

Alagram

Fall 2006

Newsletter New Jersey Assembly

Area 36 Assembly Highlights — June 2006 Meeting

The June Assembly meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by the reading of the Traditions and the Concepts. 32 Group Representatives were in attendance.

Our Chairperson Karen P. welcomed all new and existing Group Representatives (GRs) and then read from the service manual about dual membership.

Our Delegate Kathy B. gave us a complete overview of the World Service Conference which was held from April 23rd-29th 2006. The theme of this year's conference was: "Shared Leadership: moving forward with confidence, collaboration and clarity". Among the week's highlights were:

A conclusion that not only should we be willing to serve Al-Anon but we need to be committed to Al-Anon, If we are not committed to our program on a daily basis we are probably not going to do well.

There was discussion of providing literature to Romania and Iran printed in their native language.

There was also talk of the 2008 Al-Anon International in Pittsburgh. The theme is – "Connecting People around the World – Al-Anon Family Groups". Everyone was encouraged to prepare to attend this conference.

There was discussion of the Board's Vision Statement: all people affected by someone else's drinking will find help and recovery in every community, and the Board's Mission Statement: anticipate the future and Al-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available.

The many ways to enhance Al-Anon such as Electronic Meetings, e-Cal and Al-Anon websites were discussed at this year's conference.

A final note from our delegate was on "Anonymity and the Myths" that come along with that principal. A reminder was presented that Al-Anon Family Groups is not anonymous, we are not a secret society and this idea needs to be talked about at all levels of Al-Anon. By talking about this misunderstood principle in our personal meetings, our Area Assemblies, our district and Al-Anon Information Service Workshops we can begin to dispel this myth.

Our Alternate Delegate, Fran, has been busy attending meetings when Kathy B. is not available. She also makes our reservations for Assembly and AWSC and confirms them. Fran discussed how much she has learned about the Forum and what a great tool it is for meeting topics. She has encouraged everyone to consider subscribing.

Ann Marie Z. our treasurer reported that our total income year to date is \$5857.82 and our total expenses are \$3399.10. We have had donations of \$1907.17 since that last Assembly which was in March 2006. Our last appeal letter cost \$185.68 to print and mail and we have received \$1859.88 from that mailing netting us a profit of \$1674.20.

Assembly Elections will be coming up during the November 4th 2006 meeting. A new panel of Officers will be voted in. We encourage all GR's to come to this meeting and vote in their new trusted servants. If your group does not have a GR, elect one and begin participation on a new level. Your group and your GR will experience recovery in new and wonderful ways. Take the next step. Participation is the key to harmony.



New Jersey Assembly will meet on Saturday, November 4, 2006 New Dover Methodist Church 587 New Dover Rd Iselin, NJ. Coffee 'and' at 9:30 AM.


The meeting starts promptly at 10:00 AM.

All Group Representatives & District Representatives and Area officers are encouraged to attend.

HELP WANTED

Area 36

Openings for people who want to grow in their program & learn more about Al-Anon in the process. January starts a new term.



A Note from Your Delegate -

I can't believe that the last Assembly of the term is approaching; it is both poignant and exciting. I want to take this opportunity to thank you, Area 36 for allowing me the privilege to serve as your Delegate. I have enjoyed sharing information with you; it has helped me to learn so much more about our fellowship and me. I know I have grown from this experience with the help of my higher power.

Please do not forget that there is information on the member's website www.al-anon.org/members. You can find the guidelines to download and print, news letters and other items of interest from WSO. Don't forget that the quarterly letter from the Chairman of the board after the Trustees board week can also be found there, that is where we learn what is going on and how we can help. The groups asked their delegates to take a message to WSO to store this information in a central location so we can all have it at the same time. It was discussed and reasoned out and this is the result, please don't let it sit idle. Also, spread this information at the meetings you attend so others can learn of this, this is a great way to perform fellowship "in-reach".

Thank you to the groups and individuals who purchased the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2007 edition of the Forum. In total, we ordered over 168,000 copies and as I type, there is public outreach to the professionals happening. Let us know what your group has done to distribute these copies so we can share with the rest of the groups. If your group missed this opportunity, please keep your eyes open because there is another opportunity to purchase this again in the January/February time frame to work in April. The 2004-2006 Service Manual discusses how the groups also participate in public outreach, please see Pages 49 & 50.

