

New Jersey ASSEMBLY AREA 36
MEETING MINUTES – HYBRID ASSEMBLY

November 1, 2025

FINAL

Katie O. (Chairperson) called the Zoom meeting to order at 10:00 AM and opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Members read the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts, and the Warranties, and Page 86 of the Service Manual regarding service participation by dual members.

Katie O. (Chairperson) read the etiquette guidelines for Assembly meetings and discussed the naming process for members on Zoom. Please see the ‘All Combined Reports’ for details.

OFFICER REPORTS

Chairperson Katie O. presented her report, available in the ‘All Reports Combined’ packet on page 4 and on groups.io

Highlights include:

- District 10, the electronic district, needs a representative
- The position of ‘Al-Anon’s Representative/Chairperson to NJ AA Area 44 Convention’ needs to be filled as soon as possible
- Budget Committee met on 9/3/25 to propose the 2026 Al-Anon Assembly Budget
- Worked with Jennifer F. (Archives) and signed a lease w/ Lakeland Access Storage in Manahawkin
- Attended the July Delegates Panel 62 meeting
- Hosted the September NJ Board of Trustees meeting
- Attended the September AA Area 44 Convention with Al-Anon participation in
- Attended October AWSC and plans to attend the next AFG Connects Chairpersons’ meeting

No questions for Katie O.

Delegate Peter M. presented his report, available in the ‘All Reports Combined’ packet on page 5 and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Three Topics: Group Names, Alateen Behavioral Guidelines, and Single Process for Trustees

- **“Choosing a Group Name”** all groups are encouraged to welcome all members to mtgs with compassion, understanding, and empathy. Newcomers need to be made to feel welcome and at ease at each meeting.
- **“Alateen Behavioral Guidelines”** WSO has introduced and vetted them. Delegates will approve at AWSC. The Alateen Coordinator will also provide updates, which will probably be incorporated into our guidelines as well, and will also be voted in at the Assembly
- **“Single process to become a Trustee”** Currently, there are two ways to become a Trustee, and the WSO would like to make it one single process
- Al-Anon International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is rescheduled for July 20th through the 22nd in 2028
- 75th birthday celebration of Al-Anon on April 25th, 2026, in Newport News, Virginia
- Peter has a list of the donations received by WSO. Please contact him if you have questions about your individual group
- If you have chosen agenda items to bring to WSO, let Peter know today

Questions for Peter M.

Karen P. (NV Past Delegate) I’ve already talked to Peter about this, but I needed to bring it to the Assembly. The Behavioral Requirements for Alateen Electronic meetings have already been vetted by the

World Service Office (WSO). As an Alateen AMIAS (Al-Anon Member in Alateen Service) and a member of Al-Anon since 1980, I do not agree with what WSO vetted because it breaks the anonymity of the members of Alateen. I would like Peter to bring this to WSO. The guidelines during COVID stated that Alateen members were required to have their video on. When teens meet in-person they need someone to drive them, and that makes participation low. If they were permitted to attend electronically without providing identification documents, many more teens would attend.

Peter M. (Delegate) Thank you, Karen, for your point; it's well taken. This topic has been discussed at the World Service Conference (WSC) in depth in April at Virginia Beach. The WSO and Executive Committee will not change the proposed Alateen guidelines. Our choice is to accept the guidelines of the WSO and have electronic meetings or not accept them and forego electronic Alateen meetings. When the Alateen guidelines are completed, our conversation will have more in-depth details, where all members will have the opportunity to decide whether to approve or not.

Carole M. (NV Past Delegate) Before this proposal is voted on by the Assembly, it needs to be passed by the Area World Service Committee (AWSC). The groups are the ultimate authority; therefore, the WSO has no right to tell us who can or cannot register as an Alateen group in our region, in our state. We have the right to register the Alateen meetings.

Tim S. (NV Past Delegate) Thank you, Peter, for your report. Regarding the Single Process Trustee section of your report, the second paragraph states "...the WSO with varying area input for the regional trustee..." I would like you to bring clarification to the February AWSC meeting.

Peter M. (Delegate) Absolutely, thank you, Tim.

Treasurer Ken S. presented his report, located on pages 10 - 28 in the 'All Reports Combined' packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

- Acct balances: excess funds vs. ample reserve. We'll open a separate account for excess funds to clarify what we have for the ample reserve
- Income is \$19,350.20, 120% of what we budgeted for

- Profit Loss is under \$2,000
- Our 2nd appeal letter went out on 10/1

The end of the year is coming up. Please submit your expense sheets.

Questions for Ken S.

Mary H. (GR D7) What's the difference and definition of excess funds and ample reserve?

Ken S. (Treasurer) The Excess Funds Task Force designated excess funds for specific purchases. The ample reserve money we set at audit is supposed to be 1 year's worth of spending, approximately \$20,000. I have the treasurer's records with me for the entire year if anybody wants to see them and discuss any questions further.

Corresponding Secretary/Group Records Coordinator Carrie H. presented her report located on page 29 of the "All Combined Reports" packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

If you haven't signed in, those of you who are here in person, please be sure to sign in. Voting members and your district, all others sign in on a separate sheet.

- As of October 23rd, we had 264 total groups, 283 total meetings (some groups have more than one meeting)
- Two new groups registered since the last Assembly, and one group became inactive
- The WSO is very interested in group emails to help everyone stay in communication. Anonymity issues create hesitation for members to give their email addresses. This is resolved by creating an anonymous email address for your group
- Group emails are welcome, and you may file them with me, the Group Records Coordinator, or the WSO

No questions for Carrie H.

