

# NEW YORK NORTH AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING

## SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

1. **Call to order** by NYN Chairperson, Susan A. at 9:30 AM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.
2. **Traditions:** Read by Harold H. - D5
3. **Concepts & Warranties:** Read by Mike R. D26.
4. **Welcome & Information:**
  - If you do not want your picture taken please make it known to Kevin M. the NYN Archivist.
  - The pumpkins on the tables were made as a fundraiser for the Fall Assembly by Mary Jane & Pat from Dist. 2 - can be purchased in the Literature Room.
  - Housekeeping items and assembly guidelines were reviewed.
  - Questions, raise your Service Manual to be recognized by the chair and come to the mic to speak.
  - Reminder only Group Reps can vote/ motions need to be submitted in writing, forms are available.

5. **Roll Call:**

- 67 Voting GR's were present as follows:

Dist. 1	Dist. 2	Dist. 3	Dist.4	Dist. 5	Dist. 6	Dist. 7	Dist. 8	Dist. 9	Dist. 10	
4	4	5	0	2	0	0	4	2	5	<b>26</b>
Dist .11	Dist.12	Dist. 13	Dist. 14	Dist. 15	Dist. 17	Dist.18	Dist. 19	Dist. 20	Dist. 21	
0	5	0	3	4	2	2	4	1	0	<b>21</b>
Dist.22	Dist. 23	Dist. 24	Dist .25	Dist. 26	Dist. 27	Dist. 28	Dist. 29			
4	3	0	6	1	1	0	5			<b>20</b>
										<b>67</b>

- **Coordinators:** Alateen, Archives, Convention, Group Records, Literature, Newsletter, NYNAC, Presentation, Public Outreach and Web.
  - **Officers:** Delegate, Alt Delegate & Forum Coordinator, Immediate Past Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairperson
  - **Past Delegates:** Elaine R., Connie D. & Bob C.
  - **Trustee/ Past Trustee/s:** None
  - **AIS Reps:** Syracuse, Rochester & Western.
6. **Secretary's Report:** online- Minutes from the May 30, 2015 Spring Assembly meeting read by Pam A. M: to accept as corrected: Cindy C. D22 & 2nd by Louise F. D15. Passed by Voice Vote *(corrections were noted as follows - Item #2 add District 12 after Jan. Item #4 Roll call - under Officers – add Forum Coordinator to the Alternate Delegate. Item #11 under Group Records – Pease s/b Please.)*
  7. **Treasurer's Report:** Linda A. – Report online.
    - Account balances: Checking \$ 9,435.73 - Reserve \$8,822.90 - Mutual Funds \$2,762.23
    - The 2015 Income & Expense Spreadsheets as of July 2015 is available on the report table. Incoming funds = \$8,986.20 & Expenses = \$13,214.77

- Q. = what is the breakdown of donations for Fair funds? A. = don't designate/earmark funds. Did see an increase in contributions.
- Q. = what is a prudent reserve? A. = refer to pg. 216 of the 2014-2017 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. Each year NYN adds 10% of the proceeds from the Spring Convention/Assembly to the NYN Reserve account.
- Q.= what was the proceeds from the 2015 Spring Convention/Assembly A. = \$3,900.00
- Q. = don't we donate 10% of the proceeds to the WSO each year? A. = Yes, can vote on that.
- Q. = what about a donation letter to the groups? A. = Need to work on one.
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report - Harold D5, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathleen D15. Passed by Voice Vote.
- **Motion to send a donation of \$400.00 to the WSO. – Louise D15 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elaine D29. Passed by Voice Vote.**

