area by the end of 2022, and she reported that the present number of Forum subscriptions for the NJ Area is 297.

Liz K. is planning a Forum workshop to be held in March 2023 as part of the Area 45 AA convention that will be held in Atlantic city.

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

Literature: Angela R. gave report, which is included in packet and posted in Groups.io. Highlights include:

Angela R. reports that the new service manual is available online, and printed hardcopies are expected to be available by the end of the year.

Angela R. reports that NJ Area calendars have been mailed out to all groups. She points out that if a Group did not get it, then the GR should check the Group's address on record.

Angela R. reports that the new daily reader, A Little Time for Myself, (B-34), will be released and available for purchase at the at the International Convention in July in Albuquerque, NM. Angela R. informed the Assembly that all Al-Anon literature will be available online.

Debbie S. asked when all electronic Al-Anon books be available. Angela R. says in the next 7 months.

Sue H. asked how to get a NJ Area calendar. Angela R. says there are 21 left at \$5 each and how to purchase them. Sue H. asked if service manuals will be mailed to the Groups. Angela R. says that service manuals are not free to the Groups so each Group needs to order one. Karen P. also responded to Sue H.'s question, and suggested that Sue H. should reach out to Karen P. for assistance. Katie O. says that free copies of the service manual are available online.

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

Public Outreach: Debbie A. gave her Public Outreach report, which is included in the packet and posted on Groups.io. Highlights include:

Debbie A. is reaching out to all Districts in the Area, but has not yet completed this task.

Debbie A. will be attended the December 2-3,2022 Waves of Sobriety Convention (an AA-Al-Anon event) as a public outreach opportunity.

Debbie A. will be leaving her role as Public Outreach Coordinator on December 31, 2022 due to work constraints. Debbie A can let any member interested in serving as Public Outreach Coordinator what the role entails.

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

Website: AnnaMarie gave report, included with packet and posted on Groups.io. Highlights include:

AnnaMarie renewed security software package.

AnnaMarie reported that she met with a friend of an Al-Anon member to review website support needs. Scott A. asked about status of work flow. AnnaMarie reported that she has contacted a person for hire but no progress on that issue yet.

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

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

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 1 (Hunterdon, Warren): No DR so no report.

District 2 (Morris, Sussex): Ken S. gave report, included in packet and posted in Groups.io. Highlights include:

District 2 has 23 active groups conducting 24 meetings.

District 2 had its last meeting on October 25, 2022, which was after the new districting. District 2's next

meeting to be scheduled for a face-to-face discussion of a Public Outreach project.

District 2 has gained a new Alateen meeting from Butler as a result of the redistricting.

Treasury is at \$1132.16.

There were no questions regarding the District 2 report.

District 3 (Bergen, Passaic): No DR so no report.

District 4 (Essex, Hudson, Union): Angela O. gave report, included in the packet and posted in Groups.io. Highlights include:

District 4 has 42 active groups meetings.

District 4 had a District meeting on July 17, 2022 and a District picnic planning meeting on September 11, 2022. The District 4 Fall picnic was held on October 15, 2022 in Westfield. District 2's next meeting to be scheduled.

District 4 is planning a winter forum workshop. District 4 is working to promote public outreach with a poster with QR code. Scott A. asked if the poster is from WSO and Angela O. says yes. AnnaMarie asked about the permissions for poster and Liz K will discuss with her later.

Treasury is at \$190.71.

There were no further questions regarding the District 4 report.

District 5 (Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset): Peter M. gave report, included in the packet and posted on Groups.io. Highlights include:

Number of active groups not reported.

Last District 5 meeting conducted via Zoom on October 24, 2022, and next scheduled District 5 meeting will be via Zoom on November 16, 2022.

District 5 had a district event with raffle and WSO poster with QR code.

Peter M. reported that District 5 has a public outreach display, and posters for display, and free

literature to distribute (e.g., Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism).

Peter M. reported that District 5 has an Alateen meeting with 3 regular members and some intermittent attendees. District 5 is looking into having a Unity day for the Alateens.

Treasury is at \$700.00.

There were no questions about the District 5 report.

District 6 (Monmouth): No DR so no report.

District 7 (Ocean): Karen P. gave report, included in the packet and posted on Groups.io.

Number of active meetings not reported. Temporary Electronic Meetings are transitioning to Permanent Electronic Meetings (PEGs).

District 7 (formerly District 23) had District meetings on the second Wednesday of the month in September and October 2022. District 7 meetings are held every month via Zoom. Next District 7 meeting scheduled for November 9, 2022.

One group in District 7 had an anniversary meeting.

District 7 held a Day of Sharing via Zoom on October 22, 2022. Gina C. from Connecticut was the Al-Anon speaker. District 7 is planning another Day of Sharing for 2023.

