

# New York South Assembly Area

Area Assembly Meeting  
February 19, 2017  
MINUTES

Maryknoll  
Ossining, NY

## Opening

- Ellen D. opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer
- Traditions read by Alyssa
- Concepts read by Sabrina
- Many Voices, One Journey, read by Lew (p. 111)
- Opening – Ellen D.
- Introductions
- Roll Call of Districts Present (Emily D.)
- Attendance – 71 voting members, 16 visitors (Pat C.)
- Rules of the Conference read by volunteers

## Reports

1. Secretary's Report - Vacant  
Tabled
2. Treasurer's Report - Gracemarie H. (Handouts)

The cash we have in our Operating Account:	\$ 29,645.72	
The cash we have in our Money Market:	\$ 11,671.66	
	Total cash	\$ 41,317.38

<u>Amount allocated for specific use:</u>	\$ 11,645.50	
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Our yet to date revenue is:	\$ 8,517.52	
<u>Our year to date expenses are:</u>	\$ 3,658.00	
	Difference \$	\$ 4,859.52

Annual Appeal		
Income generated by the appeal (mailed January)	\$ -	
<u>The cost for mailing the letters</u>	\$ 500.00	
	Difference	\$ 500.00

## VOTE - MOTION TO ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT

Originator: Ellen D. Second: Dawn

68 Yes  
0 No  
0 Abstention  
68

*MOTION CARRIES*

3. Chairperson's Report – Ellen D.

This is Ellen's first Assembly meeting as Chair. Ellen thanked all for attending and for the big turnout. She reviewed the voting procedure and informed the Assembly that we would not have time for a lengthy orientation. She suggested that all GRs find a Service Sponsor and purchase a Service Manual. She distributed handouts entitled: "Group Representative (GR) Information Sheet for New York South Area Assemblies," "How to Survive an Area Assembly" and also a sheet of "Al-Anon Acronyms."

4. Delegate's Report – Taaj J.

- Taaj inquired about the state of affairs concerning revisions to our Alateen Guidelines. She is reaching out to Sue P. on this matter.
- The 2017 World Service Conference (WSC) theme is "Our Members are Hope for our Future." One of the topics of discussion for the WSC will be whether or not to remove the prayer at the end of the "Just For Today" poem (bookmark/palmscard.)
- Taaj suggested we all read, study and memorize the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. This is something Taaj did and it has helped her recovery tremendously. It has also been a great benefit in carrying out her service commitments.
- Taaj receives about 100 emails daily from World Service. She is also linked-in with all the other Delegates on a discussion platform. It is important to Taaj to keep up with the discussions/emails and keep us informed. Taaj discussed a Trustee's letter she received following the January WSO Board Meeting. The letter stated that WSO received \$2 million in contributions last year which is the highest ever. As a Delegate, Taaj is able to request a phone conference with a Trustee at any time which she plans to schedule.
- There was 45 minutes of discussion by members about whether or not to remove the prayer appearing at the end of the "Just For Today" poem (bookmark/palmscard.) Members came to the mic to speak.

Some members requested a vote on the subject. Ellen D. explained that the Area only votes on matters which we can effectuate. This concerns CAL and therefore, is not a matter that the Area has any say over and/or can enact any change; this is a World Service Office matter. Some expressed concern that they came to the Assembly but their voice would not be heard. Ellen reminded members of the World Service Conference rules (which we use at our Assembly) which caution against the need to repeat something you have already heard. If you hear something said by someone else, then your voice was heard. Members wanted to know if this will be voted upon at the World Service Conference meeting in April. Taaj stated, not necessarily so. If an item is too controversial and there is not enough consensus about it, a vote will be postponed.

Taaj encouraged all of us to return to our groups and have a conversation about this with our members. The discussion will continue at our Assembly meeting in April which is just before the World Service Conference.