#### 8. Delegate Report: Diane C. – Entire report online.

- Any questions regarding the Delegate report please submit them to the Ask-It-Basket, they will be answered later in the day.
- Receives emails daily from the WSO and is cc'd on Officer & Coordinators emails. She stated how necessary it is to communicate via the links of service to keep our area informed about the World Wide fellowship of AI-Anon.
- Was in touch with District Reps asking for qualified members to send her their resumes for consideration for the Northeast Regional Trustee position. No resumes were received. NYN will not be submitting a candidate for the NERT position. WSO is asking Free Lance Writers/Editors who are AI-Anon members to submit proposals to work on two new pieces of literature. To date two NYN members have inquired on this.
- Continues work on the WSO Task Force on Types of Meetings. The charge of the task force was defined as ways to either attract new members or members who have special needs that would keep them from attending meetings. Ideas were submitted to the Board of Trustees. Task force to present skit at the 2016 WSC.
- At the August AWSC meeting voted to submit a bid to host a "Meet the Board" event in October 2016. The deadline to submit was Sept 15, 2015. NYN already had info on 2 cities from a prior "Meet the Board" submission. (Syracuse & Buffalo)
- Updates from the July Board of Trustees meeting: The Board continues to discuss the current Alateen model and if it's meeting the needs of the teens. They were concerned that some misunderstood the discussion at the Open Board Meeting at the WSC and on E-Communities. The board is not trying to get rid of Alateen, they're trying to find ways to encourage more attendance and participation by teens to ensure the future of Alateen. The Board doesn't want to make any assumptions or give direction to the WSO without reaching out to members and have asked for feedback from teens, sponsors and AMIAS's. Discussions will continue. Diane will keep us posted. - The Board

approved their goal: ***“The AFG Inc. Board of Trustees will raise the fellowship's awareness of the Trustees' relationship to the Al-Anon groups and WSC, while articulating and expressing the “why” of the Board's work”*** They're in the process of identifying ways to reach that goal and have asked Delegates to forward the Quarterly Board, Policy and Finance Committee updates. The communications will be addressed to all Al-Anon and Alateen members – not just Conference members. The Board asks Delegates to forward via links of service. The Policy Committee continues work on language around one-time memorial contributions from a family member when the donor is not a member of Al-Anon and are reviewing sections in the Service Manual on finances and the announcement of events at meetings. Goal is to provide clarity while using Al-Anon's spiritual principles in the language.

- ***“Think Abundantly” about the 7th Tradition.*** Ask yourself, ***“What has Al-Anon done for me?”*** As of 6/30/15 the WSO general fund recorded a loss of approx. \$55,000 compared to \$976 for the same period in 2014. Literature sales, forum subscriptions and group contributions are down. Staff positions are going unfilled to keep expenses down. If Al-Anon has helped you “Think Abundantly” and giveback. There is a “CONTRIBUTE NOW” button on the Member's website. Diane asked the Assembly what strategies our Area can identify as ways to close the budget deficit. Use the Ask-It- Basket to provide your feedback, or think about it and send her your feedback.
- Diane shared her experience working at the NYS Fair, encouraged members to read the WSC summary on WSO's Members Web page and advised that AFG-Connects will roll out soon replacing E-Communities.

9. **NYS Fair Report:** Ruth S – Report online

- 96 volunteers worked in teams of 2 for 3 hr. shifts (10 AM to 10 PM) Aug. 27 thru Sept 7, 2015. All slots were filled. The booth was located in the Arts & Home Center, Booth # 112
- The budget was \$4,000, actual cost for NYN was around \$2,400. District 3 paid \$80 for the cost of “Volunteerspot” a web-based sign-up program.
- The booth did not see much traffic due to location. When most entered the bldg. they turned right walked to the end of the hallway and exited the building. Our booth was on the left of the entrance door. Volunteers counted 596 visitors in total.
- Q=If we go to a new bldg. & get a bigger booth will it cost more? A= depends on bldg. If we do it again Ruth stated she would like to ask about getting in the Science & Tech bldg. where other health information, Rehabs and AA are.
- Q= 596 looked and asked questions, do we know how many it was their first exposure to Al-Anon? A= No
- Sharings & Comments: a few members shared their experience with visitors to the booth and how worthwhile it was for them as a volunteer. C.= AA thinks both AA & Al-Anon should be near each other. C.= Mixed thoughts about that, some people might not want to be right next to AA. But maybe in the same bldg. C.= Enjoyed fellowship with other volunteers.