Alagram Coordinator AnnaMarie T. presented her report on page 31 of the 'All Combined Reports' packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Sent the Alagram, 264 mailed, 193 emailed, and the cost was \$270.

Questions for AnnaMarie T.

Tina H. (DR 8) complimented AnnaMarie T. – the Alagram is so concise and informative. It tells us everything that’s happening today, appreciate it.

AnnaMarie T. (Alagram Coordinator) That was a pleasant surprise, thank you so much, Tina.

Gary (GR 6) What email addresses does the Alagram go to?

AnnaMarie T. (Alagram Coordinator) If you send me your email, I’ll add it to the list. Also send it to Carrie H.

Carrie H. (Corresponding Sec/GRC) as Group Records Coordinator, I’m the keeper of all the Current Mailing Addresses (CMA) and group information. Communicate directly with me (my email is on my report), the links of service, and with your district representative.

Alateen Coordinator David A. presented his report, located on page 32 of the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Five topics: Communication, Al-Anon Member In Alateen Service (AMIAS) certification and recertification, outreach, expansion, and revision of training materials and behavioral guidelines.

- Communication – our next meeting is Monday, November 10th, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. via Zoom
- 59 AMIAS’ were certified in June – 18 are new AMIAS
- Outreach – Alateen participated in the Area 44 AA Conference and in District 5’s Unity Day
- Expansion – Two new Alateen meetings, Wyckoff Wednesday Night and Sea Bright Alateen
- Will present updated training materials at the 2/7/26 Area World Service Committee (AWSC), see report for details

No questions for David A.

Archives Coordinator Jennifer F. presented her report on page 34 of the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Attended the Area 44 AA Convention in September, where we had a huge room with Archives. Thank you, Mike, for helping. I got lots of ideas from the AA archives; there’s a picture in my report, and it’s

something I’ll take on next year. I will attend the Area 45 AA Convention in March of 2026. The young people of AA (EACYPPAA) asked me to attend their convention also in March of next year. I’m very excited about that. Thank you to Katie and everyone who helped me move the storage unit to Manahawkin.

No questions for Jennifer F.

Literature Coordinator Peter D. presented his report, located on page 35 of the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

2026 Calendars, digital literature, ongoing publications, and sharing for upcoming and ongoing publications.

- The 2026 calendars are complimentary to all members who represent a group in person here today, as well as all Area World Service Committee (AWSC) members. They are also available to others for \$5
- World Service Office (WSO) is converting more literature into digital format, and printed editions will continue to be available. The most recent release is the book “*Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*”
- WSO wants sharing’s for upcoming new and ongoing publications such as *The Forum*. The 2026 edition of the *Public Outreach Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* magazine will be available next year
- Cal Corner in *The Forum* requests sharing on how a piece of literature has helped you in your recovery and what it has meant to you. Go to al-anon.org/sharing for guidelines and topics

No questions for Peter D.

Alternate Delegate/Forum Coordinator Cathy B. could not be here today. Her report is located on page 8 of the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet and on groups.io

Public Outreach Coordinator Mike L. presented his report, located on page 45 of the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Conferences and meetings attended, Public Outreach (PO) requests, business cards, and PO ideas.

Thank you to all District Reps who got all this wonderful work done.

- Attended the NJPN (NJ Professionals Conference for Prevention, Treatment and Recovery) conference in June with Karen P. (NV Past Delegate). Attended the NJ School Counselor Association conference in September w/ Karen P. Attended two WSO-hosted Zoom meetings on Public Outreach from around the country and Canada. Hosted PO meeting in September, and the next one is scheduled for January
- PO requests from Allentown High School, and one from a peer recovery specialist, which Anne P. and Christine P. attended. WSO sent a request for P.O. at Rutgers for November 3rd
- Two-sided business cards can be handed out to police stations, first responders, and EMTs. I can distribute them to districts
- Distributed *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* (AFA) to social workers at 3 hospitals
- PO ideas: distribute literature to doctors' offices, libraries, hospitals, and places with bulletin boards we're permitted to post on. Use Al-Anon Public Service Announcements (PSA) on YouTube and social media platforms. Have groups purchase AFA copies and ask group members to leave them at one of the locations listed above

No questions for Mike L.

Technology Coordinator Cliff R. presented his report, located on page 47 in the 'All Combined Reports' packet, and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Zoom roles, hardware needs, and training videos.

- Attempted to formalize the roles for Zoom and in-person Area World Service Committee (AWSC) and Assembly meetings. Everyone's time commitments appear to make this not possible
- Met with the Treasurer to determine what was in our budget/affordable, and he received his laptop. All hardware needs were met

- Received tech specs from members and one laptop spec with a potential purchase for a board member
- Created and posted to Google Docs training videos explaining how members can prepare for the hybrid Zoom AWSC and Assembly meetings

Questions for Cliff R.

Mickey S. (DR 1) Is there any way I can look through your Zoom training because our district uses it for many meetings, and we need some help?

Cliff R. I can help with any training your group would need. I could have a session with them on best practices. Just reach out to me, Mickey.

Mickey S. Thank you, Cliff.

Website Coordinator Jennifer B. presented her report, located on page 48 of the 'All Combined Reports' packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Google Analytics shows how our website was found, primarily via Google search, and interestingly, ChatGPT is also being used to find our website.

- Renewed firewall, added events to our website, uploaded articles from *The Forum* publication, The Alagram (The NJ Assembly newsletter), and towns by district
- Update plugins and themes when necessary
- Attended the Online Donations Thought Force
- Received my Website Coordinator laptop
- Will update with antivirus and Tech Soup software

Send flyers to us so we can post them.

