

NEW YORK NORTH AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING

May 14, 2016

1. **Call to order** by Susan A., Chair at 9:15 AM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.
2. **Traditions:** Read by Debbie – D3 **Concepts & Warranties:** Read by Pat R. D5.
3. **Welcome & Information:**
 - Housekeeping items and assembly guidelines were reviewed. Members were encouraged to use the Ask-It-Basket for questions. They will be answered later in the day.
 - Reminder only Group Reps can vote/ motions need to be submitted in writing, forms are available.

4. **Roll Call:**

- 66 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	
3	7	4	0	4	3	3	6	2	3	35
Dist. 11	Dist. 12	Dist. 13	Dist. 14	Dist. 15	Dist. 17	Dist. 18	Dist. 19	Dist. 20	Dist. 21	
0	5	0	1	5	2	0	3	1	3	20
Dist. 22	Dist. 23	Dist. 24	Dist. 25	Dist. 26	Dist. 27	Dist. 28	Dist. 29			
4	0	2	2	0	1	0	2			11
										66

- **Coordinators:** Alateen, Archives, Group Records, Newsletter, Presentation, Public Outreach & Web.
 - **Officers:** Delegate, Alt Delegate & Forum Coordinator, Immediate Past Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairperson
 - **Past Delegates:** Elaine R., Connie D. & Bob C. **Trustee- none / Past Trustee/s:** Phyllis M.
 - **AIS Reps:** Syracuse, Rochester & Western.
5. **Secretary's Report:** online- Minutes from the September 19, 2015 Fall Assembly meeting read by Pam A. M: to accept as corrected: Marci D19 & 2nd by Harold D5. Passed by Voice Vote
 6. **Treasurer's Report:** Linda A. – Report online.
 - Account balances: Checking \$12,105.38 - Reserve \$8,822.90 - Mutual Funds \$2,735.42
 - The 2015 Income & Expense Spreadsheet reflected: Incoming funds = \$20,229.63 & Expenses = \$20,811.73. Area annual appeal letter appeared in the April edition of the newsletter. The 2015 Taxes were filed.
 - Motion to accept the Treasurer's report - Harold D5, 2nd Elaine D29. Passed, Voice Vote.
 7. **Delegate Report:** Diane C. – Entire report online.
 - The 2016 WSC was April 11-15, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. "REALIZING OUR SPIRITUAL POTENTIAL" was the theme.
 - The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees announced to WSC members that Ric B., Executive Director was no longer associated with the WSO. The Board of Trustees selected Mary G., former NYN Area Delegate and Past Trustee to serve as the interim Executive Director.
 - Individuals and groups are asked to continue to think abundantly and ask themselves what has Al-Anon done for me and click on the 'Contribute Now' button on the member's website to make a contribution. WSO ended 2015 with a deficit budget and anticipate a deficit in 2016.

- The WSO spends approx. \$268.00 per group each year. Is your group contributing this much each year? Do you have a budget, and is a WSO donation a part of it?
- The WSO Task Force on “Types of Meetings” that Diane was assigned to in 2015 worked throughout the year and presented a workshop and skit at the 2016 WSC.
- New Task Force assignment: “Spiritually in District Money Discussions”. Their charge is to create a workshop or skit on the spiritual principles in financial matters.
- The WSO Literature Committee presented a recommendation to the 2016 WSC to remove the “Prayer for Today” from the *Just for Today* Bookmark and Wallet Card, and from “How AI-Anon Works”. After much discussion at the 2016 WSC, no motion was made. Consensus was that Delegates take back to their Areas for further discussion and revisit at the 2017 WSC. Diane asked that the assembly be given an opportunity to express their thoughts on the topic during the afternoon session.

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

The Chair stated that beginning with this assembly each officer and coordinator would be giving a presentation of their position in anticipation of the 2017 Election Assembly. Alternate Delegate, Chairperson and Web Coordinator presented at this assembly.

Reports started prior to lunch and concluded during the afternoon session following the “Concepts Workshop” and open mic responses to the possible removal of the “Prayer for Today”.

