

MINUTES
AWSC Meeting
May 15, 2016
St Vincent's Hospital - Harrison NY
MINUTES

Opening

Meeting opened at 12:00 by Marcia B with the Serenity Prayer
The WSC Rules of the Conference were read by Marcia
Traditions were read by ?
The Concepts were read by Dawn
Reading from the --- Forum, was read by ??
Introduction of those present

Open Positions:

Archives Coordinator
Forum/Literature Coordinator
SENY Liaison

Marcia read the opening.

Secretary Jeanne B jtbafe@gmail.com

Thank you for emailing me your reports. I have emailed the Secretary Legacy to the Committee, please let me know if you have any questions about this position.

Treasurer Grace Marie H snytreas@gmail.com

I have attached a letter that I would like you to distribute to all your groups. It explains the donation process. I have been enclosing it whenever I send receipts back from donations but I need them to reach all groups. Please read it, distribute it and get back to me if you have any questions.

Summary of Finances:

Cash in Operating account as of 4/30/2016 is \$20,441.00
Cash in Money Market Account as of 4/30/2016 \$11,654.07

Total Cash		\$32,095.07
		=====
Amount allocated for Specific use		\$11,645.50
Year to date donations:	7,953.74	
Year to date expenses:	10,116.01	
	Difference	\$ (2,162.27)
		=====

Annual Appeal

Income generated to date	1,311.00	
Cost for printing and mailing	826.99	
	Difference	\$484.01
		=====

Attached are the Statement of Activity and the Statement of Financial Position. These two reports give you more detailed information on our finances.

I have contribution forms. I need two copies to me (treasurer) .I would like to get the contribution form on the website.

Motion : 2016-C/05-1

Matter under Consideration: Treasurer Reports as Presented
Originator : Sue P., Second : Dianne
To accept the Treasurer's Reports as of 4/30/16 as presented
Yes 20, No 0, Abstain 0 motion passes

Chairperson Marcia B nyschair54@optonline.net

Our Discovery Convention is approaching rapidly.
Looking forward to Rene 's Report.

It is important that our Convention have our support by registering for 1 night, 2 nights or a walk in. Consider participating in whatever way you can.

We will be continuing our discussion on posting local workshops. We will devote an ample amount of time to this motion.

Elections are coming. Are you thinking of someone to participate in service? Encourage and support them.

Our Area Service Handbook is almost complete. If you want to know what each position entails, I will be happy to provide the details.. The Service Handbook provides information for the Officers' and Coordinators' positions. It should be ready by the June Assembly.

Please spread the news about our Service Workshop on Nov. 13th. It is up to you to create enthusiasm for our members. I am looking forward to this event.

Regarding our evaluations forms in April, all members who filled them out loved the break out session. They would like to have more of them.

Sue V. is not able to commit to the SENY Liaison position at this time. Please ask around to see if anyone wants to do this. . Candidate must be a present or past GR.

Please keep in mind the importance of unity as we discuss each topic or motion. Its important to stay focused on what is good for Al-Anon as a whole.

Thanks for your participation.

Delegate Michele R nysdelegate54@optonline.net

Let me start by saying thank you to all of you for your support and encouragement for my journey and participation at the 2016 World Service Conference, my last Conference of this term. Thanks for all the Love Gifts and cards. They were much appreciated. Thank you also for the opportunity to serve as your Delegate.

Right before we got to the Conference we received a letter from the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees informing us that Ric B was no longer the Executive Director of the WSO. There is no information about the circumstances. Mary G, a past Trustee, has been appointed as the interim Executive Director. The Board has established a Transition Team and is currently establishing a new internal structure at the WSO. There are a lot of changes in store. Mary was able to attend most of our sessions at the Conference. We are all looking forward to her guidance. There are some new positions that have been established and are open (Director of Programs and e-Platform Manager). There will be information available soon regarding the Executive Director search.

The Conference was a bittersweet experience... lots of preparation and work, long hours, opportunities for conversations with fellow Delegates and Trustees, and a happy and sad ending as my panel prepared to finish our terms. Panel 54 Delegates presented our 3-minute shares during the course of the Conference and presented a fun and exciting ending skit the last night after the Closing Dinner. By the way, did you know the N.Y. State Bird is the Eastern Bluebird. Stay tuned for pictures at the June Assembly...

