

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY AREA 36

MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 2, 2019

Chairperson, Ann Marie Z. called the meeting to order at 10AM. The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer followed by members reading the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts of Service and the General Warranties of the Conference. Ann Marie Z. read from Page 86 of the Service Manual regarding dual members in Al-Anon service.

Jesse acted as Corresponding Secretary for the meeting to keep count for votes. After discussion of who was eligible to vote (GRs/Alternate GRs), the count was 41.

Chairperson: Ann Marie reminded all of etiquette procedures as outlined in her report. Each speaker would have 2 minutes at microphone and was reminded to stay on topic.

Ann Marie indicated AWSC has a full service panel with the exception of Archives Coordinator. She outlined the duties of this position and encouraged someone to step up to the position.

Delegate: Donna S. posted her report to NJ Assembly Google Docs. She indicated that her mentor is Cindy J. Donna S. was to attend NERD meeting in March and WSC in April in Virginia Beach. Her address is in her report for any who want to send love gifts or cards. Donna S. gave examples of love gifts. Ann Marie Z. explained the purpose of love gifts. Donna S. indicated there is a new WSO thought force: identifying ways to look at service, new ideas for service, roadblocks to service.

Alternate Delegate: Katie O. posted report to website, not included in packet. Katie O. thanked District 23 for refreshments.

Katie O. read statistics for The Forum: NJ has 40 group subscriptions, 43 mailed subscriptions, 211 individual subscriptions. A total of 234 are mailed.

Katie O. encouraged individual/group subscriptions. The Forum: A Meeting in Your Pocket.

Kathy P. raised issue of only 40 groups of over 300 groups having subscription to Forum. Price: \$11/year.

There was a question as to where there is a list of which groups had a subscription. Answer: No. Reminder that it is duty of GRs to promote The Forum.

Ask It Basket passed.

50 calendars still available for groups/individuals to purchase.

District 16 volunteered for June Assembly refreshments (Sunday Bayshore Hospital).

Treasurer: No report.

Audrey G. left on family emergency.

Ann Marie Z. offered to take questions.

Katie O. indicated reimbursement requests for today should be emailed to Audrey.

There was a question about \$1,500 for Miscellaneous and \$5,835 for Public Outreach. Karen P. indicated Miscellaneous was for promotional materials to hand out (chocolates, etc.)

Paul questioned availability of funds for public outreach; was reminded these funds are in budget under Special Projects.

Recording Secretary: Mary F. thanked Assembly for her new position. Indicated new email address via Gmail would be forthcoming.

Corresponding Secretary: Jesse and Sue took over for the day. Angela had offered to take the position of Corresponding Secretary but was unable to attend. Ann Marie explained duties and made a request for any other members who might be interested to step up. No one did, so NJ Assembly will vote on **Angela** in June, as no one can stand for a position *in absentia* as set forth in policy manual.

Alagram: Kalpana submitted her report. She indicated Corresponding Secretary was important as this is also the group records position. Kalpana needs correct addresses to be sure groups get the Alagram. There was question whether individual members can have Alagram mailed to them. Kalpana indicated there was a cost to mail individual subscriptions and indicated the Alagram is available to download free on the NJ Assembly website.

Alateen: Report was submitted. Tim indicated there are 15 active Alateen meetings in NJ. There are reported to be 55 certified AMIAS. He has received three requests from schools for Alateen meetings: South Brunswick, Monmouth Vocational, and Mainland Regional. Mainland Regional is in District 27 but there are currently no certified AMIAS in District 27. There will be a meeting April 30 at Monmouth Vocational. Currently, there are no Alateen meetings in schools. Could be after school or during school hours; permission is required from school boards/superintendents/etc. Tim also had flyers available for AMIAS training: Sayreville, Mount Holly, and Cape May County. Tim also wants to reinstate Alateen Advisory Committee; looking for volunteers. Tim gave his personal contact info for Alateen questions. Kathy brought up that new GRs don't always know what acronyms mean. AMIAS: Al-Anon Member in Alateen Service.

Archives: No coordinator and no report. Ann Marie encouraged someone to step up to the position and read description from Guidelines. Encouraged everyone to think on it.