10. **Officer/Coordinator 2 Minute Hot Topic Reports:** All reports online unless otherwise noted.

➤ **Alateen Walt S.**

- ✓ 180 AMIAS replied to recertification request: 38 group Sponsors, 16 in Service Positions (not sponsors) 50 serving as AMIAS only and 76 were inactivated at the request of the AMIAS. 63 no responses – Walt will recommend they be inactivated for failure to comply.
- ✓ No Alateen Interest meeting planned for Sunday morning at this assembly, instead Walt wants to meet with Sponsors & AMIAS to discuss concerns.

➤ **Archives: Kevin M.**

- ✓ The AR-1 form from WSO is intended for members with more than 25 years in Al-Anon and has questions regarding the members early years in the program, their experience with 12 step work, sponsorship, and how things have changed for them.
- ✓ Hopes to be able to report back some of the history of Al-Anon in the NYN area as told through our members using the AR1 form.
- ✓ Kevin put together a display of items from 25 years ago in Al-Anon and NYN, it's in the Literature Room.

➤ **Alternate Delegate/ Forum: Gwenne R.**

- ✓ GR's as the Forum representatives for your groups, please encourage members to read the Forum and use it as an outreach tool for new members.
- ✓ Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism has a different focus than the Forum. Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is directed to the Professional, the Forum is directed to individuals.
- ✓ The Forum is available online:
  - Amazon and Kobo for \$1.49, individual issues only
  - Apple iTunes for \$1.99, individual issues only
  - Nook for \$1.49 per issue or \$11 for an annual subscription.

➤ **Convention: Nancy H.**

- ✓ Spring 2016 Assembly/Convention: Districts 7 & 8 hosts, May 13-15 @ The Desmond Hotel, Albany (Registration info in future Northern Hi-Lights issues)
- ✓ Fall 2016 Assembly: District 22 hosts, Comfort Inn, North Syracuse
- ✓ Spring 2017 Assembly/Convention: District 12 hosting. Trying to find a hotel in the Buffalo area more to follow.
- ✓ Fall 2017 Election Assembly District 18, Comfort Inn, North Syracuse
- ✓ 2017 is New York North AFG's 50th anniversary.

➤ **Group Records: Lynda S.**

- The WSO (World Service Office) is trying to clean up the *meeting location instructions field* in the Group Records database. The following is what should be in that field:
  - Meeting format,
  - Room or suite number, floor

- Specific instructions about the meeting location
  - Alateen meeting at the same time
  - Not weekly meeting
  - Not meeting on specific days of the year, ex: meeting doesn't meet during school vacations or school snow days.
- Any questions on Group Records, Lynda is always available to assist.
- **Immediate Past Delegate: Ruth**
  - This is the easiest job- but you have to be the Delegate first
  - 7 new GR's attended the new GR meeting this morning. They were asked to stand to be recognized.
- **Literature: Cindy C.** – report not online
  - Each quarter a chapter from one of Al-Anon's books is posted on the WSO website
  - 3 articles are posted each month from the current issue of The Forum on WSO site.
  - Support literature so it remains available.
- **Newsletter: John O.** – verbal report – on report online
  - John has 3 helpers - Pat H. from Dist. 2 is his "WORD" expert, Connie D and Gwenne R Dist. 22 are his proof readers.
  - 39 hard copies of each edition.
  - Q. =Why 39 copies- A. =People have requested for various reasons- they don't a computer or printer, speed to download & print to slow, cost of ink.
  - Comment – ask people to review why they want hard copy.
  - Comment - Suggested donation for hard copy
  - ✓ If you want to receive electronic version please contact Lynda S. Group Records.
- **NYNAC: Bridget** - verbal report – no report online
  - ✓ Invited other Areas to NYNAC - no response
  - ✓ Theme for the banquet - "A Night in Paris"
  - ✓ As of Sept 9th - 29 registered possibly 16-18 more for a total of 45 people.
  - ✓ Contract was signed for 55 people, owe \$5,671 – will be paying \$600 for a cabin that will not be needed.
  - ✓ Go back & communicate, this is key. Why no communications to Bridget from groups, teens, sponsors?
  - ✓ Head count due by Oct. 1. There will be No walk-ins.
  - ✓ Comments:
    - An Al-Anon group in Rochester is helping a teen to get to NYNAC
    - 2 other teens want to attend NYNAC and no sponsors to bring them.
    - Walt's group is sponsoring those teens.
- **Presentation: Sarah**
  - ✓ Will present today's workshop – "Service Manual or Baloney".
  - ✓ Let Sarah know if you would like to be on the presentation committee.