Treasury reported as "substantial.".

There were no questions regarding the District 7 report.

District 8 (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester): Liz K. gave report, included with packet and posted on Groups.io. Highlights include:

There are 24 active groups in District 8.

Last District 8 meeting held on October 19, 2022. Next District 8 meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2022 via Zoom.

District 7 held a district meet and greet event, and has been using the WSO poster as a public outreach tool.

Maryellen asked what is the primary responsibility of a DR because she is from District 1, which has no DR. Liz K. told Maryellen that she will address this question during the Ask It Basket portion of the Assembly. Kathy B. says that guidelines for DR and district meetings are available online via the WSO website.

Debbie A. is public outreach coordinator for a Group in Atlantic City. She talked about some of the efforts her group has done as public outreach efforts.

Checking account for District 8 opened at Fulton Bank. Treasury is at \$2468.67.

There were no questions regarding the District 8 report.

District 9 (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem): Anne A. gave report, which is included in packet and posted on Groups.io. Highlights include:

There are 15 active meetings in District 9.

District 9's last District meeting was held on October 5, 2022. District meetings are held monthly. Next District meeting to be scheduled for November 2022.

District 9 had its first virtual workshop on October 15, 2022 and the topic was "When I Got Busy I Got Better." District 9 plans to make this an annual event. Have 15 active meetings.

Tina H. asked about the three meetings redistricted into her district due to the redistricting. Liz K. says that that info is on the Area website.

Treasury is at \$818.27.

There were no questions about the District 9 report.

District 10 (Permanent Electronic Groups): No DR so no report.

LIAISON REPORTS

Jal-Con: There is no Jal-Con liaison so no report.

Jal-Con is disbanding as a corporation, so no meeting this year.

NJIS: Doug L. is the NJIS liaison. Not present today. No report.

Spanish Intergroup: Aura B. is Spanish Intergroup liaison. Not present today. No report.

Al-Anon Chairperson to Area 45 AA Convention: Jennifer R. (AKA "Jersey Jen" as there are four Jennifers on this committee for this Convention. March 17-19, 2023, in Atlantic City) is the Al-Anon Chairperson for this event. Jennifer R. informs that there will be seven Al-Anon meetings on Friday and five Al-Anon meetings on Saturday during this Convention. There will be an ice cream social, speakers, and a Key note speaker for AA. Al-Anon

members can come for the entire weekend or just part

Jennifer R. needs Al-Anon volunteers to chair the Al-Anon meetings. Mary T. asked how to sign up, and Jennifer R. gave her contact information. Di asked about the meeting topics and Jennifer R. listed the topics. Cynthia asked about the flyer and whether it can be emailed to the groups. Liz K. points out that this flyer is in the assembly packet. Rick asked about the literature for this event. Rick was the literature chair for this event last year. Jennifer R. says that she has a meeting this week to discuss what literature will be made available at the Convention. Christine B. asked if there is an email address to reach out for volunteering. Jennifer R. gave her email address as Jenn.rosania@comcast.net, and she will be available at lunch as well.

"Service is Fun" Skit. Coordinated by Katie O. on behalf of the NJ Assembly Flyers. Cast included Christine P., Mack M., and Denise S.

Did You Know? Jennifer B. presented on How to Become a Permanent Electronic (PEG) in the NJ Area. Process reviewed by Jennifer B, and a copy of the procedure to become a PEG is in the Assembly packet.

of it.

Jesse asked about the process, and Jennifer B. addressed her questions.

Trish explained that she goes to a meeting with a temporary zoom account and some people attend in person and others attend virtually as hybrid participants, and in another Group there were members who split into two Groups, one online and one face-to-face. Jennifer B and Donna S addressed this issue together. They explained that when a Group splits like that one of the Groups is not registered and needs to get registered with WSO.

Lisa M. is a treasurer for a hybrid group, and wants to know whether donations should go to her to pay for a zoom account. This Group split into an in-person Group and an online Group. Jennifer B. asked that Lisa M. discuss this issue with her during the next break. Donna S. addressed the issue of how Group funds should be used, which is to conduct a Group conscience to determine how to manage such situations on a case-by-case basis.

Ted S. asked for Jennifer B's contact information. She will put it in the chat.

Donna G. asked how to let the public know that her meeting is still hybrid. Jennifer B will look at how the group is listed.

Rick asked whether someone needs to be physically at the meeting place to operate the zoom for a meeting to be hybrid. Jennifer B. says yes, and if there is no physical meeting component then the group needs to re-register as a PEG.

Debb asked for clarification of what constitutes a hybrid meeting, and Jennifer B. clarified the hybrid status. Karen asked how a Group should transition from hybrid meeting to a face-to-face or to a PEG meeting, and Jennifer B. reviewed this process for her.