I will have the Conference Summary at the November Assembly and look forward to the elections. Have you asked your higher power what is in store for you? Are you willing and committed to Al-Anon to help spread the word and help families and friends of Alcoholics? Remember Al-Anon was there for us; let's help it to be there for others.

Service helps me stretch my boundaries. Taking risks helps me grow and Al-Anon is a safe place to do just that: take a risk and grow.... The rewards of service have been worth the risks. I ask myself: What are my special talents? Pg 18 When I Got Busy, I Got Better.

Love in service
Kathy

Chairperson's Corner

I cannot believe that 3 years have passed already. As I look back I have seen where I have grown and changed because you have trusted me as your Area Chairperson. There have been many changes in my personal life, some happy and some sad, but the growth in my recovery through this service opportunity cannot be put into words.

What an exciting time for the NJ Area Assembly. In November of 2004 the adoption of the WSO mandate for Alateen. After much discussion and debate when the final vote was taken it passed unanimously. Kudos to NJ Al-Anon. As our Alateen program grows so do the numbers of Al-Anon Members Involved in Al-Anon Service.

My goal for the last three years was to make our districts stronger by following the Al-Anon structure of each district having a District Representative (DR) and each district being represented at the Area World Service Committee meetings. Even though I did not accomplish this goal, I will continue to work on it behind the scenes during the next few years. Each members voice is important to New Jersey Al-Anon.

As I end my term I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you and ask each of you that for the next three years you support the Board of Assembly officers as you did during the last three years with you time and talents.

Yours in Service,
Karen P.



From the Desk of the Alternate Delegate:

Hope you all enjoyed the summer! Our next Assembly is November 4th at the New Dover Methodist Church. Coffee & Refreshments will be available at 9:30am. The meeting will start at 10am.

The 2007 Calendar is now available, at a cost of \$6 for 1 or \$5 for 2 or more. I'd like to thank Carol for putting it together and those who submitted pictures and special meeting information to truly make it a 'Work of Love'. It is a "must have" for Groups, Group Representatives, and Assembly Officers. It is a great way for members to keep in touch with important Al-Anon dates (and the Slogans). And remember, it helps Assembly financially. So buy some at the Assembly or from your local Information Service.

World Service Office's September Public Outreach is the "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2007" publication. September is National Recovery Month, and there is no better way for the outside world to be introduced to Al-Anon than by its members sharing their Experience, Strength, and Hope. Hopefully your group is participating and getting those magazines out to the Professional Community – your doctors, libraries, hospitals, schools, etc.

I hope to see you all at the Assembly in November.

Yours in Service,
Fran M.



ELECTION

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Come out and vote on November 4th for the next
Assembly Board of Officers.

- Delegate
- Alternate Delegate
- Chairperson
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Treasurer

➤ Rotation of office is so important in Al-Anon service. If you are interested in any of the above positions or have any questions regarding the positions, please go to the New Jersey webpage www.nj-al-anon.org and email the Chairperson.



What's New in Alateen-

Alateen is alive and kicking in NJ !! In June I agreed to take over as the Alateen coordinator and finish out the term until January of 2007. Over the last three years, working on the Alateen ad-hoc committee, I have learned a great deal about Alateen, the traditions and concepts but most importantly the wonderful experience Alateen can be for both the Alateens and the sponsors, now more appropriately called AMIAS, (Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service). The most remarkable turn of events in the last three years has been the implementation of the new Requirements to be an AMIAS. The great fear that the requirements would be the end of Alateen was replaced with a renewed interest and a renewed dialogue on how to improve attendance and to make sure Alateen continues to survive and grow in the years ahead. The immediate lesson for me was a reminder of what I have learned in Al-Anon; *fear of outcomes leads to unnecessary worry*. By living in the present; accepting, not expecting, doing the footwork and turning it over to God and asking only for the courage and strength to accept the outcome, whatever it may be, has worked as usual. The result has been better than I could have anticipated.