Literature: Lori Jo submitted report. She reported that she is getting the 2020 calendar together. Looking for photos on the theme: What does your Higher Power look like? Send her photos with the reasoning behind it. She highlighted the pamphlet "Al-Anon Spoken Here" as a good way to get the focus of a meeting back to Al-Anon principles. No deadline for calendar yet. Lori Jo reminded everyone that calendar is used as a fundraiser. There was a question if photos could be in color: calendar is printed in black and white because color is cost prohibitive.

Public Outreach: Karen P. provided information on recent events/conferences attended and thanked Rich M. for his participation at presentation at Rowan University. Karen P. reported that Reach.org had misrepresented Al-Anon but her call to Gov. Christie corrected it. Karen P. has request from CNBC for interview on how alcoholism affects retirement. Kalpana asked if interviewee needs to specifically be retired. Another member questioned if the interviewee was to be an alcoholic or a family member; Karen P. indicated a family member. Another member questioned if the interview would also consider: what if you can't retire because of active alcoholism in the home?

Karen P. encouraged group to share their public outreach ideas/activities. Group in West Milford wants to get meeting on Rotary message board. Paul related an experience with a sign aimed at families of addiction.

Website: Martha and Elaine are co-chairs. Transitioning with Angela. Reported new website is up, easier to navigate, mobile friendly. Contacts updated to cut down on spam. Send updated contact info to webmaster. Also send events/flyers to webmaster. Info for group meetings goes to WSO first, then comes to group records coordinator. Kathy B. suggested putting generic email on flyer for contact info. Rich indicated phone app is difficult to navigate and that it could be clearer to access meeting list. Kathy B. investigated on WSO website where to go to update group info and offered to demonstrate at lunch break.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District #2 Morris: Angela unable to attend; report included in packet.

District #3 Hunterdon/Warren Counties: Katie O. submitted her report. She had a call-in option for GRs who couldn't make district meeting and it worked well. Katie O. passed around her district's love gifts for people to see. She also brought flyers for the district potluck and indicated they were also

available on NJ Assembly website. Katie O. made another pitch: please buy 2019 calendars!

District 4: Report included in packet but Kristina did not attend.

Districts 11, 12, 13, 14, 15: Mary S. acting as DR to get districts up and running. No report submitted but indicated districts are coming together and had meetings in January and February. Hoping to meet again in March. 7 women are interested in getting district(s) active. Goal is to get an accurate list of active meetings in these districts, then move forward with outreach and business cards. Mary S. is not sure of the entire geographical area; indicated Iselin, Brunswick, parts of Middlesex, Union, and Somerset counties.

Ann Marie brought up that redistricting is being considered and a committee has formed. NJ currently has 27 districts. A member asked how many were dark districts. Donna S. indicated about 13 districts are dark.

District 18: Jesse attended representing his district but had no report.

District 20/21: Peter reported that the Thursday night Alateen meeting was moving to Sunday night at 7PM at St. Gregory's in Hamilton Township. The district will have new business cards once new meetings are confirmed. Tim reminded him to send info for meeting changes to Angela.

District 22: Mary B. gave report for Liz. Report had been submitted. Mary B. indicated she is DR for District 25 which will merge with District 22. She requested any GRs from District 25 in attendance to meet with her.

District 23: Sue reported new meeting lists have two errors. District currently has 23 meetings; formerly 24 meetings. Sue suggested redistricting committee check geographic areas and distances need to travel to meetings. She indicated groups in her district have been overwhelming in their generosity to the district.

District 26: Keith did not submit a report. He indicated District 26 includes Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland counties. Shiloh meeting celebrated 17th anniversary with a speaker. Millville meeting celebrating 40th anniversary March 28 with two speakers: AA and Al-Anon couple. Keith is the Al-Anon chair for the AA convention at ML Hotel in March.

District 27: No report.

Jal-Con: Diane S. submitted report. She indicated there may be a good venue to serve the needs of 2019 Jal-Con.

NJIS: No report. No one attended.

Ann Marie committed to get in touch with NJIS to see if they will have literature at June Assembly. This could be a moneymaker for NJIS. Weather today could be a factor in no one attending. A GR questioned whether she could buy service manual through her treasurer, at no cost to GR. Members indicated service manual available for free as a download.

11:45A: Broke for lunch.

12:15P: Reconvened.

12:15P to 12:30P: Skit

OLD BUSINESS:

Policy Handbook: Donna S. indicated AWSC will have policy handbook updated for presentation to NJ Assembly in June.

