

NEW YORK NORTH AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING

Sept 24, 2016

1. **Call to order** by Ruth S, IPD acting chair in Susan A.'s absence at 9:40 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. There was a delay in the start due to room setup issues.
2. **Traditions:** Read by Patti – D3 **Concepts & Warranties:** Read by Rita – D4.
 - Assembly Guidelines power point was reviewed. Use the Ask-It-Basket for questions. They will be answered later in the day.
 - Only Group Reps can vote. Motions need to be submitted in writing, forms are available.
 - Lunch: Noon – 1 PM. Assembly room available until 5PM.
3. **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	5	2	5	2	0	1	1	2	3	24
Dist .11	Dist.12	Dist. 13	Dist. 14	Dist. 15	Dist. 17	Dist.18	Dist. 19	Dist. 20	Dist. 21	
1	4	0	0	10	2	4	4	1	0	26
Dist.22	Dist. 23	Dist. 24	Dist .25	Dist. 26	Dist. 27	Dist. 28	Dist. 29			
4	2	0	3	1	1	0	5			16
										66

- **Coordinators:** Alateen, Archives, Convention, Group Records, Literature, Newsletter, NYNAC, Presentation & Public Outreach.
 - **Officers:** Delegate, Alt Delegate & Forum Coordinator, Immediate Past Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer.
 - **Past Delegates:** Elaine R. & Bob C. **Trustee- none / Past Trustee/s:** none
 - **AIS Reps:** Syracuse, Rochester & Western.
4. **Secretary's Report:** online- Minutes from the May 14, 2016 Spring Assembly meeting read by Pam A. M: to accept as read: Walt- D15 & 2nd by Marci D19. Passed by Voice Vote
 5. **Treasurer's Report:** Linda A. – Report online.
 - Account balances: Checking \$7,400.73 - Reserve \$9,215.40 - Mutual Funds \$2,822.49
 - The 2016 Income & Expense Spreadsheet through Aug 2016 reflected: Incoming funds = \$10,062.52 & Expenses = \$15,712.29. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report – Kathleen D15, 2nd Wayne D15. Passed, VV.
 - Linda gave her Service Position presentation & explained duties. Skills needed and responsibilities of treasurer are on the NYN website under service position descriptions.
 - Proceeds from the 2016 Spring Assembly/Convention were \$5,348.03. The AWSC recommends a \$550.00 donation to the WSO. WSO donation and 2017 budget on agenda as voting items.
 6. **Delegate Report:** Diane C. – Entire report online.
 - Updates from the Spring Assembly were:

- Forwarded responses to WSO literature committee from discussions at 2016 Spring Assembly regarding possible removal of the “Prayer for Today”.
- Asked if anyone was attending from the Dim & Dark districts (4, 11, 13 & 28). 5 Members from D4 and 1 from D11 stood and were welcomed.
- Has copies of the WSO Task Force on “Types of Meetings” workshop that she was involved with and presented at the 2016 WSC. If you don’t get one send Diane an email.
- Continues on WSC Task Force “Spirituality in District Money Discussions” they will present a workshop at the 2017 WSC which will be a tool to understand money and spiritual principles.
- Working with the Presentation Coordinator to present a skit & workshop at this Assembly, “Acceptance of Communities, Cultures and Beliefs”, brought back from the 2016 WSC.
- Submitted bid to the WSO for the 2017 MEET THE BOARD Event - renamed to “Road Trip”!! You and Your Board. Winner to be drawn from a hat at the Oct. Board of Trustees meeting and announced in Dec 2016.
- The WSO Policy Committee continues discussing the terms “open” and “closed” meetings and are considering strategies to eliminate the confusion these terms cause for the public and Al-Anon members. Brought copies of questions being asked and would like NYN members input. Please take a copy and answer it today.
- The WSO Policy Committee has been asked if WSO accepts money from programs where individuals sign up to support non-profit organizations. The Policy Committee unanimously agreed that Al-Anon does not accept contributions from programs of this nature because it’s impossible to know if donations are from Al-Anon members. Accepting contributions of this type violates the 12 Traditions.
- The Sixth International Convention is July 6 - 8, 2018 in Baltimore, Maryland. **#ODAT 2018** is no longer being used for the event as it could break member’s anonymity.
- Want news from the WSO? Subscribe to AFG Announcements! All members can sign up to receive a free subscription to AFG Announcements. All you need is an email address. Go to the following link to sign up. <http://www.al-anon.org/members/item/491-be-informed>

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

No official morning break occurred due to starting late and acting Chair wanting to end on time for lunch.