What we accomplished at the Conference this year:

- the usual routine discussions and motions to approve the Seating Motion, Financial Report, Finance Committee Report, and the 2015 Annual Report
- discussion and approval of the amended descriptive text of Concept Eleven in the Service Manual
- discussion and approval of the amended text regarding Memorial Contributions on page 95 of the Service Manual – a decision to accept one-time Memorial Contributions, up to \$500, from family and friends who are not members of Al-Anon
- discussion about the recommended revised text regarding “Conventions and Other Events” with a final decision to send the text back to the Policy Committee with suggested Conference revisions, to come back before the 2017 WSC

During the Conference we had many presentations, Thought and Task Force reports, break-out sessions to discuss select topics and upcoming Thought and Task Forces. I will be including many of these in my Delegate’s Report, including a powerpoint presentation on “Technology and Anonymity.”

The Literature Committee presented the following: Should the WSC give conceptual approval to remove the “Prayer for Today” from Conference Approved Literature? This refers to the Just for Today Wallet Card (M-10) and Bookmark (M-12), as well as page 101 of How Al-Anon Works (B-22, B-32). The prayer is also included in the Newcomer’s Packet (K-10). There was much discussion and a decision to bring this to the 2017 WSC, allowing Areas to spend time talking about this with our members.

My newest Task Force assignment for the upcoming year is: Spirituality in Area Money Discussions. This Task Force was established as a result of the 2015 Thought Force “Create Strategies to Show the Importance of Abundance and Spirituality in Money Discussions.” There were several Task Forces established... Money Discussions at the Group, District and Area levels. I am considering presenting some of this information using a breakout session at the June Assembly to have our membership participate and brainstorm.

As Delegates, we met prior to the opening of the Conference for the “Sharing Area Highlights” session. I am planning to send a copy of the SAH 2016 to all of you as there are many interesting successes and challenges shared by Delegates from the US and Canada. It is a great resource for ideas and solutions. It also shows many of the similar challenges that we are all experiencing.

On Saturday, April 16th, there was a 65th Anniversary Celebration in Virginia Beach. NYS filled a table or two.... I was there with Marcia, Dianne, Marlene, Sue P and Luis, Joan, Edita and a few more. We also got to visit with Mirta and Elizabeth, two of our Past Delegates. Over 350 people attended the dinner. There were two long-time Al-Anon speakers and we all had a great time.

The 6th Annual International Al-Anon Convention will be held in 2018 in Baltimore, MD. There’s plenty of time to start planning on attending... not too far to drive. The bid process is now open for the 2023 International.

I look forward to sharing the highlights of the 2016 World Service Conference at the June Assembly. Please encourage your GRs to attend. It is so important for our GRs to understand our service structure and their role as the voice of their group and their participation in the group conscience.

So let me end with this.... Our term is almost over. But our work is not ending. We need to all come together to ensure that we continue the work of Al-Anon as a whole, and the work of this Area to ensure that we maintain a strong Al-Anon structure and presence at our Area, AIS/Intergroup, District and Group levels. Think now about the positions that are open for Officers and Coordinators and where you see yourselves in the upcoming term. Most importantly, we need a Delegate. If you are a current or past DR, you are eligible to stand for this position. If you are interested in considering this position, please reach out to me and let’s plan to meet and talk. I will be happy to share the responsibilities of being a Delegate and will also serve as your Service Sponsor. I look forward to your call!!

Alternate Delegate Sue P nys.alternatedelegate@gmail.com

I had to cancel the Saturday April 9 inventory due to a work related conflict. Sunday May 1 at Long Beach went as scheduled and was great! Wednesday Night Manorville was a joy!

We need to consider other options for DRs and possibly Coordinators to facilitate group inventories. In an area as large as ours with meetings at all times of the day and night, it is not possible for one person to do all of the inventories. For example, I traveled out to Manorville, Long Island on Wednesday May 11. This was almost 80 miles one way. This was after a full day at work. I didn't arrive home until 11:30 PM. I was fortunate to have been able to take the next day off but it was granted at the last minute. I would like to gather a list of DRs that could possibly assist with facilitating inventories. Please call me so that we can arrange for you to tag along to watch how it's done. This would only be utilized when the far areas may be a challenge for me or the next Alternate Delegate. It's a great opportunity!!

Please consider scheduling a group inventory. There's only a few months left to the end of the term...

As always, it is truly a blessing and pleasure to serve.

New Business

Signature on Checks Grace Marie H discussion

- We don't need two signatures on checks
- we get to question the reason for a check.
- we consult about vouchers(Treasurer to Chair or Delegate)
- Why not 2 signatures on a voucher, instead of the check?
- check can get lost in the mail.-get electronic PDF signature for the voucher.-for now send vouchers to Marcia, then to Grace, to see how it works.

Motion: C2016-C/05-02

Matter under consideration: Change in guidelines regarding review of vouchers and signing checks

Originator: Michele R, Second : Rene`

That the current guidelines for Area Treasurer, Section 2, p 2.3, #1 be changed to read: "Submitted vouchers will be electronically sent by Area Treasurer to Area Chairperson for review and electronic signoff and all checks will require 1 signature.