No questions for Jennifer B.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 1 Hunterdon/Warren Counties Mickey S. presented his report located in the 'All Combined Reports' packet on page 50 and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Zoom, Public Outreach, new Group Representatives (GR), a new Alternate District Representative (ADR), and open positions.

- We use Zoom for our monthly district meetings, and I imagine Cliff R. would help us establish an online account
- Forming a Thought Force for developing the methodology for local Public Outreach events, and our October 4th Public Outreach event at the Clinton United Methodist Church Praise Band concert was very successful
- We have 2 new GRs, 1 in Frenchtown, another in Hackettstown
- Our open positions are ADR, Secretary, and Zoom Co-hosts for district meetings
- I'm on two Thought Forces (ThF), which I'm learning a lot from

Questions for Mickey S.

Liz K. (NV Alternate GR D8) Thank you, Mickey. I want to say congratulations on ramping up a successful core of active GRs and re-establishing connections in your district. I am very proud of you.

Mickey S. Well, thank you, you're a wonderful mentor, you and Donna. Thank you so much, Liz and Donna. One day at a time.

District 2 Morris County Lynne M. presented her report, located on page 51 in the 'All Combined Reports' packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

- Participated in the AA Day of Sharing in Pompton Lakes on October 25th at the Carnivale Center. The Al-Anon topics were Self-care, Serenity, and Acceptance
- We are developing a bi-annual district newsletter, and 3 members have volunteered to work on it
- Working on a Public Outreach mailing to 100 places, including schools, colleges, rehab, and professional organizations
- The Morristown Alateen meeting has limited attendees, and the Butler Alateen meeting on Tuesdays is inactive

No Questions for Lynne M.

District 3 Bergen and Passaic Counties Debbie F. presented her report, located on page 52 in the 'All Combined Reports' packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Our Public Outreach is working with the local police training academy – it's not finalized yet, but we are working hard to do that.

- We're creating a presentation to give to new police recruits during their officer training sessions
- We're also giving them Al-Anon information and business cards, so when they're in a situation where Al-Anon would be an appropriate recommendation, they'll have the information
- Feedback from our groups mostly wants to keep the naming policy as it is. They like knowing the makeup or focus of the group (women, men, adult children, parents)
- Many groups mentioned they are waiting for the North Jersey Information Services (NJIS) Information Services Representatives (ISR) meeting to happen
- We updated our printed meeting list and sent digital copies to all Group Representatives (GR) and Current Mailing Address Representatives (CMA) if the group does not have a GR
- The Wyckoff Alateen meeting is now hybrid and is being held on Wednesdays at 7:30. For the meeting ID and PW, please see my report

Questions for Debbie F.

Angela R (NV AAPP) I have a correction, the Wyckoff Alateen meeting is not hybrid, they only meet in person.

Debbie F. They are meeting online, also.

Angela R. Can someone please send me the updated information so I can correct it on the online listing?

Debbie F. You have to send an email request to the person who runs the meeting, and they will send you the login credentials.

Angela R. We don't have that meeting listed online, so I need to make sure...

Debbie F. I'll reach out to you

Angela R. Yeah, if you could just send that email to get that corrected.

District 4 Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties Patty V. was unable to attend.

District 5 Mercer, Middlesex, and Somerset Counties Kris G., the Alternate District Representative, presented her report, located on page 53 in the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- Distributed the newsletter in August
- Updated the meeting list as of October, and it’s ready for distribution
- Public Outreach meetings were held monthly from June through October
- Attended 5 Public Outreach Projects
- Unity Day 2025 was a great success, thank you to everyone who attended and the Planning Committee for all of their hard work!

District 6 Monmouth County Jess A. presented his report, not available in the packet or on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- We’ve had a couple of district meetings since the last assembly
- We had a successful picnic with approximately 50 attendees. It was a fundraiser to enable the district to host more activities
- We’re having a writing workshop on creating articles for *The Forum* next Sunday after our Homedale meeting
- Karen is our new secretary

No questions for Jess A.

District 7 Ocean County: Eileen R. presented her report, located on page 54 of the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

A Spring workshop, newsletter, member participation, Public Outreach, Alateen, Thought Force, and encouraging service.

I’m proud of people stepping up in District 7

- Formed a workshop committee for a spring workshop
- Newsletter is temporarily on hold; the person who compiles it has stepped down
- To increase participation, I created and distributed a District Survey to understand

members’ needs and am hosting an organizational meeting on Zoom on 10/29. I’ve also been visiting meetings that do not have a GR to encourage service

- Al-Anon business cards were created and distributed to 29 Police Departments and 3 Ocean County organizations. Literature and meeting lists have been placed at the Ocean County Connection in the OC mail. Student Assistant Counselors are open to flyers and business cards
- I am a member of the ThF for future AWSC and Assembly meeting formats

No questions for Eileen R.

District 8 Burlington, Camden, Gloucester Tina H. presented her report, located on page 56 in the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Public Outreach, Alateen, meeting list, meetings, workshop, and the Area 45 AA Convention.