5. **VOTE - TO ELECT EMILY AS ALTERNATE DELEGATE**

68	Yea
0	Nay
0	Abstentions
68	Voting members

*MOTION CARRIES*

6. **VOTE - TO ELECT SUE V. AS AREA SECRETARY**

67 Yea  
0 Nay  
0 Abstentions  
67 Voting members

*MOTION CARRIES*

7. **Vote of Confidence - TO ELECT PAT C. AS GROUP RECORDS COORDINATOR**

65 Yes

8. **Vote of Confidence - TO ELECT MARLENE L. AS SPEAK-EASY COORDINATOR**

Majority - Yes

9. Open Positions

- Alateen Coordinator
- Public Outreach Coordinator – Taaj nominated Regina B. Rene V. seconded. Regina accepted the nomination.

10. April Assembly – Host district needed.

11. *Forum*/Literature Coordinator's Report – Marissa W.

(Full report with details about where to send submissions is attached.)

- *The Forum*

**Increase in subscribers:** Overall, there has been an increase in *Forum* subscriptions particularly from groups. Unfortunately, *Forum* subscriptions in NY are actually down. Please remind your groups that receiving *The Forum* is a great way to make the magazine visible and let everyone know of its value for recovery.

***The Forum* needs more sharings** about the three Legacies especially about Steps Five through Twelve; and all Twelve Traditions and Concepts of Service. Also needed are sharings from Alateen members.

**THE FORUM BOOK (working title):** So far, members have sent in over 270 of their favorite *Forum* articles. Please encourage members to let the WSO know which *Forum* stories they want to see included in this new book.

- Literature Update:

**NEW! *Paths to Recovery Workbook* (P-93)** is now available at a price of \$10 or order the *Paths to Recovery Set* (K-31) get both the book and the workbook for \$25.

- Sharings Needed:

WSO is still looking to receive sharings for the intimacy piece, the parents/grandparents pamphlet and the new daily reader.

WSO needs more sharings for "CAL Corner" about how CAL has helped members with their recovery. Please urge members to write. They could especially use articles about *From Survival to Recovery* (B-21), *A guide for the Family of the Alcoholic* (P-7), *The Al-Anon Focus* (P45), *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* (B-29), *Alateens Speak to the Adults in Their Lives* (P-67) (formerly *Dear Mom & Dad*) and *Hope for Today* (B-27).

12. Area Mailbox Coordinator Report - Arthur S.

The Area mailbox was last emptied on February 16, 2017 and all mail has been collected and forwarded to the Area Treasurer.

13. *Speak-Easy* Coordinator Report – Marlene L.

Please submit articles for the *Speak-Easy* to Marlene L. at [nysspeakeasy@aol.com](mailto:nysspeakeasy@aol.com). The next articles are due on May 1, 2017.

14. Discovery Chairperson Report – Sabrina

- The theme for Discovery 2017 is "It Takes a Fellowship." Sabrina said the Discovery Committee has reviewed the Evaluation surveys from last year and have listened to feedback. They have changed the venue to The Renaissance Westchester Hotel in West Harrison, NY, arranged for better food including Kosher food and will have plenty of coffee!
- In honor of 66 years of Al-Anon, the first 66 registrants for the Convention who also register for a two night-hotel stay will be entered in a raffle to win one (1) free night.
- There are three tiers of pricing for Discovery plus the Walk-in rate:
  - Super Early Bird ends: 4/15/17, \$15
  - Early Bird ends: 5/31/17, \$20
  - Regular pre-registration: 6/1/17 - 7/1/17, \$25
  - Walk-in: \$25
- Email addresses previously collected will be used again to distribute information about Discovery. They will begin at the end of March.
- Hospitality: There will be food in the Hospitality Suite this year including a microwave oven.

15. **Vote of Confidence** – TO ELECT REGINA B. AS PUBLIC OUTREACH COORDINATOR  
Majority – Yes

16. **VOTE: RE-DEFINING THE ROLE OF AREA CHAIRPERSON ON THE DISCOVERY CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

58 Yea  
2 Nay  
5 Abstentions  
65 Voting members

Call for voice of the minority: Nay voters were invited to share. After discussion regarding the question of double-headed management, a re-vote was taken:

**RE-VOTE**

54 Yea  
4 No  
8 Abstentions  
66 Voting members

**MOTION CARRIES**

17. **VOTE: NYS ASSEMBLY TREASURER WILL MONITOR THE DISCOVERY CONVENTION BANK ACCOUNT**

62 Yea  
0 Nay  
3 Abstentions  
65 Voting members

*MOTION CARRIES*

18. **VOTE: CONVENTION COMMITTEE GUIDELINES FOR "DISCOVERY" THE NEW YORK SOUTH ASSEMBLY AREA CONVENTION REVISIONS**

Ellen D. provided a Powerpoint presentation of the proposed changes to the Convention Committee Guidelines. Discussion followed, in particular about where to order Literature (WSO or Local Distribution Center-LDC.) The changes provide for literature to be ordered directly from WSO.

59 Yea  
1 Nay  
1 Abstentions  
61 Voting members

*MOTION CARRIES*

19. Alateen Coordinator Report – Vacant

Discussion of Alateen Coordinator position. Under consideration is to re-structure the position as a "Train the Trainer" service whereby the Area Alateen Coordinator will provide training to District Alateen Coordinators and/or District Reps (if there is no District Alateen Coordinator) who then, in turn, provide AMIAS training in their District. All trainers must first be AMIAS trained and certified. This could have an impact with respect to DRs more so than the District Alateen Coordinators who should already be AMIAS trained and certified.

20. SENY Liaison Report – Rene V.

The SENY Convention will be held on the weekend of March 24, 25 and 26 at The Renaissance Hotel in West Harrison, NY. There are six (6) meeting slots for Al-Anon meetings in both English and Spanish. The topics are:

- *As We Understood*
- Hope For Today/From Survival to Recovery
- Reaching for Personal Freedom
- How Al-Anon Works
- Living with Sobriety

AA will also have a joint AA/Al-Anon meeting on the AA program called "*The Family Afterwards.*" Both AA and Al-Anon speakers will share.

The Convention will open on Friday night with an Al-Anon Keynote speaker who will be Michele R.

The deadline to register for a hotel room at the Convention rate: February 27  
The deadline to pre-register for the Convention: March 11

21. NYC Intergroup Liaison Report - Tabled

22. ALISON Liaison Report – Ellen

Save the Date for our Fall workshop on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017.

23. Rockland AIS - Tabled

24. Westchester/Putnam AIS – Chris M. (absent)

Bob provided a report on behalf of Chris M. The next AIS meeting will be held on Mon. March 6, 2017 at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Pleasantville, NY. The next edition of our AIS newsletter is coming out in March.

25. Website Coordinator – Tabled

More discussion will take place regarding posting District/group workshops and events on the Area Website.

26. March 4 – Lois W.'s birthday

Lois' birthday is March 4<sup>th</sup>. On this day it is traditional to leave a piece of Al-Anon literature somewhere where a newcomer may find it.

27. *REMINDERS*

Taaj J. reminded GRs that there are certain terms often heard in meetings that did not originate from Al-Anon. These include the word "Qualifier" and "Cross-talk." These words are not found anywhere in CAL. She handed out a *Forum* article about the term "Qualifier."

Taaj also reminded groups that WSO suggests we close meetings using the *Al-Anon Declaration* and not use other closings such as: "*It works if you work it so work it you're worth it.*" This closing originated in a Rehab Center and did not originate from our Al-Anon program.

28. Announcements:

- Fri. 3/10 Crow Hill (D26) share-an-evening
- Sat. 3/25 Suffolk Spring Workshop at the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood
- Sat. 3/25 Workshop in the school basement at Good Shepherd (D15)
- Sun. 4/2 Staten Island is planning a Spiritual Workshop. Details to follow.
- Tues. 5/2 D4 & 5 Annual workshop (evening)
- Sat. 10/17 Save the Date, Fall Workshop (ALISON)
- (TBD) D18 is planning a movie night to show the movie "*When Love is Not Enough.*" They are also considering a beach event.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sue V.  
Area Secretary

Forum/Literature Coordinator Update 2-19-17:

***The Forum Update:***

**Increase in subscribers:** Ever since WSO stopped sending complimentary copies of *The Forum* to groups, there has been an increase in subscriptions. This has been most notably from groups buying subscriptions. Please remind your groups that receiving *The Forum* is a great way to make the magazine visible, and let everyone know of its value for recovery.