- **Public Outreach: Pat H**
  - ✓ New series of Public Outreach podcasts on the Member's website – you can subscribe to the podcasts and be notified when new ones are available.
  - ✓ September is National Recovery Month.
  - ✓ In the August Forum magazine, the 2015 membership survey results were mentioned. 46% of members were referred to Al-Anon by a professional and 64% of them actually decided to join Al-Anon because of the referral.
  - ✓ A power point on Anonymity will be coming out in October.
- **Website: Molly C.**
  - ✓ The NYN Contact Us messages routed to Molly's email through the web site continue arriving. 72 incoming inquiries have been received so far this year.
  - ✓ Working with Web Site Committee investigating options to update the NYN web site and make it more user friendly, informative and attractive.

11. **Lunch Break was 12:00 to 1:00 pm.**

12. **AIS - 2 Minute Hot Topic Reports:**

- **Syracuse AIS:** Kathi D.- report online
  - ✓ Meetings are now held bi-monthly resulting in higher attendance.
  - ✓ Ongoing discussions regarding dual members holding AIS service positions.
  - ✓ A Syracuse area member contacted TV stations in the Syracuse area and requested they air WSO's Al-Anon Public Service Announcement (PSA). All local stations aired the PSA. Looking to extend to local radio stations.
- **Western NY AIS:** Kelli W. – Verbal report
  - ✓ "Pass the Pumpkin" fundraiser went out 9/15/15. Asking groups during the month of October to pass the pumpkin on behalf of the AIS after the regular basket is passed in meetings. In 2014 they raised around \$750.
  - ✓ Many positions remain open - need for members to step up to serve
  - ✓ Reviewing expenses – currently spend more than ¼ of budget for answering service.
- **Rochester AIS:** Kathy S. – verbal report
  - ✓ The last AIS meeting was a held on a Saturday and had better attendance.
  - ✓ In October will be starting an Alateen meeting on Sat morning.
  - ✓ Starting a Thursday daytime meeting – Thursday was the only day with no daytime meetings.

13. **NYN Committees updates:**

- **Liability Insurance for NYN events:** – Walt- Sarah & Tim verbal report
  - ✓ Insurance to cover Officers & Coordinators and NYN event's with \$1M liability would cost \$2,781per year. This is for the area only.
  - ✓ Can look into if groups want to by-into the policy.
  - ✓ Q. = Are other areas looking at insurance? A. = yes
  - ✓ Q. = Do we feel we need insurance? A. =Concern if someone gets hurt and sues NYN. Insurance is different from state to state,
  - ✓ Q. = what happens to our groups if something happens at a meetings? A. = May fall on the facility.