Katie O. commented that the process is complex with a number of meetings splitting up into face-to-face meeting and to a PEG. Katie O points out that the face-to-face meeting keeps the original Group's WSO registration number and that the new PEG needs to register as a PEG with the WSO.

Mark asked about a face-to-face meeting that became a temporary PEG, and now there are two meetings, one face-to-face and one PEG, each registered with the WSO, and at different times on the same day.

Christine P. asked about where one can find the PEG meetings. Jennifer B. says information on PEGs in our Area are on the NJ Area website.

Mark asked whether a Group should drop the term temporary electronic meeting if it becomes permanently electronic. Donna S. reviewed choices Groups have if they are a temporary electronic meeting. Such Groups will need to change status from a temporary electronic group to a PEG, or to a face-to-face meeting, or to a face-to-face meeting with electronic component (a hybrid meeting). Jennifer B. also reviewed this transitioning process.

Betsey asked about her Group, which voted to stay in the present meeting locating and on zoom and are currently listed as a hybrid meeting. Betsy wanted to know whether there is anything her Group needs to do with respect to change of status. Jennifer B. commented that since the group is listed as a hybrid meeting, and that it is a hybrid meeting, then no further action is required.

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.

Attendance after lunch taken. Vox Vote was not available after lunch so attendance was. Voting members (GRs and Alternate GRs) totaled 43 individuals after the lunch break.

OLD BUSINESS:

Donna S. reminded all the GRs that Notice regarding the Amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation and to Article III of the By-Laws was given the appropriate number of days before this Assembly.

Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation:

Donna S. explained the motion. Pat asked when the original Certificate of Incorporation was created. Donna S. believes it was 1993.

Motion: The Officers/Trustees and the AWSC recommend that the proposed amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation be approved.

Vote: Yes 57 No: 0 Abstention/No Vote: 0

Motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Amendment to Article III, Section 1 of the By-Laws: Donna S. explained the motion. Mack asked how this body is a corporation. Donna S. explained that the NJ Area is a non-profit corporation and that the Groups are its members.

Motion: The Officers/Trustees and the AWSC recommend that the proposed amendment to Article III, Section I of the By-Laws be approved.

Vote: Yes: 54 No: 0 Abstention/No Vote: 0 Motioned passed with substantial unanimity.

Amendment to Article VI, Section 1 of the By-Laws: Donna S. explained the motion. No one had questions regarding the motion.

Motion: The Officers/Trustees and the AWSC recommend that the proposed amendment to Article VI, Section I of the By-Laws be approved.

Vote: Yes: 53 No: 3 Abstention/No Vote: 1

Motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Amendment to Section 2.4 of the Policy

Handbook: Donna S. explained the motion. No one had questions regarding the motion.

Motion: The Officers/Trustees and the AWSC recommend that the proposed amendment to 2.4 of the Policy Handbook be approved.

Vote: Yes 49 No: 4 Abstention/No Vote: 3

Motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Amendment to Section 2.5 Budget Committee of the Policy Handbook: Donna S. explained the motion. No one had questions regarding the motion.

Motion: The Officers/Trustees and the AWSC recommend that the proposed amendment to 2.5 Budget Committee of the Policy Handbook be approved.

Vote: Yes: 51 No: 2 Abstention/No Vote: 2

Motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Amendment to Section 2.5 Audit Committee of the Policy Handbook: Donna S. explained the motion. No one had questions regarding the motion.

Motion: The Officers/Trustees and the AWSC recommend that the proposed amendment to 2.5 Audit Committee e of the Policy Handbook be approved.

Vote: Yes: 51 No: 0 Abstention/No Vote: 3

Motion passed with substantial unanimity.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes from June 4, 2022 Assembly Meeting:

After discussion of amendments, Katie O. motioned to approve the Minutes as amended. and Michelle seconded.

39 in favor, no opposition. No

abstentions. So, motion passed and amended minutes are approved.

Motion: The members recommend that the minutes be approved as presented/amended.

Vote: Yes: 50 No: 0 Abstention/No Vote: 4

Motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Approval of the 2023 Budget: Mary K reviewed the proposed 2023 Budget.

Jesse A. asked whether there would be only one hybrid assembly next year. Mary K explained that we are budgeting in 2023 for only one, but based on how the present hybrid assembly goes there may be two more hybrid assemblies.

Gregg asked about the likelihood the 2023 Budget is an underestimate based on expenses. Donna S. explained that increased income is expected based on historical rates as the pandemic ends and people return to normal activity.