- Liz K. (NV Alternate GR D8) created, discussed, and distributed a successful sign-up sheet for members interested in Public Outreach
- Paulsboro Community Day on 9/27 was a big success due to banners and flyers. Paulsboro High School SAC requested starting a new meeting at the High School. Haddon Township Alateen meeting start time is 6 pm
- Toni, our Meeting List Coordinator, updated changes for meetings and has done a wonderful job updating the trifold meeting list. Tuesday Men’s meeting moved to Moorestown. Friday Mt. Laurel meeting moved to Hainesport. We need volunteers to revive the 6:30 PM Sunday meeting in Beverly-Riverside to coincide with the active AA meeting hosted there
- Tina H. and Tina B. (GR 8 D8 Secretary) created a survey to gauge interest in and availability of members to join the Workshop Planning Committee for their Fall 2026 workshop
- Mary-T U. created a brilliantly done flyer and encouraged members to get involved in various service positions for the Area 45 AA

Convention with Al-Anon participation scheduled for March 20th through the 22nd at Bally's in Atlantic City. See my report to contact her if you're interested

No questions for Tina H.

District 9 Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem Counties: Kathy I. couldn't be here today. Her report is located on page 57 of the 'All Combined Reports' packet and on groups.io

District 10 Electronic Groups The District Representative position for this district is open. Mark McP. presented a verbal report not available in the 'All Combined Reports' packet.

Highlights include:

Day of Sharing in the Spring and finding a district representative.

- The planning committee is working on creating a virtual day of sharing in the Spring
- We are not a dark district, but we do need a District Representative, and we remain hopeful that someone will step up and serve

LIAISON REPORTS

North Jersey Information Services (NJIS): Mark McP. presented his report, located on page 58 of the 'All Combined Reports' packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

NJIS transitions, operations, logistics, literature sales at Assembly meetings, the AA Area 44 Convention and Waves Roundup 2025, outreach to South Jersey districts, creating a more user-friendly website, questions regarding proceeds from literature sales, and Steering Committee and Information Service Representative (ISR) meetings.

- Jeanette, our long-serving Office Manager, decided to step down but continues to work with us voluntarily during our transition to a voluntary staffing model
- NJIS office hours are subject to change and will be posted on our website. We're cutting costs by reducing office space by 50% and transitioning to a volunteer-only business model

- Automating and streamlining operations by remote monitoring and responding to outreach calls and coordinating with Area Officers, Coordinators, District Representatives (DR), and Group Representatives (GR) to fill large or special literature orders
- NJIS is reducing your shipping costs and is preventing delayed shipments by selling literature at Assembly meetings and other Al-Anon events. Place your orders in advance
- We sold literature all 3 days of the AA Area 44 69th Convention in September and at the Waves Round Up in October. Thanks to Christina, our Area Liaison for the AA Area 44 Convention – she put together a great Al-Anon program, and for her 3 years of good service. Thanks to Jennifer, our Archives Coordinator, and Mike L., our Public Outreach Coordinator, for their help sharing space and setting up. Jennifer provided a wonderful display of Al-Anon through the ages material, which was well attended and received
- South Jersey is interested in and receptive to NJIS' assistance with whatever they need. Al-Anon Service Manual page 65 states "...geographical boundaries need not be observed unless one Information Service conflict with another nearby..."
- Upgrading our website – to allow easy sorting of in-person and online meetings and easy access to links. We are requesting DRs to share their current meeting information to help us provide accurate and timely meeting information.
- To understand where the proceeds from literature sales go, please see page 2 of my report, located on page 59
- The Steering Committee continues to meet, and the next meeting of NJIS ISRs will be held later this month
- Please see my contact information in my report

Questions for Mark McP.

Mickey S. (DR and GR I) If I have questions regarding District 10 electronic meetings, should I speak with you?

Mark McP. You can chat with me, and I will help you. I'll forward the information. My email is in my report on page 58.

Mickey S. Will NJIS offer online ordering instead of mail orders?

Mark McP. We have a web person working on that over the next couple of weeks, but we need funding.

Tom S. (Alternate GR D6) I'm covering for our DR today. I want to personally thank Jeanette for her wonderful service and wish her the best of luck.

Denise C. (ISR GR 3) I also would like to thank Jeanette for her outstanding service; she was always there when I needed her.

Lauren (D2) What do you need volunteer-wise at the Montclair NJIS office?

Mark McP. We need volunteers to keep office hours open longer, paperwork, filing, answering phones, filling orders, packing them up, and shipping them out.

Paul G. (NV Past Delegate) Maybe this volunteer work can be offered to Alternate District Representatives and Information Services Representatives.

Mark McP. Thank you, Paul.

Spanish Intergroup: Aura B. was not present and did not have a report in the 'All Combined Reports' packet or on groups.io

Al-Anon Chairperson to AA Area 44 Convention: Christina M. was unable to attend, but her report is located on page 64 of the 'All Combined Reports' packet and on groups.io. Kiera H., the new Al-Anon Chairperson for Area 44 Convention, presented her report, located on page 65 of the 'All Combined Reports' packet.

Highlights include:

- The next Convention Committee hybrid meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm. The location and Zoom credentials are in her report
- We need volunteers to fill several key service positions: Treasurer, Registration Chair, Program Chair, Public Relations Chair, Speaker Chair, and many Alternate Chair positions. Please contact me at the email listed in my report

Questions N/A

Al-Anon Chairperson to AA Area 45 Convention: Mary-T U. presented her report, located on page 66 of the 'All Combined Reports' packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

Convention registration, convention location walkthrough, joining the Planning Committee, and filled positions.