Redistricting: Katie O. indicated she and her committee are still working through the number of districts and trying to divide the work into specific tasks. Want to allow local meetings to affiliate with another district if they choose. Everything still tentative. Trying to distribute meetings into districts equitably. All 27 districts have never been active at the same time. Only 21 counties in NJ.

2018 Picnic: No formal report. Member/New GR from that area indicated she had attended and she believed the picnic was a success. She indicated her

district was not willing to sponsor the picnic this year.

Minutes of November NJ Assembly approved with two amendments. (Diane S. is Jal-Con liaison; remove Paul's last name and amend to Paul G.) 39 voting; 37 approved as amended, 2 abstained.

Alateen Advisory Committee: Tim indicated he wants to revive Alateen Advisory Committee and may begin in the fall. Encouraged anyone interested to contact him. Do not have to be AMIAS to participate. Also discussed AMIAS recertification, which is annual and must be completed by June 30. NJ Assembly pays for background checks. Martha asked how long training takes. Answer: 4-5 hours.

2019 Picnic: Ann Marie Z. questioned whether we should have picnic this year. She gave history of picnic, which is an assembly fundraiser, which is hosted by a district. All funds go to NJ Assembly. AWSC coordinates with district. A member asked what AWSC stands for: Area World Service Committee. Ann Marie Z. took time to discuss duties of AWSC. A member reminded: "It's in the book" as a tribute to Anita. Discussion followed regarding how the picnic is organized.

No one volunteered. It is most likely there will be no picnic in 2019. Karen P. asked if a group/district wants to host the picnic, can they just proceed or do they need to wait until June? Ann Marie indicated anyone interested should contact her. Tim indicated there is seed money available for any group interested in hosting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ann Marie Z. asked if there was any new business.
No new business

Ask It Basket

Questions given to all past delegates attending. There were 5 past delegates plus Ann Marie Z.

1. Kathy B. Question: To be a topic speaker at a meeting, do you have to be a member for one year? Is it in the manual?

No. It is up to the group. They can say 6 mos., 3 mos., one year. Kathy gave her own experience.

2. Paul Question: If a district wants to hold an event such as a workshop, if they need an insurance certificate, where would they obtain that?

Answer: AWSC has a policy but does not extend to district level. Currently need to contact an insurance agent. Currently, almost impossible to cover all groups. Some groups have been able to obtain insurance. Since 9/11, much more difficult, groups need to be registered, file taxes, state forms. NO easy answer. Have district rep bring issue to AWSC to address. Right now, our policy does not extend. District could have AWSC sponsor so insurance would cover, but would be hosted by district. Area: all of NJ.

3. Rich: Question: I know GRs should be reimbursed for travel expenses, .25/mile & tolls. Any guidance for splitting for those who carpool. Drive should get more for wear and tear, insurance. Rich: No real suggested formula. See page 56 of manual. Driver gets the mileage. Groups can split the cost among themselves.

Kathy indicated that driver gets the \$\$\$.

4. Tim: Question: In Alateen meetings it is required to have 2 AMIAS present. Should it be a male and female? Tim: It's in the book. Page 36 gives the specifics. Al-Anon and AA members can be AMIAS as long as they meet Area requirements. Al-Anon and Alateen principles to be followed.

- 5 Karen: Question: Contact info for starting a new group.

Answer: See guideline G12. Go to WSO website. New Al-Anon group registration. Either print or fill out online. Let district and assembly know. WSO will also let district and assembly know. Group will get a packet of info in the mail. AWSC will welcome you.

Mary S. provided new Al-Anon group form and instructions.

Question from the floor: If an existing group changes to new location, but no rent involved. Do they have to pay rent, do they make a donation?

Karen: Make a donation, donate literature. Gave info about District 23 workshop, their location will accept donation of literature.

Tim: Page 28-36 of the service manual.

Aster: Hospital does not charge rent. Members insisting group should pay rent. Tradition 7 states that we are self-supporting through our own voluntary contributions.

Kathy P. suggested finding a creative way to give back to the facility.

Peter: if you are in a group meeting in a location that does not require you to pay rent, buy literature, etc. Groups need to support themselves and can pay rent when they are able.

Other members suggested to offer help with outreach. Karen P reminded meetings do not identify with that outreach.

Sue P. Please take some food that's left. Please take any flyers.

Motion to close meeting: 1:20P Louis R. from Morristown, Joy seconded.

Minutes Submitted by
Mary F. - Recording Secretary