

September 19,2015

New York State Fair Report 2015

Well we completed our first year as an exhibitor at the New York State Fair. I will say there were some high and low points to the whole experience but on the whole I think we did a great job. I also think that the 96 people who manned the booth would say it was a great experience. Some people worked more than one shift.

Last year when the decision was made to become an exhibitor the budget for the fair was \$4,000.00. I am happy to report that the total cost was much less. Here is the breakdown of our costs.

• Booth Rental (75% discount)	\$ 330.75
• Tickets for Volunteers (\$3@ plus \$7 fee)	\$ 295.00
• Pamphlets & bookmarks	\$1246.10
• Banners & signs	\$ 141.60
• Insurance	\$ 116.10
• Rental tables, chairs and easels	\$ 229.05
• Supplies (markers, name tags etc)	\$ 9.99
• Postage	\$ 19.60
• Fees for Bank Checks	\$!0.00

TOTAL \$2398.19

Also we spent \$79.96 for the use of Volunteerspot, for signup. District 3 paid this expense. The discount on booth rent was because we are a non-for profit and we did not sell anything.

There were 96 slots for volunteers, all spots were filled. We had one Alateen volunteer. I have to say I was a little nervous in the days before the fair opened and there were a number of slots unfilled, mostly the 7:00-10:00 slots. I know I shouldn't have been. Members of NYN stepped up and volunteered where needed. I want to say thank you to all of you. Also to those who contacted me after we were full and offered to help if needed.

The booth was located in the Arts & Home Center. As you can see from these pictures it was a very nice spot. The down side was that we were located to the left of the doorway. For every 20 people who entered, 19 turned right, walked to the end of the hallway and exited the building without ever seeing us. So for those who did turn left we counted 596 people who visited the booth. On the last day of the fair some of the volunteers stood by the door giving out bookmarks to all who entered whether they turned left or right.

September 19,2015

I asked volunteers for comments, their own and what they heard from visitors. Also suggestions for next year. There were some great comments and suggestions. The committee will look at these when planning for next year.

I am hoping that the Assembly will want NYN to be exhibitors at next year's state fair. Even with the small number of people who visited the booth I think it was a success. Who knows how many of those 596 who did visit us will think about Al-Anon at some point and seek out an Al-Anon meeting?