- **Alternate Delegate/ Forum: Gwenne R.**
 - ✓ Gave report and a presentation on Service Position responsibilities using acronyms to explain her job responsibilities. Forum subscription drawing will be later today.
- **Immediate Past Delegate: Ruth S.**
 - ✓ 11 new GR’s attended the new GR meeting. They were asked to stand and welcomed.
 - ✓ Ruth pointed out the banner on the wall that will be used for the Public Outreach booth at the New York State Fair.
- **Chairperson: Susan A.**
 - ✓ Susan reviewed her responsibilities and asked all current and former DR’s to stand and stated these are the people that are eligible to stand at the next election for the NYN Chairperson position.
- **Alateen: Walt S.**
 - ✓ Put together a NYN Alateen Handbook and will be distributing to District Representatives and mailing a copy to all active Alateen groups in NYN.
- **Archives: Kevin M.** Susan read Kevin’s report - He was busy as the Co-Chair of the Convention.
 - ✓ Has Forums from 1969 to 2008, they are on display this weekend. Looking for Forums from 2009 through present.
- **Convention: Nancy H.** – not present. Out of state.
- **Group Records: Lynda S.** – no report

- ✓ Lynda displayed the NYN website on the screen and showed how to complete the GR- 1 form and explained what she does after she receives GR-1 updates.
- **Literature: Cindy C.** – not present no report
- **Newsletter: John O.** – 46 hard copies of the last edition were mailed at a cost of \$1.00 each.
- **NYNAC: Bridget** - not present – no report online
 - ✓ Bridget sent Walt S. an email and asked that he read it to the assembly.
 - ✓ The email stated Bridget was resigning as NYNAC coordinator and would be closing the NYNAC bank account and sending the info to NYN and needed time to get the information together.
- **Presentation: Sarah** - no report online
 - ✓ Presented today’s workshop on the Concepts.
- ✓ **Public Outreach: Pat H**
 - ✓ There are 2 new 30 second PSA’s on the main page of the WSO website under the heading of “Media”.
- ✓ **Website: Molly C.**
 - ✓ Put her presentation hat on and showed on the screen what she updates on the website.
 - ✓ Monitors the website for compliance and responds to the “Contact Us” emails.
 - ✓ Receives a lot of questions related to drugs and checks the WSO website for answers.
 - ✓ Creates meeting list to be posted for meetings not listed on an AIS website.
 - ✓ Has a handbook with pictures and step by step guide.
 - ✓ This position keeps you in contact with others in service and is kind of like a plant, it needs regular attention.

9. **Lunch Break was 12:00 to 1:15 pm.**

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

- **Syracuse AIS:** Kathi D. - report online. Voted to allow dual members to hold all positions with the exception of AIS Chair and Alternate Chair.
- **Western NY AIS:** Tim G– verbal report – “pass the Bunny” raised \$450.00.
- **Rochester AIS:** –Marci - verbal report – new location. Added riders to Insurance Policy for individual groups.

11. **NYN Committees updates:**

- **Liability Insurance for NYN events:** – Walt, Sarah & Tim: no report
- **Members Involved in Service who are Unable to Effectively Fulfill the Responsibilities of the Position Committee:**
 - ✓ Modified the document and presented to the AWSC. Will be voting on today.
- **AWSC Restructuring:**
 - ✓ Conducted a short survey of the AWSC members on what type of things would be beneficial to them in their positions. Committee met last night to discuss results.
- **Web Committee: Kathi D.**
 - ✓ Committee is not ready to demo the redesign due to Contact Management making updates related to resizing based on device.

12. **Presentation Workshop: Sarah**

- **Concept Workshop:** Participants were randomly divided into teams & assigned a Concept. Teams were tasked with making a poster representing their Concept using items that were supplied. Each team presented their work and posters were displayed around the room to be voted on. 1st place went to Concept #4 with 30 votes. Everyone was a winner and all learned about the Concepts while meeting new people.

13. **Sharing thoughts on the “Prayer for Today”** - members were given an opportunity to express their thoughts on the possible removal of the “Prayer for Today” – see attached.

14. **Roll Call: for voting items**

- 77 Voting GR’s were present as follows:

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4	0	3	2	0	1	0	3			13
										77

15. **Voting Items:**

- Motion by Tim G D1 2nd by Karen W D1: “To approve the NYN Area 39 Guidelines for addressing situations where Officers or Coordinators appear to not be meeting the responsibilities of the position to which they were elected”, as recommended by the AWSC. Passed by voice vote
- Motion by Gwenne R D22 2nd by Megan D2: To Add the following to the Alternate Delegate/Forum coordinator service position responsibilities: Notify the district representative and the AIS whenever the Alternate Delegate welcomes a new group. Passed by Voice Vote.
- Motion by Judy D12 2nd by Marci D19: To Add the following to the Immediate Past Delegate service position responsibilities: The IPD will Chair the New York State Fair committee. Passed by Voice Vote.