Y 19 N 1 A 0

To June Assembly for discussion

To October 2016 Assembly for discussion and voting

Discussion on Money:

Comments:

- The WSO keeps breaking tradition, they take outside contributions, and own property.
- WSO can ask each member to donate \$15, trusted servants.
- We should go on austerity plan, cut expenses.

Group Records Marlene L nys54grouprecords@aol.com

There are 22 voting members.

Public Outreach Coordinator Taaj J nysawsc@aol.com

Public Outreach Report 4/3/16

- The next delivery of AFA's will be made on September 1st. and the deadline for ordering is 5pm on Wednesday, July 6, 2016. AFA's (Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism) our pamphlet distributed by World Service as our primary outreach tool, are being provided to a number of treatment offices and facilities

in our Area. Also, several meetings are using the AFA tool as their current outreach project. Please encourage your groups to order their own supply; it's a great way to carry the message to those who may not know that Al-Anon can help them. Pay it forward, it is a vital part of our recovery. A modest order of 50 or 100 will be a great project to try. Or the District may choose to purchase on behalf of the meetings and then give them to the GR's to take to the groups. It is our hope that more individual orders will come in from groups of course; orders can be done on line through World Service Office (WSO) at the WSO Al-Anon members' site (by using any word followed by the letters AFG as your password). AFA's are printed in English, Spanish, and French. Any numbers can be ordered. Due to limited storage space at WSO, off-season ordering will be on hold till the next deadline, at which point all orders will be printed and shipped. A record 220,000 copies were printed and distributed in the most recent ordering period.

- I have heard from a fair number of groups that the AFA project is the simplest, and as such, they would be happy to participate this next term. I am going to initiate a series of emails that the DR's and AWSC members can send to their groups via the GR's; the goal would be for each group that can, find a way, either by treasury or by separate collection make a small purchase of AFA's NOW, as, the deadline grows near and we all get busy--- make a project of distributing these Public Outreach Tools when they are delivered in September. No need to wait to order. More individual group orders are being encouraged by the WSO and it would be great for all groups in our Area to purchase their own supply.

- If you would like to contribute a piece of writing to the next AFA, it would be greatly appreciated; if you remember what it was like to be a newcomer, this may inspire you to write the words that will resonate with a potential member. (Writing guidelines are on the member's site)

- And as a reminder, Public Service Announcements (PSA's) still need to be placed. A member can make a call to a radio, television, cable, and movie theatre company and ask for the person responsible for PSA's. We simply need their format, which, often occurs through WSO as an electronic upload. Radio stations can read scripts as well if the station would prefer not to use a pre-recorded spot. The script is contained in the PSA package when it is ordered through WSO. Also, often the station we are calling may already have the package from WSO and may simply need a nudge to place it. Recently, a bank in Brooklyn agreed to place a digital billboard in the branches! The PDF is easily sent from WSO, we simply obtain the agreement and the contact person at the institution and the format they require and we can accommodate them.

- And thank you calls are always welcome if a member hears or sees a PSA, as the station will likely repeat the use, if it is appreciated! Right now the nation wide project is to call stations as a thank you, to encourage further plays.

- A **service/outreach** workshop is in the planning stages, the date is tentatively set for Sunday November 13th from 10 till 4 at Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers at 55 Ryder Road, Ossining, NY, where the Area Assembly takes place. The date will be confirmed shortly. While this is not exclusively a Public Outreach Event, it is a great opportunity to consider ways to carry the message. Another topic will be bringing more Members to service, and also we will demystify our Service Handbook. For those stepping up to Area Level Service, a **transition meeting** will occur as one of the sessions this day. Also, wading through the website, will be a possible topic. More info on this will follow. Service opportunities will be available in the planning stages as well as on the day of the event. Kindly have members note the date when confirmed and very shortly the opportunity to meet as a planning committee will be presented via email.

•Our ALISON Public Outreach is creating cards and posters for regional schools, all will contain their QR code, which will link the viewer to the Nassau Meeting List. Think outside the box!

•A correctional facility in Washington Heights (NYC) called Edgecomb will be a part of District 21 outreach, and Greenhope goes on (women's correctional alternative to imprisonment) in East Harlem.

•Please visit, and encourage your group members, to visit the Public Outreach section on the members' site to get to better know the distinction between attraction and promotion. We are asked to bring information, and to carry the message of Al-Anon, to those who still suffer. Kindly encourage your groups to create their own project, or to join forces with other groups in the District. Also, if your District or Group will be doing Facilities Outreach of any kind, please encourage them to look at the Facilities PowerPoint Presentation on the Members site, as a guide to the steps to include in their approach. To locate this, pull down the drop down menu called SERVICE STRUCTURE along the top of the Members Home Page, and beneath that there is a DISTRICT RESOURCES page. On the bottom Right hand side of that page, it will give you the TREATMENT FACILITIES OUTREACH PROJECT PowerPoint Presentation.