**Subscription #'s down by 32 in NY:**

6/16:	733 Groups	836 <i>Forum</i> Subscriptions	1 subscriptions per group
9/16:	728 Groups	882 <i>Forum</i> Subscriptions	1.2 subscriptions per group
12/16:	721 Groups	850 <i>Forum</i> Subscriptions	1.2 subscriptions per group

***The Forum* needs more sharings!** Need sharings about the three Legacies—especially about Steps Five through Twelve, and all Twelve Traditions and Concepts of Service. Also needed are sharings from Alateen members.

**New Department in *The Forum*:** In October, *The Forum* began a yearlong series of articles written by members of the Board of Trustees. They share about the recovery their service provides them, and provide an inside peek at the work the Board does for our fellowship.

**THE FORUM BOOK (working title):** So far, members have sent in over 270 titles and publications dates of *Forum* articles they consider the best of recent years. Please encourage members to let the WSO know which *Forum* stories they want to see included in this book. Provide the title, month, and year in which it appeared in the magazine. E-mail suggestions ([wso@al-anon.org](mailto:wso@al-anon.org)) or submit suggestions on-line. Go to the Members' Web site at [al-anon.org/members](http://al-anon.org/members). Click on "individuals," "Featured Publications," "*The Forum*," the "THE FORUM BOOK (working title).

**Instant Step Meetings:** Beginning in January, the "Instant Meeting" feature of *The Forum* includes, in addition to two or three brief sharings on the Step of the month, several thought-provoking questions to get the conversations started.

**Literature Update:**

**NEW! *Paths to Recovery Workbook* (P-93)** is now available. It includes all the questions from *Paths to Recovery* (B24), along with the space to write. It is the same size and format as the revised *Blueprint for Progress* (P-91), at a price of \$10 for the workbook. Or order the *Paths to Recovery Set* (K-31) get both the book and the workbook for \$25. French and Spanish versions should be available by April.

**Sharings Needed:**

WSO is still looking to receive sharings for the intimacy piece, the parents/grandparents pamphlet and the new daily reader.

WSO needs more sharings for "CAL Corner" about how CAL has helped members with their recovery. Please urge members to write. They could especially use articles about *From Survival to Recovery* (B-21), *A guide for the Family of the Alcoholic* (P-7), *The Al-Anon Focus* (P45), *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* (B-29), *Alateens Speak to the Adults in Their Lives (formerly Dear Mom & Dad)* (P-67), and *Hope for Today* (B-27).



Alternate Delegate Report  
March 5, 2017

Thank you for letting me serve New York South Area as your Alternate Delegate. I can already tell it will be a great opportunity for spiritual growth! I've shared how I got here in the Spring issue of *Speak-Easy*. Thanks to Marlene, our Newsletter Coordinator for getting the Area Newsletter back up and running, and for doing it so beautifully.

Over the next two months I'll be easing into this position while I finish up some teaching. That said, on March 15<sup>th</sup> I am scheduled to facilitate Part II of a group inventory in Brooklyn Heights. I was present when Taaj did Part I in December.

Since the Feb. Assembly I've been contacted by at least three other groups. We're in the process of scheduling inventories in the Bronx and on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Depending on scheduling and public transportation, I look forward to facilitating inventories throughout the Area.

Following our past Alternate Delegate Sue P.'s suggestion, I'd also like to propose that we form a team of active AWSC members to help with group inventories that are hard for me to get to. If you're interested in doing this service, please let me know.

As Alternate Delegate, I'm also open to visiting any districts that need support from the Area—especially those districts without a District Rep that would like to work toward forming a closer connection to the Area.

For group inventories and visits to districts, my contact information is listed here, and on the first page of *Speak-Easy*.

*Emily D-C*  
*Alternate Delegate*  
*NYS Area 40*  
[nys57altdelegate@gmail.com](mailto:nys57altdelegate@gmail.com)  
*Ph. 718-768-0265*

I look forward to hearing from you.

With gratitude for service,  
Emily D-C

*Easy Does It*