16. **Ask-It-Basket: Diane** - Responded to multiple questions that were placed in the Ask-It-Basket throughout the day. (Post assembly Diane documented the questions and responses) - see attached.

17. **Area Inventory:**

- Per NYN Policy an Area Inventory will be done once every 3 years at the 2nd Spring Convention/Assembly after elections. All encouraged to participate in the inventory. Forms are available. Please complete this weekend.

18. **Announcements:**

- Literature and NYNAC coordinators positions are open. If interested, complete the service resume and advise Susan.
- Alateen Sponsors and Finance Committee meeting in Room 112 @ 4:45 PM

19. **Motion to adjourn:** Louise Dist.18 & 2nd by Nathan Dist. 7. Passed by Voice Vote. Closed with the Al-Anon Declaration at 4:25pm.

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS SHARED THOUGHTS ON THE PRAYER FOR TODAY

- My Opinion: Leave the prayer on the bookmark.
- If this is changed (which I do not agree with) change "Lord" to "I ask my Higher Power" and change "O, Devine Master to "I ask my Higher Power".
- Prayer for Today:
 - Make me an instrument of serenity".
 - Where there is chaos, let me find peace.
 - Where there is doubt, confidence;
 - where there is despair, hope;
 - Where there is loneliness, community.
 - Let it begin with me." And then add the slogans.
- Change first line of each paragraph.
 - May I be an instrument of peace.....
 - May I not so much.....
- Take out all words regarding religion.
- Take what you like and leave the rest.
- Remove the prayer and make the other part bigger. People have issues with God.
- Change Devine Master
- Remove the prayer. It's a religious prayer. St. Francis Prayer encourages codependency.
- Is about co-dependency - It suggests that I have power. Al-Anon teaches we don't have the power. We are powerless.
- We are not affiliated with religions, there are many religions besides Christianity. Is this affiliated with organized religion? Yes, I think so. We are spiritual not religious.
- Many people have issues with God and religion.
- This is a Christian prayer and inappropriate for Al-Anon.
- It's seems like codependency- Because if suggests you change others by your activity.
- Not in Al-Anon language. Change:
 - God to Higher Power
 - Hate to Chaos
 - Peace to Serenity
- Remove the prayer and make the print bigger.
- Keep the Prayer
- Leave as is. Too much God things are being taken on out of the world.
- I got spirituality while in the program. Everyone is taking God out of everything.
- I love the prayer. Read about the origins from the Oxford Program.
- I was wounded when I came into the program. I love the prayer. I was raised Christian and very codependent. The prayer puts the emphasis on me, it teaches me self-love.
- When I practice the Steps, especially Step 11, I use this prayer.
- I'm not Christian but appreciate this prayer.
- It teaches me to be the best I can be and about my Higher Power's will.
- If it gets remove – please replace with something comparable.
- Good ideas come from all people and places.
- Take what you like and leave the rest.
- If we take this out then do we do it to every piece of CAL?
- If it wasn't already there would we be choosing to use?
- Like the thought of to keep it - give it away. Dark- to lightness.
- Keep the prayer.
- It's not diverse to Christian.
- It's bias.
- What would Lois say?

Ask-It Basket - Diane C. NYN Area Delegate

Q. When the roll call and the Secretary Report are read could we say which area this covers? Example -District 1- Buffalo.

A. - There is a map that can be printed out on the NYN Website (with Boundaries) that can be used for this information.

Q. What does calling the WSO phone number (888- 4AI-Anon) get you?

A. It gets you a live person who can give you a meeting location if you know the town. Monday-Friday they can also take your information so that someone in that Area can call you if you want to talk to someone regarding a personal issue. On the weekend you would have to go to the WSO website to look for a meeting.

Q. Why it is necessary to read long reports versus refer to website or have paper copies for all.

A. It is necessary as this is a historical document for our Area. People who attended the meeting are able to decide if this is a correct record as to what happened at the Assembly that they attended. It would be very costly to print copies for all who attend the Assembly. If you want a paper copy you may print a copy from the New York North Website.