- Registration for the convention opens in November 2025; the website is listed in my report. You may also register by scanning the QR code on the 'Save the Date' flyer I created on page 67 of the 'All Combined Reports' packet. The convention is scheduled for 3/20/26 through 3/22/26 at Bally's Atlantic City Hotel and Casino
- July 13, 2025, was my initial walkthrough to view the floor on which the convention will be held. I invited Skit Writers and the Director to attend the next walkthrough scheduled for November 30th
- If you're interested in joining the planning committee or volunteering, please contact me at the email address listed in my report
- The filled positions are the Al-Anon Speaker Locator, which consists of two separate teams, 1 AA member and the other an Al-Anon member. They are listening to tapes of speakers from various states to pick a speaker. The Al-Anon Meetings Chairperson is Karen W., and the Alateen Committee is Joy. We also have a co-chair for the convention, which means we have a chairperson for 2027
- Volunteers needed to lead meetings, to act in the Al-Anon skit, and fill other roles
- If you're interested in attending a Convention Planning meeting, please see my report for Zoom login credentials. 2025 meetings are scheduled for 11/9 at 9 am and 12/14. 2026 meetings are scheduled for 1/11, 2/8, and 3/8

Questions for Mary-T U.

David A. (NV Alateen Coordinator) We have tried to have Alateen meetings at the convention. Teens who come to the convention opt to attend other sessions with their parents. Something for the committee to consider is

“Should we try to have Alateen meetings at the convention?”

Mary-T U. Thank you so much, David. Alateen is going to have its very own room at the convention. We’re creating lots of cool things for the Alateens. David, please send me a text.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion: Future AWSC and Assembly Meeting Format Thought Force (ThF). Donna S. (NV Past Delegate) presented the Thought Force report, located on page 68 in the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet and on groups.io

Highlights include:

- We created and distributed a survey to District Representatives. The completed surveys will inform this thought force of what the groups want. We extended the due date of the survey in the event that there are GRs who haven’t received it yet. If you haven’t received it, please reach out to your district representative so we can have your responses.
- We requested an extension for our report because we wanted to see how this hybrid Assembly went, participation, etc.
- We hope to have a recommendation to present to the Assembly in March

No questions for Donna S.

Discussion: Thought Force (ThF) Online Donations from Members and Groups
Tina B. couldn’t make it today, so Peter M. (Delegate) filled in for her. This ThF met once, had a very invigorating conversation, and they will be meeting again soon.

Discussion: ThF Disallowing New Jersey Assembly Officers and Coordinators from serving on Boards of other New Jersey Service Arms.

Katie O. presented her report not located in the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet.
Our ThF met last week for the first time. We discussed the origins of this policy and how it was originally limited to District Representatives.

We’re gathering the history of this motion and brainstorming ways to extend it to Coordinators and Officers.

Our next meeting is on November 11th at 7 pm on Zoom

We need more volunteers to serve on this ThF because there are only 4 of us. If you’re interested in volunteering, put your contact info in the chat or let me know in person today.

Lunch Break from 11:50 PM to 12:25 PM

Meeting resumed at 12:25 PM with the Serenity Prayer.

12:30 PM ROLL CALL – 53 VOTING GRs

Approval of Minutes from the June 7, 2025, Assembly Meeting:

Katie O. (Chairperson) The minutes are in the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet on page 69. Are there any corrections to the minutes? There were no amendments to the draft minutes. Katie O. made a motion to approve the minutes.

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

Vote: |Yes: 44| |No: 0| |Abstention: 9|
The motion carried with unanimity.

Discussion: 2026 Budget Report Presented by Ken S. (Treasurer)

The budget report is on page 92 in the ‘All Combined Reports’ packet.

The total budget sent from the AWSC is \$35,963.

Changes are listed on page (93)

I did not create this report; I’m presenting it to you. Please look at it now and let me know if you have any questions.

Questions for Ken S. on the Budget

Mary-T U. (Area 44 AA Convention Chairperson) Last year's budget for the convention was \$500 higher, and it totaled \$1,875. Did you consider that costs for the convention and room fees have gone up, and the amount per mile has increased? I’m concerned that it’s not going to be enough for both conventions.

Ken S. (Treasurer) According to the budget report, it looks like the conventions haven't used all of their budgeted amounts. There's plenty of money in that account.

Katie O. (Chairperson) That's because they may not have submitted all of their expenses yet. I want to remind everyone that we operate on a cash basis set for the physical year. If you have any expenses for 2024, you need to get them to Ken before the end of the year so he can reimburse you out of the 2024 budget

Karen P. (NV Past Delegate) Will the assembly pick up the fee, or do we need to keep it in the limit?

Ken S. (Treasurer) If you have a legitimate expense, we've paid it even if over budget. According to the Policy Handbook, it's Katie's call to approve the expenses.

Carole M. (NV Past Delegate). If it's approved at Assembly, the increased costs for 2026 are written down by the Treasurer, and the motion would be to approve the budget as amended.

Katie O. (Chairperson) The whole reason that we have a budget is that you stick to the budget. We can't raise the amount you've been allocated without AWSC approving that it be transferred from unspent funds. Please try to stay within budget.

Liz K. (NV Alternate GR D8) Tradition 7 states we are fully self-supporting. If expenses go above budget, doing a fundraiser is always an option.

Karen P. (NV Past Delegate). I suggest that right now we amend the budget for 2026 for the conventions to at least be the same amount budgeted for last year. We don't need double-headed management. Ken is our treasurer; he should have created that report and presented it. So, if you have a position, you do your job, don't do someone else's job.

Katie O. (Chairperson) Excuse me, I'd like to respond to that. I wasn't doing someone else's job.