➤ **Alateen: Walt S.**

- ✓ 26 AMIAS’s inactivated in 2016 by their request or failure to recertify. AMIAS who failed to respond were sent a letter advising they are no longer a certified AMIAS and can no longer work with Alateens. Walt to furnish DR’s with updated AMIAS list.
- ✓ 114 active AMIAS’s in NYN.
- ✓ Working on an Alateen Training Module with help from an Alateen sponsor. Plans to preview at NYNAC and at the Alateen Interest meeting - Sunday 8 AM.
- ✓ New Alateen group in Sydney, NY.

- **Archives: Kevin M**
 - ✓ Ordered the “Forum” for Archives. Looking for Forums prior to 1969 and after 2009.
- **Convention: Nancy H.**
 - ✓ **2017 is NYN’s 50th anniversary**
 - ✓ Spring 2017 Assembly/Convention: D12 host, May 19-21 @ The Millenium, Buffalo,
 - ✓ Fall 2017 Election Assembly: D3 & D18 hosts, Sept. 22-24 @ Comfort Inn, North Syracuse
 - ✓ Nancy gave her Service Position presentation.
 - ✓ Emphasized that when she was elected she didn’t have much of a clue of what the responsibilities were and found NYNAFG.com to be a wealth of information.
 - ✓ Reached out to other trusted servants for help and clarification and never had to do anything alone.
- **Group Records: Lynda S**
 - ✓ WSO implemented a new procedure for Al-Anon Groups “Reported Not Meeting”. It means if a newcomer shows up at a meeting and cannot find it and reports it to the WSO, the WSO Group Records will reach out to the group contact on the status of the group and if they don’t receive a response within 3 business day the group will be placed in “reported not meeting” status and investigated.
 - ✓ Important to keep your contacts and your group information current with the Area Group Records Coordinator.
 - ✓ Lynda did her Service Position presentation and told us that this job can be done in your PJ’s and that it involves a lot of investigative work and searching for group #'s.
- **Literature: Nancy R. –**
 - ✓ Ordered literature and a literature rack for a teen rehab in Albany.
 - ✓ WSO literature conference call is scheduled for early October.
- **Newsletter: John O. –**
 - ✓ Send John your flyers for days of sharing, anniversary meetings, etc. to be included in the newsletter.
 - ✓ John stated that his slogan for his Service position is “Progress not Perfection”.
- **NYNAC: Leslie C.**
 - ✓ 2016 theme for NYNAC is “Courage”.
 - ✓ Fundraising has been overwhelming successful. Has samples of bookmarks that can be ordered.
 - ✓ Cost to attend is \$125.00. Increase due to new linen policy at facility based on each cabin.
 - ✓ Signed contract with facility for 30, however they will accommodate more. 26 registered so far.
 - ✓ Cabins can house 35 females and 16 males. Required ratio is 5 teens /1 AMIAS.

- **Presentation: Sarah R.**
 - ✓ Will be doing a presentation/workshop today on “Bias”
 - ✓ Sarah did her Service Position presentation playing the accordion and singing a song with the help of Tim G. and Patti M.
- ✓ **Public Outreach: Pat H**
 - ✓ Deadline to order the 2nd printing of “AFA 2017” is February 8th, 2017, 5 p.m. ET
 - ✓ In 2015 over 350,000 copies distributed throughout the U.S., CA, Bermuda, and PR.
 - ✓ Explained difference between “AFA” and the Forum.
 - “Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism” geared to the reader who knows nothing about Al-Anon. Articles about overcoming obstacles and resistance to Al-Anon and how Al-Anon is helping members.
 - The Forum is for Al-Anon members and features members working the program.
 - ✓ Pat gave her Service Position presentation with “Many Hands” – Multiple people throughout NYN stood with Pat and explained how they worked with Pat doing Public Outreach in various areas of NYN.
 - ✓ Checkout the new Power Point titled Anonymity & Public Outreach on the NYN website.
- ✓ **Website: Molly C.** not present on vacation
- **Alternate Delegate/ Forum: Gwenne R.**
 - ✓ No new groups since spring assembly.
 - ✓ Sign-up for free Forum subscription - drawing will be at the banquet.
- **Immediate Past Delegate: Ruth S.**
 - ✓ 15 GR’s attended new GR meeting. All new GR’s were asked to stand and welcomed, there were 16. Introduce yourself to them. They have smiley faces on their name tags.

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

- **Syracuse AIS:** Kathi D. - report online.
 - ✓ Providing informational packets to Syracuse Behavioral Health to handout to participants in their family program.
 - ✓ Including Syracuse AIS bookmarks (approved by WSO) in newcomer packets. It provides newcomers with the 3 C’s, current meeting and contact information.
- **Western NY AIS:** Kelli - verbal report -copy given to secretary.
 - ✓ Kelli’s term as chairman is up in Oct 2016. She expressed gratitude to have been able to serve, as she was new to the Western NY area.
 - ✓ Current fundraiser “Pass the Pumpkin”.
- **Rochester AIS:** –Sheila - report online
 - ✓ More members are involved in the web committee. Plan to make revisions to the website.
 - ✓ Very active Public Outreach.
 - ✓ Moved to a new location that is cost effective.