While you visit that page, you can download the current Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual on the bottom left side of the page, which can also offer information about carrying the message.

•And finally, the national Public Outreach call will be held in June, where ideas are shared amongst all of the Area Public Outreach Coordinators. Hope you will bring some of them from your groups so that I may share them on the call.

•We are also looking at options to spread the word for Alateen.

Alateen Coordinator Ellen D nys.alaco.54@gmail.com

There are two AMIAS trainings coming up: May 21st, in Harrison, and June 26 in Levittown. Recertifications are at 10:00 am. And New AMIAS training is at 1:00pm.

Intergrupo Hispano Edita editasp@verizon.net

No news to report.

Suffolk Information Service (AIS) renevafg@aol.com

Discovery Convention Rene`

There is a lot to do.

The deadline was extended to June 10.

We need to book 180 room nights, we have 148 room nights

We made 80% at 144 room nights. There are 213 registered people. 2 Alateens are registered, they register for free.

The Banquet has a 200 limit, we have 138.

Day trippers can sign up for the banquet.

Tell 2 friends, tell 2 friend, etc. to support the convention.

Raffle baskets, groups can donate. Districts and individuals can also do baskets.

Include a forum subscription on the list or just donate money.

We need the list, not on the website now.

nydiscovery@gmail.com

Tell everyone to sign up for the list.

Walk-ins should register for the day and the Banquet.

Re Posting on the Website

Discussion:

Read the motion.

Michele read her letter to Rick B of Sept. 3, 2015. His response, "AA participation in Al-Anon Workshops", was read. Michele pointed out items in the Service manual.

Comments:

- Area is not restricting events at the local level.
- Michele had conversations at the conference, "not an Al-Anon event when AA & Al-Anon shares, and then open for shares.
- Reviewed the KBDM
- Presume good will-
- Any policy also applies to physically placing and announcing events that are not Area events.
- History of the Workshop and G 13 workshop guideline. see p. 45 for AA speakers.
- We should not be trying to fit circle into a square, not mirror WSO.
- Do not penalize all Districts or groups. It is important to know others events.
- Have an amendment to add, "approval for local events by an officer"
- Let's not be Al-Anon Police, let locals decide.
- Why do we need to have local events on an area website when it has links to AIS's.
- 2 issues, Tradition 1/unity, focus on myself , common goal, Tradition 3, singleness of purpose
- Issue: should events be posted on the AREA website, or just go to the AIS.
- Al-Anon Workshops that follow guidelines should be posted.
- 2 issues: Flyers and website
- "Greater good", disclaimer that these are not Area Approved, but here they are
- Per guidelines, the website "serves as a channel...forwards additional appropriate events"

Motion: C0/16-2

Matter under consideration: Website Coordinator Responsibilities

Originator: Steering Committee, Second: Merit

Recommends to the AWSC the following changes to the Area Guidelines, V5.1, Section 3.5, Website Coordinator Responsibilities, adding the word AREA as follows:

2.compiles and maintains the "Calendar of Events" which includes all Al-Anon sponsored Area events or Al-Anon participation, Area events including, but not limited to : Area workshops, AWSC/ Assemblies, World Service Conference , Area Conventions, . Cooperates with Area Chairperson to post additional events/information/ resources, when deemed appropriate.

Y 6 N 15 A 1 Motion does not pass

Group Inventories-Marcia

Ad Hoc committee for group inventories. We will establish a pool of people to do Group Inventories, to be backups. Previous Alternate Delegates can do this. Members stepped up to be on the committee: Pat S, Lew, Grace Marie, and Taaj.

Comments:

- Can a DR do this?
- You should not do your own group.
- Need backups to backup the Alternate Delegate.
- Nassau County has only one DR, she is stepping down

Alison Roseann B Ros82754@yahoo.com

Forum/Literature Report

SENY/AA Liaison

New York Intergroup Dolly

Newsletter Veronica E

Veronica will not be able to attend the Assembly and Committee meetings, due to change in her schedule. She can continue to write the Newsletter.

Comment:

A committee member should be present at committee meetings.

Rockland AIS Lenore G

Website Coordinator's Report Regina B

Westchester/Putnam AIS Ellen M

Meeting closed at 4 pm with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Al-Anon Alateen Declaration.

Next AWSC Meeting: Sept 17th, 2016 - St Vincent's Hospital, Harrison, NY