Mike O. (GR 9) The person running the convention is being told their expenses won't be covered. If we ask people for their service, we can't ask them to pay in addition to the service they're providing. We should make sure we cover their expenses.

Ken S. (Treasurer) I agree with you on that, Mike. The only thing I can say is we've always reimbursed expenses regardless of the set budget.

Paul G. (NV Past Delegate) We've discussed the budget at our last AWSC meeting. We ought not be making changes to the budget at the Assembly.

Ken S. (Treasurer) Thank you, Paul. I appreciate that.

Donna S. (NV Past Delegate) Historically, North and South Jersey Information Services would have tried to

find somebody, and it would have come out of their budget to have those individuals support the Conventions. Then, North Jersey Information Services (NJIS) was having some issues finding someone, and South Jersey Information Services closed. That's why the Assembly started to search for somebody to be the chairperson, so that we could have Al-Anon participation at the AA Conventions, and we would have an Al-Anon member leading that section of the AA Convention.

The first year, there was nothing in the budget for that Al-Anon Chairperson, but we found the money for them based on funds available. That first year, we reimbursed the co-chair as well for her travel and for the room she shared with the Chairperson.

The reimbursements to the convention chairs were historically based on the availability of funds. Now we budget for both Area 44 and 45 Conventions, and previously Area 44 AA did not seek reimbursement, but that could change.

And once NJIS gets up and running, it's possible they will take over finding somebody to support those events. For today, the money is budgeted, we should support that, and we should reimburse them, but we're also going to need funds at an area level in order to continue to fund all of these events.

Katie O. (Chairperson) I've reviewed previous minutes for the AWSC (Area World Service Committee), and we only reimbursed for the registration and mileage. This past year, I got sticker shock when I saw the expense report was for 2 nights in the hotel, dinner both nights, mileage, and registration. It came out to half of what was allocated in the budget last year, so this year, that's why we kept it the same amount, because area 44 didn't submit any expenses for 2024, although she has for 2025. So the money that's on that line item is, one person hasn't even spent half of that amount of money, which is what we're proposing for 2026.

That's why we kept it at the same amount. I don't feel it should be bumped up to what it was previously.

John S. (GR 9) I may be reading it wrong, but for the convention committee chair for the proposed budget for 2026, it's \$500 less than the proposed budget from 2025. Why is that? I know Katie explained something about using only half of something, but I really couldn't follow what she was saying. We increased a little here and there, and others remained the same, but we reduced the Convention Chairs' funds. Is reducing their funds by \$500 going to be enough to cover their expenses with the price increases in 2026? Last year, we budgeted \$1,875; this year \$1,375, \$1,375. Is that going to cover their expenses?

Ken S. (Treasurer) I believe it will be enough based on their current spending and the expenses they will submit

by year's end. I believe Katie explained the reasoning, but I'm not sure if you caught it all.

John S. (GR 9) I listened to what Katie said, but I was confused and couldn't follow or understand what she said. As long as their expenses are covered, I'm okay with it.

Ken S. (Treasurer) Everyone who submitted expense reports was reimbursed entirely, even if it was over budget. We find ways to do that in the budget.

Tim O. (GR 9) My question is regarding the hybrid Assembly meeting expenses. Last year, there was only 1 hybrid Assembly meeting. What if you have 3 next year? Is that included in the budget?

Ken S. (Treasurer) I think we budgeted the same amount for 2026 as for 2025. The hybrid meeting decisions are currently under review in a Thought Force (ThF), which can always amend the budget. We're not sure how many hybrid meetings we'll have in 2026, but for what we're currently doing, there's enough in the budget. There's more than enough in there to have the same amount of hybrid meetings we had this year. We have 1 hybrid Assembly and 2 hybrid AWSC meetings, and I think they are going to be within the budget. I hope that answers your question.

Tim O. (GR 9) Thank you.

Katie O. (Chairperson) We budgeted for 3 hybrid AWSC and Assembly for the 2026 budget.

Karen P. (NV Past Delegate) The Chairpersons to the AA Area 45 Convention explained that the convention will be hosted at a new hotel, and registration costs have increased, as well as mileage costs. I want the convention committee chairperson's budget amended from \$1,375 to \$1,875, the same amount as last year.

I make a motion to amend the Convention Committee Chairperson's budget from \$1,375 to \$1,875 on the proposed 2026 budget to match last year's budget.

Tina H. (DR 8) Seconded the motion to increase the budget to \$1,875.

Paul G. (NV Past Delegate) Katie, as a point of procedure, we don't vote on amendments to the budget; we vote on the final budget as amended. In the past, we've made amendments and then voted on the amended budget.

Katie O. (Chairperson) I'm going to see how many favor that motion prior to amending the budget. Then we can vote to approve the amended budget. We have two more questions.

Mary H. (GR D7) Where on this proposed budget is the line item for the budget for the hybrid meetings?

Katie O. (Chairperson) It's under rent.

Mary H. (GR 7) I love the budget. I wish I had more time to review it. I'd like to suggest we number it by line item

or alphabetically so it's easier to follow during the discussion.

AnnaMarie O. (GR 2) I just want one more clarification on what was said. If there's \$900 left from last report, and only half of the \$1,875 was used, then why are we down to \$1,375 for 2026?

Ken S. (Treasurer) We only have financial information regarding what was used so far this year. We still have expenses coming in, but we don't know the amount yet.

AnnaMarie O. (GR 2) So only half was used, and we may expect to see another one or two hundred dollars come in, we're still in a good range for the 2026 budgeted amount of \$1,375. Is that what I'm understanding?

