

**APPROVED**

1. Call to Order: 11:04 AM by Connie D.
2. Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer
3. Traditions: read by Neil D6
4. Concepts: read by Marian D21
5. Welcome and Information: Connie D.
  - New DRs Susan A. D15
  - Please turn off phones or put on vibrate or silence
  - When speaking please come to mic, give first name and district
  - Copies of reports should go to Kathi and Ruth
  - All motions should be put in writing and given to secretary.
  - Northeast Regional trustee, Anne F. is here.
  - DRs should check the box for mail.
6. Roll Call:
  - 1) Districts present: 2, 3, 6, 7, 14, 15, 18, 22, 25, & 29
  - 2) AIS Representatives: Rochester
  - 3) Coordinators: Conventions, Group Records, Web, Public Outreach, Literature, Newsletter
  - 4) Officers: Delegate, Alt. Delegate, Immed. Past Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairperson
7. Secretary's report: minutes from the 9/25/10 AWSC meeting were read by Ruth S. M: to accept with changes Louise F. Treasurer 2<sup>nd</sup> Elaine R. Delegate passed voice vote.
8. Treasurer's Report: read by Louise F. copies online.

Q: Is it true we had \$20,000 in receipts? Yes

Q: Lynda D22 Is the \$287.14 deposited in the Reserved Fund from the Fall Assembly? Yes, it is 10% of proceeds from the 2010 Fall Assembly.

Q: Pam A. Will the spread sheet be online? Yes

M: to accept the Treasurer's Report Sherry D6 2<sup>nd</sup> Joanne D6 passed voice vote.
9. Delegate's Report: read by Elaine R. copy online.

Q; Pam A. With Thought Forces, what happens after the presentation? Next step is a task force. Suggestions for new committees eventually may result in new materials etc. May be discussed at Policy Task Force.

Q: Bob C. Does WSO as a whole review, then go to everyone for a vote? Yes, after presentation any of conference members may ask questions. Have to see how conference feels before brought back to areas, maybe a couple of years before acted on.

C: Anne F. Goes to the Executive Committee before it's presented. Make sure all is checked, in light of Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

5 minute break: Check on districts here: District 5 & Alateen Coordinator added to Roll Call.

10. Agenda Items:

1) Officer & Coordinator Reports:

- Chairperson: Connie D. read report, copy online.
- Alt. Delegate: Gina read report, copy attached.
- Convention: Summer read report, copy attached.
- Group Records: George read report. He can now go directly to the WSO database and make changes. He can also run reports. Check district lists he has given out, please use GR1 to make changes and send to him by 4/15.
- Web: Kathi D. read report, copy online.
- Public Outreach: Sherry S. read report, copy online. Copy online.
- Literature: Jean W. read report, copy online.
- Newsletter: Nancy P. read report, copy online.

Q: Louise When you receive hard copy of newsletter, when is subscription money due? Date is on the address label for both groups and individuals.

C: Lynda D22 Could just pick a month to send in.

Q: George aren't we working for all electronic publication. If so couldn't we still donate the \$7.50 to NYN?

- Syracuse AIS: Helen H. read report, copy online.
- Rochester AIS: Carolyn H. read report, copy online.

Q: Lynda D22 Concerned about Alateen corner. Does it give specific info? On meetings? No

Q: Pat C. D22 Is your area concerned about the cost to incorporate? It is pricey, can't give a final amount yet.

C: Pat D29 Alateen meetings are listed on the website; need to look at taking off.

2) Action Committees: Don't meet at the AWSC. Is there anything from any of the committees to present?

- Membership Outreach Summer noted the following:
  - I. Project for the Spring Convention, Table Top Cards. Will have websites in area and WSO. Every group will have one.
  - II. Committee is talking about getting Alateen more involved in Assembly. Maybe DRs can personally invite Alateen meetings in their district to the Assembly

3) Delegate/Service Manuel: Elaine R. reported, copy online.

Q: Lynda D22 Where was "domence of group"? An article in the Forum, 3/11.