The training session on August 27, 2006 in Mount Holly had 40 AMIAS certified or recertified. About 25 were new AMIAS. Congratulations and thanks for being of service to all that attended and helped me. We broke up into two group, re-certification and new certification. We had an AMIAS (Sponsor) meeting late in the day when both groups attended an open forum question and answer session. This was a chance for Sponsors from all over to exchange ideas on what works and what does not work. Since the training session, the Alateen group in Hamilton has picked up an additional AMIAS and a new group may be opening in Magnolia NJ, and the Sunday Night Cherry Hill Meeting has reopened. Not bad! It was a great opportunity to meet and network with other AMIAS. The next meeting is on 10/14/06 in Edison at the New Dover Methodist Church 11am to 5pm. I look forward to see you there. We still need help on the ad-hoc committee. The issue of criminal background checks has not yet been resolved or implemented. All are welcome. E-Mail me at alateen@nj-al-anon.org.

We are now starting to do some public outreach and need fresh ideas. I am participating in *It's Your Life 411* program in Passaic County Schools on 10/27/06 and could use your support as well. We need an Alateen Coordinator for the NJIS. The experience has been rewarding for me and I recently received an offer from an AMIAS in Red Bank to help me with the administrative duties. Thanks to Michele C.

Thanks to the ad-hoc committee for your help and continued support and guidance. My recovery has blossomed working in service above the group level. Give it a try. If you fail to acquire the spirit of service, you have missed one of the greatest gifts Al-Anon has to offer.

Rich M., Alateen Coordinator

SJIS Annual Luncheon - October 28, 2006

' Came To Believe' is the theme for this year's SJIS Annual Fund and Fellowship Luncheon. It will be held at the Circle Landmark Restaurant in Lakehurst, N.J. from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm. The Restaurant's name is changing to 'Labove Grande'. Tickets are \$23 and can be purchased through the SJIS office at 856-547-0855 or SJIS@Verizon.net . This is the only SJIS fundraiser, so come out, support South Jersey in carrying the message of recovery and enjoy a great meal. Concept 4 states "Participation is the Key to Harmony". Let's Harmonize!

50th Anniversary Picnic



What an event! Could have not been a more a perfect weekend. The weather cooperated and it was a wonderful day. The day started early for me, Paul G., but I was not alone for long. Sam C. and Al A. from Red Bank groups showed up shortly after I arrived and were a huge help in setting up. Sam C. donated both the ice and charcoal for the event. Tom from Toms River groups was an early arrival as well and the three men quickly had the tables covered and the area organized. They were a huge help and I actually was able relax for a while before everyone showed up. After that I tried to practice let go and let God and enjoy the day. I was pretty successful at that. Judy S handled the beverage sales with some help from Jamie another Red Bank member. Judy & Jamie sold \$53.00 worth of drinks that were donated by herself and other members.

Entire families came to the event and the number of children playing and having fun was great to see. The signs made said merely AFG Picnic and some commented they did not know what AFG meant. It was a good reminder; we're a part of Al-Anon Family Groups. Seeing all the families at the picnic really drove that point home.

So many helped and pitched in I don't think I could remember or thank them all. Special thanks to the other committee members: Karen, Carole, Judy, and Patricia you were all great. Rich M. for organizing the three legged race. Sharon for the kids crafts was wonderful. Carol and husband for the cotton candy machine. So many people doing so much!! It was a great day with wonderful people in recovery and with an awesome Potluck– food as far as the eye could see.

We had the opportunity to hear three speakers throughout the day. Each speaker AA, Al-Anon and the Spiritual speaker made an impression on all those at the event. Believe everyone who heard the speakers connected in someway with what was said and went home with the feeling that recovery is a huge possibly. Thanks to Kathy B. Keith B. and Paul G. our Al-Anon, AA, and Spiritual speakers another reminder of families in recovery.

Budget report:
 Currently the total take for event is \$967.60 this includes \$55.00 promised by members but yet to be received. The net after expenses I have received so far is \$619.74. A success in terms of raising some money for the Area.

Thanks for the trust you all had in me, and the opportunity to do the service. It was a great growth opportunity for me. I hope the picnic is something we as an Area can continue to do. It is my belief that the event will continue to grow and improve if given the opportunity.

Enjoy the Day!
 Paul G.