Lori-Jo asked if the fee to rent this space for the hybrid Assembly is \$87/person. Liz K. explained that this venue is \$45/person, and additional expenses are for food. Liz K. explained that the NJ Area could not find another venue that could support a hybrid assembly at a cheaper price. The NJ Area got a break on the taxes and a 25% discount.

Katie O. commented that our expenses include the need to hire a venue that can support the technology because the NJ Area does not have members to provide those services.

Liz K motioned to approve the proposed 2023 Budget.

Motion: The Budget Committee recommends that the 2023 Budget be approved as presented.

Vote: Yes: 51 No: 2 Abstention/No Vote: 3

Motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Discussion: Define Policy Committee: Donna S. initiated the discussion by explaining the NJ Area Policy Handbook. This handbook does not define membership of the Policy Committee but historically it was officers of the Board. Donna S. suggests that there should be a GR on the committee.

Peter asked what was the Policy Committee and how often has it been meeting in the past. Donna S. explained that 2019 was the last time the Policy Committee met. Donna S. believes the Recording Secretary would be tasked to collect NJ Area Assembly approved motions and send them to the Policy Committee.

A discussion ensued regarding membership of the Policy committee to include five people, namely, the Chairperson, Alternate Delegate, Recording Secretary, a Group Representative, and a Past Delegate.

Mark asked what is the proposal? Liz K commented that the proposal is to create a Policy Committee that includes a Group Representative.

Angela R. commented on the Policy Committee proposal because she was on the 2019 Policy Committee, and she shared her experience as a member of the 2019 Policy Committee.

Linda R. stated that she would like to see a GR from each district on the Policy Committee.

Chris asked how often the Policy Handbook is updated. Donna S. commented that the Policy Handbook was updated once a year to reflect motions passed by the NJ Assembly in the previous year to the extent that passed motions merited changes to the Policy Handbook.

Lori-jo commented that any committee over 7 people becomes ineffective.

Jesse A. asked if more people may attend the Policy Committee meetings than the five suggested people. Donna S. commented that yes, anyone could attend meetings of the Policy Committee.

MaryEllen asked whether the Groups are notified of the Policy Committee meetings so they may decide whether to attend.

Mary S. mentioned that she would like to volunteer to be on the Policy Committee.

Sara expressed here opinion that 5 people on the committee would be enough.

Carol commented that she would like to see whether there is a consensus on whether to have a Policy committee.

Donna S. took a consensus vote on whether it is a good idea to bring the issue of a Policy Committee to AWSC. Vote tally on the consensus vote: 44 yes, so there is a consensus to bring this issue before AWSC.

Ask It Basket: Liz K. presented the Ask It Basket questions. First question was whether there is a map of the new districts. Liz K. pointed out that the map is on page 2 of the assembly packet.

Second question was, can all reports for Assembly be timely submitted? Liz K. responded that that is the goal.

Third question was directed to the fact that many Groups are ending their meetings with the Lord's prayer. Is this appropriate? Liz k. commented that Groups need to decide for themselves. Scott A. pointed out that the Lord's prayer is not Al-Anon approved but that the Al-Anon Declaration is Al-Anon approved.

Katie O. commented on District Rep requirements, which includes being a GR.

MaryEllen asked about business meetings for Groups. Are issues voted on at the regular meeting? Karen P. commented that votes are usually taken at the Group's business meetings.

Mark asks what can you do if your District does not have a District Rep (DR). Donna S. commented that GRs elect the DRs, so to get a District Representative the Groups in the District must elect their DR.

Angela asked if a District does a workshop, then can the District include non-CAL in the workshops? Donna S. commented that it depends.

Rick expressed his belief that Al-Anon groups are autonomous except in matters that effect Al-Anon as a whole. Rick believes that closing an Al-Anon meeting with the Al-Anon Declaration is acceptable because it is not a prayer whereas the Lord's prayer is not a religious, it is a spiritual prayer.

Pat MHC commented on what is a "home group." Pat MHC feels that people who vote in group conscience should be members of the home Group, which are the Group's regular attendees.

Mack commented that he likes closing a meeting with the serenity prayer and Al-Anon Declaration.

Karen P. cautions about overcomplicating meetings.

There was an anonymous question about what positions can a dual member hold above the group level. Donna S. gave some examples. Carol commented that a dual member cannot serve in any position that leads to Delegate. Karen P. gave her comments regarding how to involve dual members in service above the Group level.

Sue H. pointed out that Many voices CAL discusses examples of prayers that may be used in Al-Anon meetings.

Discussion: Feedback on Our First Hybrid Assembly. Donna S will send out a survey to members to see how people felt about the hybrid assembly.

<u>NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING</u> – Saturday, March 4, 2023 10:00 am – 3:00 PM via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 3 $\,$ PM $\,$ with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Minutes Submitted by Scott A. - Recording Secretary