C: Pam D3 The Groups at Work book is only \$1. I have bought copies and given to people just starting in service. Have gotten good feedback.

C: Sherry D6 Our group has copies which we put out at every meeting.

C: Elaine I have had contact with a man who wants to start a new group. Will be sending him a copy, it walks through how to start a new group.

- 4) Update on Website redesign/Website Guidelines:
- Kathi D. presented on redesign, copy online.
  - LeVaughn R. presented on Guidelines. Tentative format , our purpose people looking for help, members and professionals. Website committee currently includes Delegate, Immed. Past Delegate, Newsletter, Chair, 2 at large, Web Coordinator and past Web Coordinator. Hopefully guidelines will be done by Spring.  
C: Kathi D. Website Coordinator does 2 jobs, the technical and the work of Al-Anon. Pulling the tech piece out.
- 5) Electronic Newsletter Q & A: Nancy P. lead.
- C; There was a question about when the newsletter is sent electronically and the last page with contact info of officers and coordinators is attached. When this is forwarded this page also goes out, how to send without this page. A: You want to get this information to members. The last page would be removed when being taken to a public meeting.
- C: Marian D21 The newsletter is sent to individual emails, the online copy does not have the contact page so can't be goggled. Proof readers remove last names and phone numbers before goes online.
- Q: Pam A. D3 Are we at a point to make a decision about whether or not to do away with the hard copy to save money? The committee was formed to look into different ways to deliver newsletter, this has been done and presented. The next step is to advertise that newsletter is available via email. Can subscribe or unsubscribe at anytime.
- C: George GR It makes it easier for both GR and treasurer of group. Once we go under 200 the bulk mail price for postage and printing will go up.
- 6) Archives update/Position remains open: Connie D. reported that the position remains open. The good news, archives have been stored in boxes in Buffalo, Rochester & Plattsburgh. A new central location, in Syracuse in the same building as Syracuse AIS. The common sense decision is to keep in this central location. Whoever becomes Archivist can take boxes as needed to work on. Helen H. arranged for this location. At this point we are not being changed for the storage room. Need to make a donation.
- C: Pam A. If archives are kept in Syracuse may need to increase budget to cover travel if archivist is not in Syracuse area.
- C: Gina Alt. Delegate NYN purchased a standalone hard drive. Gina has it at her home. The archivist could have this. Minutes could be backed up to this. Also reports.
- C: The job description for the archivist may need to be rewritten. To be added to Spring Assembly agenda.
- M: To have the NYN's archives long term home at the Syracuse AIS. Summer Conventions 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob C. D7 passed voice vote.
- 7) Ad Hoc for Review of NYN Alateen Requirements & guidelines: Shirley C. read Alateen report, copy attached. Lynda S D22 reported on Alateen Guidelines Ad Hoc Committee. We have been working on the Alateen Requirements and Guidelines. I feel it is important to get this done first. It has been discussed whether we need to separate out

the paperwork portion of the position and actual working with the Alateens and AMIAS. I have reviewed 3 different areas. They go from very simple to very complicated. Most areas conduct background checks. The one thing I have noticed is that all areas make a point to stress better communication between all officers and coordinators. Do we need to decide this now? Anyone interested in this committee please contact Lynda. The separation of Alateen coordinator and AAPP is mentioned in guidelines.