- ✓ Discussion about group coverage occurred.
- **Members Involved in Service who are Unable to Effectively Fulfill the Responsibilities of the Position Committee:**
  - ✓ The committee met last night, reviewed and modified the document. Anticipate presenting a recommendation at the next AWSC meeting regarding a procedure/guideline to address when NYN Officers & Coordinators lose their way.
- **AWSC Restructuring:**
  - ✓ A Task force was formed at the Aug. AWSC meeting to look at practical ways to restructure the AWSC meetings and make them more productive. A power point is available on the NYN website. Title is “AWSC Meeting Format - Expanding Our Vision”
- **Web Committee: Kathi D.**
  - ✓ Goals for website redesign: A modern look and feel • Better information organization • A responsive website (resizes automatically based on the device’s screen size) • The ability to easily update the site
  - ✓ The goal is to have a redesigned site to demo at the Spring Assembly in May 2016.
- **Guidelines for Northern Hi Lights articles : John, Connie & Gwenne**
  - ✓ Used a power point presentation to review Writing Guidelines For Area Officers & Coordinators & other interested members
  - ✓ Share current information connected to your position, such as time sensitive info from the Area or WSO
  - ✓ Share on a monthly editor picked topic. When sharing on a topic keep the focus on your own program. Focus on principles, not personalities.
  - ✓ The guidelines for Northern Hi Lights (NHL) writing can follow the Forum Writing Guidelines.
  - ✓ Review Anonymity (pages 91-94) in the Policy Section of the Service Manual.
  - ✓ Review the section on Copyrights (pages 106-108) in the Service Manual.
  - ✓ Would like to see articles from Alateens/Districts/ Groups/ members/AIS’s – newsletter reaches all of NYN.

**14. Presentation Workshop: Sarah**

- Game show: SERVICE MANUAL???OR BALONEY??? Contestants names were pulled from a box and participants where asked questions – is it in the Service Manual? Or is it baloney? The audience had a chance to weigh in as well. Edible prizes of cheese and baloney were given out.

**15. Host for Fall 2017 Assembly: Districts 18 & 3 volunteered to host. Approved by Voice Vote.**

**16. Host for Spring & Fall 2018: At the AWSC meeting Dist. 5 & 26 volunteered to host. Approved by voice vote.**

District 15 is thinking about Fall 2018 & would like to work with another district. Will know more by Spring 2016.

**17. 2016 Budget: Linda A. Treasurer reviewed the budget.**

- The 2016 Budget was presented for \$22,450, adjustments made as follows:
- Add \$100.00 to Alateen and \$100.00 NYNAC coordinator budgets bringing each to \$650.00 - to cover the cost to attend NYNAC
- Reduce newsletter publishing from \$900.00 to \$500.00
- Add \$200.00 to NYNAC seed from .00 for 2016. This will bring the total seed \$ for the 3 year term to \$1,000.00 to align with the Spring & Fall seed money.
- Reduced New York State Fair Public Outreach from \$4,000.00 to \$3,000.00
- **Motion to approve the 2016 Budget as amended for a total of \$21,450.00 by Harold Dist. 5 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Dist. 18. Passed by voice vote.**

**18. Ask-It-Basket: Diane**

- Q. Is AFA (Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism) only for professionals? A. See pg. 26 & 27 of the WSC summary.
- Q. Please explain Tradition 12 & Anonymity. A. See pg. 91 in the 2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.
- Ideas for the WSO Budget Deficit
  - ✓ Provide a letter to read at each meeting 3- 4 times a year.
  - ✓ Pass a theme basket for a separate collection similar to the Pumpkin Fundraiser that Western AIS did.
  - ✓ Collection - Change for Change
  - ✓ My suggestion for raising money is, look at the Al-Anon symbol, it's beautiful. Use it to make earrings a pendant or a pin in a quality metal.
  - ✓ There needs to be recognition of the fact that the WSO will no longer make money from the sale of literature because people including members are buying books from online companies.
  - ✓ To offset the deficit one solution is to sell the WSO building and become a lean mainly online organization.
  - ✓ Strategy to close the deficit- personal stories, announcements at meetings that extra funds are needed.
  - ✓ Consider moving the WSC to somewhere less touristy. Have podcast meeting. Regularly release media that can be purchased.

**19. District Updates & Announcements:**

- The Forum drawing winner was Linda A.
- Various announcements were made regarding Days of Sharing and District announcements. See website & NHL for more info.

**20. Motion to adjourn: Richard Dist. 2 & 2nd by Kathy Dist. 19. Passed by Voice Vote. Closed with the Al-Anon Declaration at 4:05pm.**