Katie O. (Chairperson) In 2024, the expenses submitted by the AI-Anon Chairperson didn't amount to half of their budgeted amount. This year, we're not sure what their expenses will be because they haven't submitted all their expenses. Does that answer your question?

AnnaMarie O. (GR 2) Yes, it does, thank you.

Katie O. (Chairperson) There's a motion on the floor to amend the Convention Committee Chairperson's budget from \$1,375 to \$1,875 on the proposed 2026 budget to match last year's budget. Will all voting members please raise your hands?

VOTING MEMBERS ROLL CALL – 61

Motion 1: Amend the Convention Committee Chairperson's budget from \$1,375 to \$1,875 on the proposed 2026 budget to match last year's budget.

Vote: |Yes: 57 | |No: 2 | |Abstention: 0 |
The motion passes with substantial unanimity. The budget is amended to increase the Convention Committee Chairperson's proposed budget for 2026.

Motion 2: Approve the budget as amended.

Vote: |Yes: 57 | |No: 2 | |Abstention: 0 |
The motion passes with substantial unanimity.
The new proposed budget is \$36,463.

2026 Meeting Schedule Announcement Katie O.

BOT Wednesdays 1/7, 4/1, 9/2

AWSC Saturdays 2/7, 5/2, 10/3

Assembly (tentatively all hybrid) Sat 3/7, 6/6, 11/7

Ask It Basket Q&A:

Q1: Read by Ken S. (Treasurer)

Four districts reported a treasury totaling \$9,469. 57 or an average of approximately \$2,300. Is there a thought to encourage districts to donate funds to the area to lessen the shortfall in the ample reserve?

A1: Ken S.

4 districts have been very generous so far. Districts that have excess funds, we encourage you to donate to the Assembly. The way to donate is in the appeal letter. Individuals, Groups, and Districts have the option to donate. I have appeal letters with me today. Please take them back to your groups. \$20,013 is our Ample Reserve, and we're currently at approximately \$9,600. The Ample Reserve is the average of the last three years' spending. It has nothing to do with the budgets. We spent our entire budget last year, so the Ample Reserve has increased. If we don't make our Ample Reserve, we have to tell people to stop spending.

Karen P. (NV Past Delegate). I have a question about what Ken just explained. What do we do with the excess funds?

Ken S. Karen, do you mean ample reserve or excess funds?

Karen P. (NV Past Delegate) If public outreach goes over budget and takes the budget total over the bottom line, why can't we take that money from excess funds? What are we doing with excess funds? Districts should use their money to do district work; why should they donate their excess funds to the Assembly?

Ken S. (Treasurer) We voted at the Assembly on how to distribute excess funds. If you want to change that, we have to vote at AWSC and the Assembly. Some districts have excess funds that they can't spend, so they donate to the Area Assembly.

Tim S. (NV Past Delegate) The excess funds were for computers, for technology for these meetings, and for interpreters, so we do have money for that.

Q2: Read by Donna S. (NV Past Delegate)

Is there any chance of having these meetings quarterly and in person to increase fellowship within the GR community and Al-Anon in general?

A2: Donna S. (NV Past Delegate)

The traditions state our decisions are based on what's good for the Area as a whole. There may be some groups and GRs who cannot physically get here in-person. That's one of the things the Thought Force is looking at to make recommendations on how to move forward as an Area. Should our future meetings be in-person only, hybrid, or virtual only? Hopefully, you've completed our survey to ensure your input is considered when we make our recommendation. Our recommendation will be based on your feedback and the trends of past meetings.

Q3: Read by Peter M. (Delegate)

Why are the past Assembly meetings' minutes being voted on by the GRs? I think it would be better approved by the DRs, Officers, etc.

A3: Peter M.

Because the GRs are the members who attended the last Assembly meeting, they are the ones who have to approve/not approve the minutes. Officers and District Representatives attend the AWSC meetings, and we have to approve/disapprove them. It's very important that the GRs vote on the Assembly minutes.

Q4. Read by Cliff R. (Technology Coordinator)

How can we try to make our home groups more accessible to the hearing-impaired or the deaf?

A4. Cliff R.

Zoom supports closed captioning, and it does work. For in-person meetings, I have someone in one of my meetings who has a cochlear implant. She bought a Bluetooth device that picks up the sound from the room and directly transmits it into her cochlear implant. My sister worked for the New York School for the deaf as an interpreter. She mentioned that the hearing-impaired person brings their own interpreter with them to meetings, such as court appearances, unless it's bound by the facility or the county that an interpreter must be provided. I've been experimenting with the new hearing devices.

If you have a pair of AirPod Pro 2nd or 3rd generation, hearing impairment software is built in, so when you buy them, you can use that software immediately.

I've also been experimenting with language translation software, and it works. There's a 2-second delay between the speaker and the translation. You can hear the translation in whatever language you choose.

A4. Jess GR 6

Last weekend, I went to a workshop on people with disabilities trying to get into recovery but were unable to get any help. I'm going to bring this up at AWSC. I think it's a really important issue.

Q5. Read by Mike L. (Public Outreach Coordinator)

What can we do to support or reach out to our Spanish-speaking groups?

A5. Mike L.

If you know of any Spanish groups in your area, go to that meeting and talk to somebody there. There hasn't been any representation of the Spanish intergroup here in a long time.

You can go online, search for Spanish groups, and get in touch with the Current Mailing Address representative of that group

A5. Liz K. (NV Alternate GR D8)

I was the Alternate Delegate last year, and as such, I liaised with the Spanish Intergroup, which didn't respond to my outreach. I went to their meeting. I understand Spanish, and speak a little Spanish. Patty V., the District Rep in D4, is a member of a Spanish-speaking meeting, and she stays in touch with me.