- 8) Policy Ad Hoc: Pam A. D3 reported, the minutes through 2010 have been reviewed. Everything noted and voted on will be incorporated into the polies. Committee will be meeting this afternoon.
- 9) Vacant positions: Connie D. There are 2 vacant positions, Spanish Contact and Archives. Maybe both will be filled by next year. Cira is still willing to work with new contact person, she just can't attend meetings. Reminder- Service- "Some things to think about/Fall Election Assembly 2011"
- 10) Area Inventory Breakout Session: "Thought Force" Elaine R. Connie D. Will break up in to 4 groups and discuss the question assigned to the group. Look at this as a thought force. Have someone to take notes and report back to whole group. Think about what the purpose of the inventory is. We will also be trying this at the Spring Assembly.
  - a) Group 1: Lynda S. D22 reported. "Do you think that there is good rotation in service at the Assembly?"
    - Northern Hi Lights articles need to be more service oriented.
    - Be asked directly to a position.
    - Some people enjoy working with a group of the same people (comfort zone) and their self esteem is elevated.
    - Exposure to how service makes you grow.
    - We don't know what our "abundant resources" are in newcomers.
    - Bring them (newcomers) along.
    - Watching is the best thing "Listen and Learn".
    - Baby steps to go from isolation to growth in service.
    - We can understand where the survey is coming from but there might be reasons for it.
  - b) Group 2 Pat C. D2 reported. How can we encourage newcomers to become involved?
    - What encouragement will they need to do service?
    - Website, know what duties are.
    - Include minorities, also the young people dual members, etc/
    - Honest about our motives in asking people, grieving the lose of our position.
    - What talents we might develop in doing service that we didn't realize we had in us.
  - c) Group 3 Gwen D22 reported. What could we do to encourage the Alateen participation (members, groups, sponsors) at the Area Assemblies?

- Scholarships to help pay their way, focus on 1 Assembly or Convention.
- Be willing to be flexible with timing of assemblies/conventions to not conflict with Prom, sports, etc.
- Have a sponsor willing to bring them.
- Go to NYNAC-ask for Alateen ideas on what would interest them.
- Alateen speakers-others will come to support.
- Involve teens? Responsibility for choosing recovery topics and/or icebreakers i.e. Hugs for Healing
- Have an Alateen liaison to sit at head table and have input on planning committee etc.
- Have DR express to teens the value of their input to us.

d) Group 4 LaVuagh R. reported. **4. Is our Area supporting the groups and the districts well?** Although 46 people said “yes” and only 4 said “no”, many of the written comments reflected less than positive concerns such as “could be more support”, “sometimes feel alone”, “would like traveling service presentations”, “no connection to the area that is visible”, “still have dark districts”

- *Using KBDM our group came up with the following:*1. *What do we know about our members’ or prospective members’ needs that is relevant to this discussion?* That we as an Area are not meeting their needs through the use of the Area web site, Northern Hi Lights or Area Conventions/Assemblies.
  - *2. What do we know about the resources and our vision for the organization that is relevant to this discussion?* That the Area has many past and present officers and coordinators with a great deal of experience, strength and hope to share. It should be possible to bring a half-day workshop to the western, central and eastern portions of our Area. The key is to make it fun while sharing useful information enthusiastically.
  - *3 What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of the world and our fellowship that is relevant to this discussion? What are the Pros and Cons?*
  - The attitude today seems to be one of “What’s in it for me?” while our younger generations live by texting. It may be difficult to get people to turn out.
  - *4. What are the ethical implications of our choices? In other words, will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?*
11. *Hats off to Service Alateen, NYNAC, Convention, Newsletter, Website and Literature will present at Spring Assembly.*
12. *Final questions or comments:*
- *Lynda S Was there a right way to do break out questions? We’re still learning.*
  - *George Group Records Any changes on lists given out today please use the GR1. Will have directory in Spring.*
  - *Pam A. D3 Alateen or AAPP person Is this just thought process? In thought process. Will get guidelines in place first and then be able to do a good presentation to separate or not.*
  - *George 40+ AMAIS that need to be reviewed. Each DR needs to check on AMIAS in their district.*

13. *District Announcements & Sharing's*

14. *Closing:*

- *M: close meeting Gwen D22*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> George Group Records*
- *Passed voice vote*
- *Closed 3:25 PM*