Q. Can the Two DVDs (Lois and Lois and the Pioneers) be purchased instead of renting?

A. No, because of the Copyright. If it was made available commercially the company who produced it would want the Copyright.

Q. Do previous District Representatives receive AFG Connects?

A. No, is only available to current District Representatives.

Q. If we chose as an Area to host the "Meet the Board" meeting could we or would we have more areas outside NYN be involved in hosting it?

A. No, we would have to submit and be responsible for being the host, but we could invite other areas participate if we were selected as the host.

Q. Does AI-Anon get profits from the sale of books offered as audio books on the site mobile.audio.com? If not, is this legal?

A. I do not think so, but will have to inquire from WSO. This is something that they would have to look into as they hold the copyrights for these books.

Q. How can we or do we have outreach to those family members of patients in rehabs or detox centers? Is there material there for newcomers?

A. Contact our Public Outreach Coordinator (PO@nynafg.com) she will help you to figure out a plan to carry the message to these people. You can also purchase pamphlets or other materials to take to these facilities to share with the families.

Q. Does WSO serve the Entire Planet? If not, explain.

A. It is a Worldwide Organization with Fellowship but it is not in every country. Many Countries have a General Service Office and hold a General Service Conference every two years. WSO does attend these Conferences and gives guidance to their structures.

Q/ Opinion: Strategy to close the budget deficit? Have people share their personal stories of recovery through the Program. We can continue to ask for Money and to let people know what is done with it. We need to make extra announcements at meetings.

A. Or we can ask you & your group to give according to their abundant joy of their recovery. How much is that worth to them?

Q. How do you address advice giving in meetings? It has been discussed but still takes place.

A. Do a meeting on our Primary Purpose (Tradition Meetings). Talk about this issue at group conscious or business meetings.

Suggest people talk to their Sponsors. Make an announcement at the meeting about this, that we do not give advice but Ask-It-Basket

use the tools of the Program to solve our problems (our Three Legacies).

Q. When you call the WSO 888-4-Anon phone number what do you get.

A. A person at the other end who can direct you to a meeting in your local area. A person who can refer you to someone in your area who is willing to talk to you if you want them to. (They will take your phone number and have a person get in contact with you.)

Q. When was the retirement of the Executive Director announced to the Delegates? And when was it announced to the membership. It seems like it was a surprise since delegates did not know before Monday afternoon at the conference.

A. Delegates received a letter before conference that stated this would be the announced at the conference no other information was given except that he was retiring. Many of us thought it possibly was from the fact that he might be sick. At the conference it was just announced that he would be retiring no reason given. Then they announced our new director was Mary Gregory a former Trustee, former Delegate, former Chairman of the Board and she would be there on a temporary basis until another director could be appointed.

Q. How does World Service Office spend \$268.00 per group? Does this include Alateen?

A. There are many things that WSO does for us but I will just name a few here:

- It keeps a record of all registered groups world-wide also that have closed or have not answered mail in a year.
- It support Groups, Districts Area & Delegate to help them do their jobs.
- It keeps the certification of the AMIIAS.
- It coordinates & publishes our Conference Approved Literature.
- It supports AIS Offices
- It maintains the WSO Website, not only for Group Members but to carry the message of Al-Anon to the outside world
- It makes sure the Three Legacies are followed in every activity it and others do in the Name of Al-Anon or Alateen.
- It keeps our historical records
- It makes sure the copyrights of our literature are not copied or infringed upon
- It collects and uses our financial contributions prudent & wisely.
- For more information please go the WSO Members Web page (instruction as to how to access it are available on the website and click on "How WSO Serves your Group" (Lovely Power Point Presentation) There is also a pie chart titled " How your \$15.00 is used"

Q. The World Service Office Member Website is not truly secure. How does WSO ensure that only members contribute online??

A. I will have to contact WSO to find the answer to this question.

Q. Can you eliminate the total number of paper copies and pages being printed? Could you make copies back to back so we don't kill trees? Thank you.

A. We are doing our best to limit the amount of paper copies used. We do this for many reasons and one of them is to save the environment. We have asked that you check New York North website for any reports prior to coming to this event and make your own copies if you wish.

Many of the reports & forms are on the NYN Website and if you need help finding them you may ask. Also, you are able to bring your laptop/tablet to the Assembly to read along during events or read along with the projected reports on the screen as they are projected by the Web Coordinator.