I encourage bilingual members to go to Spanish-speaking meetings and try to connect. In following Let It Begin with Me, it's our responsibility to reach out to them. If they do not wish to connect, we cannot force them.

Q6. Read by Mike L. (Public Outreach Coordinator)

There is a road sign on the Al-Anon.org website. Interstate Outdoor Advertising has signs in Cape May & Atlantic Counties, and their rate for non-profits is \$495 net/4 weeks plus \$200 for printing and installation. Is this something we should consider, and will the state cover the cost?

A6. Mike L.

That is very expensive. I thought maybe we could try to get on the electronic billboard, but they flash very quickly, and if you put too much information on the flashing sign, no one's going to read it because they're driving right past it.

A6. Tim S. (NV Past Delegate)

The Excess Funds Task Force did investigate the costs of advertising on billboards; it cost more than our entire area budget, which is why it was not recommended.

A6. Paul G. (NV Past Delegate)

When I was the Chairperson, we did Public Outreach by hanging posters in train stations. The Area purchased a couple of spaces in the train station, and then groups and districts purchased additional ones for stations they wanted to post at, and we did it as a fundraiser. We sold the posters and the space to the groups in districts, so it ended up not costing the area anything. Instead, we made \$400.

A6. Tom O. (GR 6)

Does World Service Office (WSO) still provide radio and TV PSAs? These are very cost-effective because radio stations do not charge non-profits to announce them. The PSAs are "If you have problems with someone else's drinking Alanon can help, call this number."

A6. Mickey S. (DR GR 1)

I've done public outreach on the NextDoor app, and it gets 500 views per week. 7 new members joined my homegroup because they saw my post.

Q7. Read by Mark McP. (NJIS)

Can a college student working towards an MSW (Master's in Social Work) volunteer to answer phones or to pack up literature?

A7. Mark McP.

The annual Al-Anon Service Manual allows us to employ special workers, so certainly that would be permissible. The only caveat would be responding to 12th-step calls from newcomers or people in distress, who require someone to be in the program, but we could arrange for an experienced member to be there to assist the special worker with these calls.

Q8. Read by Peter D. (Area Literature Coordinator)

How do you know what the updates are in version 4 of the service manual?

A8. Peter D.

Any updates to the service manual have lines in the margin of the service manual that indicate changes in the text. You will compare the two versions to see the changes from the previous version.

A8. Donna S. (NV Past Delegate)

If you view the Service Manual on Al-Anon.org, you can download these changes, print them, and put them into your printed copy.

Q9. Read by Liz K. (NV Alternate GR D8)

Does the Area purchase a Service Manual for each registered group, or are Districts and Groups responsible for purchasing it on their own?

A9. Peter D. (Area Literature Coordinator)

Last year, we issued the abbreviated edition of the Service Manual titled "Meetings at Work" and mailed it. That is going to be replaced with the new version coming out in January, so we did not do that this year. I'm not sure if we are going to do that in the future.

A9. Katie O. (Chairperson)

Local groups and districts are responsible for purchasing their own manual.

Q10. Read by Mary K.

Has anyone suggested an alternative to young people providing an ID to attend the electronic Alateen meetings?

A10. Peter D. (Area Literature Coordinator)

This is one of the Alateen Behavioral and Safety Guidelines, which have been vetted by the attorneys at Virginia Beach. The next step is that the New Jersey Area has to review the guidelines, decide whether or not to accept them, brainstorm ideas, and present proposals. We can change it however we want to, but WSO will not allow us to use the Alateen name unless we follow their direction. The guidelines have to be discussed and approved or not approved before they are created.

Q11. Read by Peter D. (Area Literature Coordinator)

Any chance to bring back the character asset and defect checklist for deeper reflection and growth?

A11. Peter D.

The “Blueprint for Progress” has an Asset and Defect Character List in the back of the book. A more detailed answer will be posted on groups.io message section.

Q12. Read by Carrie H. (Corresponding Secretary/Group Records Coordinator)

Who in our groups receives the emails or mail for each group? What is a CMA? If a group has a new CMA or GR, how do I make that change?

A12. Carrie H.

The Current Mailing Address Representative (CMA) receives the email and/or mail, then gives it to the group or the Group Representative to announce the information during the announcements at the beginning of their meeting. Also, the CMA can also be the GR; each group has autonomy to decide. When a group has any changes, they can forward them to their District Representative, fill out the Group Changes form online at Al-Anon.org, or use the URL posted in my report. That link will take you to the group changes form. You may also email me if you like; my email address is listed on my report.

Q13. Read by Katie O. (Chairperson)

Who will take today's donations?

A13. Katie O.

Ken S., our treasurer, will take them and deposit the donations into the Assembly’s bank account. For those of you online who wish to mail a donation, the address is New Jersey Al-Anon Assembly Inc., 518 Old Post Road, Suite 7, Box 354, Edison, NJ 08817 4683.

NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2026 Hybrid 3/7

ALL MEETINGS IN 2026

BOT Wednesdays 1/7, 4/1, 9/2

AWSC Saturdays 2/7, 5/2, 10/3

Assembly (tentatively all hybrid) Sat 3/7, 6/6, 11/7

After the skit was performed, Anne P. (DR 5) made a motion to close the meeting.

Tina H. (GR 8) Seconded the motion

Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Minutes Submitted by

Kasey M. - Recording Secretary