*Respectfully submitted Ruth S. Secretary*

: Alternate Delegate  
Spring AWSC meeting  
March 26, 2011  
Hot Topics

1. I sent welcome packets to seven new groups to the New York North Area. One group in Western New York is a Spanish speaking meeting. I was able to find a translation program so the welcome letter was in Spanish.
2. I received the first memorandum of the year from the Forum WSO staff liaison in February.
  - a. Our first job is to encourage every group in our area to take advantage of the complementary copy of the Forum that each group receives each month.
  - b. Our second job is to encourage more members to make the Forum a part of their personal Al-Anon program — by reading and writing for the Forum.
3. New York state subscriptions are down 18 compared with the loss of two groups from August 2010.
4. As of February the ratios went from 1.33 subscriptions/group last year to 1.29 subscriptions/group. As a point of clarification, the WSO does not separate New York North and New York South numbers. The WSO has set a goal of 2.0 subscriptions per group for each state.
5. We are compiling a list from New York North of how groups use the Forum during a meeting and how groups encourage members to have their own subscription.

Gratefully submitted,  
Gina C.

**All Alateen meetings are closed**, open only to Alateen members and Area-certified Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) who are serving as the Alateen Group Sponsors. We believe alcoholism is a family disease because it affects ALL the members emotionally and sometimes physically. Although we cannot change or control our parents, we can detach from their problems while continuing to love them. Sponsorship is a mutual and confidential sharing between two Al-Anon or Alateen members. Alateen Personal **Sponsors Just as** Al-Anon members sponsor each other, Alateens sponsor each other. Alateen Personal Sponsors are fellow teenagers who can discuss personal problems or questions with those they sponsor. Personal Sponsors willingly share the experience, Strength and hope of the Alateen program.

I'm hoping to send District Representatives a list of their Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service. I would like them to let me know if everyone is still residing in New York State and are still interested in being involved as an AMIAS. I will be updating the Alateen information with the printout. Anyone interested in being an Alateen sponsor must regularly attend Al-Anon meetings for at least 2 years. Any Alateen that has moved on to Al-Anon interested in sponsoring an Alateen group must attend Al-Anon

meetings regularly for 2 years before sponsoring Alateens and must keep attending Al-Anon meetings. Members of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon must attend Al-Anon for two years before becoming a Sponsor or AMIAS. This is done to protect the safety of our Alateen members. Any Al-Anon member involved in Alateen service must be active in Al-Anon meetings. Every Al-Anon group should consider sponsoring an Alateen group. Teens deserve recovery just as much their parents.  
Love in Service, Shirley

#### AWSC March 2011 Convention Coordinator Report

1. Spring 2011- "Peace-ing Our Lives Together" will be held May 20-22 at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown. Make sure to reserve your room before April 20th for \$92.83 (\$85.95 without tax). Registration needs to be in by May 1.
2. Fall 2011- ELECTION Assembly "Serving Our Families Through the Legacies" will be held Sept 23-25 at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Syracuse. Rooms will be \$99 plus tax per night. Check next months NHL for more info. Please go back to your groups and talk about the officer and coordinator positions.
3. Spring 2012- This will be held May 18-20 at Bellinger Hall in Chautauqua. More details will be available soon.
4. Fall 2012- "Fall Into Service" will be held Sept 28-30 at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Syracuse. Rooms will be \$99 plus tax per night again.
5. Spring 2013- Districts 5 & 22 are hosting and will be having their 1st planning meeting soon. The assemblyconv will be in the Plattsburgh area.
6. Something to think about for future assemblies is if we would like to continue to be green by having only jugs of water instead of bottles. Everybody brings their own refillable water bottle. This was done at an assembly last year and I thought it worked well. Any thoughts from others that were there? We could bring our own coffee mugs too! (Styrofoam is horrible for the environment)
7. Hot topic...

#### Report of the Alateen Ad-Hoc Committee

We have been working on the Alateen Requirements and Guidelines. I feel it is important to get this done first. It has been discussed whether we need to separate out the paperwork portion of the position and the actual working with the Alateens and AMIAS. I have reviewed three different areas. They go from very simple to very complicated. Most areas conduct background checks. The one thing that I noticed is that all areas make a point to stress better communication between all officers and coordinators. Do we need to decide this now?