Contact JAL-CON

JAL-CON Inc.
518-7 Old Post Rd., #356
Edison, NJ 08817
Lori C., President:
jalcon@nj-al-anon.org

JAL-CON Rundown

JAL-CON CONVENTION WAS HELD -

Where: Somerset Marriot

When: July 21-23, 2006

Theme:

The 2006 JAL-CON convention was a great success with many new faces among the previous Attendees. Fun and growth was had by all.

Business

JAL-CON Annual Meeting was held at: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
28 South 4th Street (corner of Ford Avenue), Fords, NJ on: Saturday, **May 13, 2006**

Turnout: Once again, we had 11 voting JAL-CON Representatives attend. We hope to get more for next year.

Trustee Elections – 3 open positions have been filled! Congrats to:

Jeannie M., Rahway Sunday Night

Patti W., Redbank Wednesday Night

George D., T-shirt committee chair 2006

Your 2007 Trustees take office in October 2006. They will elect, among the 7 voting Trustees, a new President. That person will be your new AWSC liaison for November.

The Convention Chairperson for 2007 has been elected.

Congrats to John S.

To be affirmed by Assembly in November

Note from John –

JAL-CON 2005 financial report is available on the Assembly Web site: www.nj-al-anon.org

Information Services is a very important service arm in Al-Anon. When you first call seeking help, your call is directed to the Information Service answering bureau. For most of us, that's the first friendly voice that we hear in Al-Anon.

In New Jersey, we have two information services -

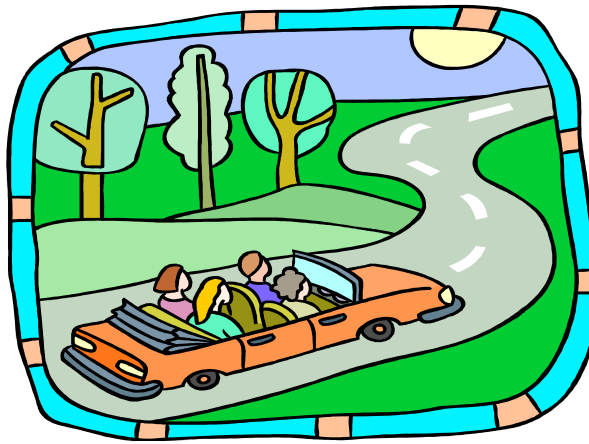
NORTH JERSEY

NJIS Literature Depot
73 S. Fullerton Ave,
2nd. Flr.
Montclair, NJ 07042
(973) 744-8686
www.NorthJerseyAl-Anon.org

SOUTH JERSEY

SJIS Literature Depot
116 White Horse Pike,
Suite 1B
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
(856) 547-0855
sjis@verizon.net

Your donations to Assembly help fund service projects like this newsletter.



Calling All Group Representative's, Alternate GRs & Group members:

All are welcomed and encouraged to attend the next Assembly meeting on November 4 in which the new officers will be voted in. If your group does not have a GR, ELECT ONE, or ask a group member to be a trusted servant for the day. Bring a car-load of Al-Anon members. All are Welcome! See what the New Jersey Assembly is all about. Each Group is entitled to a vote. Your Voice and Vote are very important.

Please send all correspondence and articles to:

NJ Area Assembly Editor 518-7 Old Post Rd #355 Edison, NJ 08817-4683

Or E-Mail through our Web site www.nj-al-anon.org

Most mailings are received by the group secretary. The Alagram is intended for your entire group to read. Scan the Alagram. During your report, highlight any articles of interest. Consider using some as a topic for a service meeting.

Finally, pass this copy around the room for three consecutive meetings so everyone can read it. Then leave it on the literature table so it can be read at any time.

You can now get your own copy of the Alagram, look to the right for ordering information.

ADDRESS CHANGE & GROUP CONTRIBUTION COUPON

Please send contributions and Address changes to :

New Jersey Area Assembly 518-7 Old Post Road #355 Edison, NJ 08817-4683

Group Name: _____

Meeting Place & Time _____

Mailing Address _____

Contribution: \$ _____ WSO-ID (if known) _____

Individual Subscriptions to the Alagram are now available as follows:

Individual: one copy, 3 time a year for one year, \$3.00 _____

5 copies of each issue to one address 3 times a year for one year \$10.00 _____

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Address _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

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