9. **Lunch Break:** 11:55 to 1:00 pm. Assembly reconvened at 1:15 pm.

10. **Roll Call**

- 62 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	5	4	5	2	1	0	1	2	3	26
Dist .11	Dist.12	Dist. 13	Dist. 14	Dist. 15	Dist. 17	Dist.18	Dist. 19	Dist. 20	Dist. 21	
1	4	0	0	6	2	4	3	1	0	21
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4	2	0	4	1	1	0	3			15
										62

11. Presentation Workshop: Sarah

- Diane brought back a workshop and skit from the WSC on “Bias” and “Acceptance of Communities, Cultures and Beliefs”. Several readers participated and read various bias thoughts and characteristics and a skit was performed of “Unwelcoming” members before a meeting.
- Discussion questions were circulated to each table and ½ hr. was allotted for table discussions and feedback from each table was given to the assembly.
- See separate section at end of the minutes for the table discussions presented to the assembly.

12. NYN Committees updates:

- **State Fair Public Outreach:** Ruth S. report online
 - ✓ 2nd time at the NY State Fair - 2016 total cost was \$1,203.39 vs 2015 \$2,39.19
 - ✓ New location in the Science and Industry Building.
 - ✓ 1353 people visited the booth vs last year 596. Counts reflect people who came into the booth to take literature, to talk to someone or just to say thanks for being there.
- **Liability Insurance:**– Walt, Sarah & Tim: no report
- **Finance:** Elaine R.
 - ✓ A statement was read to the assembly that “there would be no questions or discussion” following this statement.
 - ✓ Announcement at 2016 Spring Assembly that the NYNAC coordinator was stepping down from the position for a variety of reasons and that a financial report for the 2015 NYNAC account was not available at that time. Since then it’s been determined that the NYNAC account was overdrawn. Account was closed after NYN satisfied the overdraft. The finance committee members have spent considerable time trying to bring this matter to closure but as yet have not been able to do so. The exact amount of money is still questionable but at this point it’s around \$2,000 plus or minus.
 - ✓ Finance Committee will be pursuing additional action as they move forward to resolve the issue. “No One is Above the Law”.
 - ✓ New monies were made available to NYNAC so that the appointed coordinator could move forward. \$500.00 was made available based on NYN By-laws and Policies with consensus from the NYN officers.
- **Expanding the Vision of the AWSC Committee** – Tim G. – report online
 - ✓ After gathering information 5 goals were identified
 - ✓ Solutions for 2 of the goals are: to revisit the definition of “Hot Topic Reports” and the 2nd is to have breakout sessions to discuss DR decided topics.

- **Web Committee:** no report
- **Policy Review** – Kevin M & Susan A. – looking at guidelines, policy and By-Laws. More to follow.
- **Break 3:00- 3:15 PM**

13. **Alateen Service Position Presentation:** Walt

- Reviewed what he does in the position and that he is working on NYN Alateen Guidelines.
- Suggested the position be split into 2 positions – Alateen Coordinator and Alateen Area Process Person (AAPP).

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

- 68 Voting GR's were present as follows:

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4	2	0	5	1	1	0	5			18
										68

15. **Voting Items:**

- **2017 Budget** - Motion by Walt S. - D15 2nd by Nancy H. D10 to accept the 2017 NYN Budget as presented in the amount of \$21,250.00. Motion Passed VV. (2 no).
- **2018 Fall Assembly Host** - Motion by Nancy H. D10 2nd by Mary D. D10: To approve District 15 as host for the 2018 Fall Assembly. Passed by VV.
- **Appointment of Literature Coordinator Replacement:** Motion by Mike D26 2nd by Marci D29 to approve the appointment of Nancy R. as the Literature Coordinator. Passed by VV. (Prior to vote Nancy explained why she wants to take over the position)
- **Appointment of NYNAC Coordinator Replacement:** Motion by Jan D12 2nd by Debbie D. D15 to approve the appointment of Leslie C. as the NYNAC Coordinator. Passed by VV. (Prior to the vote Leslie explained why she thinks she can do the job)
- **Yearly Donation to the WSO:** The AWSC recommended a donation of \$550 which was a little more than 10% of the proceeds for the Spring Assembly/Convention. Discussion occurred, suggestion to donate \$1000 to WSO. Question/Comment: why not use that money to lower the amount of the registration fee to attend assemblies. Ruth S. IMD and Linda A. Treasurer explained that registration fee is to cover Assembly and Assembly /Convention expenses. Traditionally, spring sees larger proceeds than fall. No expectations on making a profit.
Motion by Mary D. D10 2nd by Elaine D29 to send a donation of \$1,000 to the WSO. VV - Motion passed by substantial unanimity. (49 yes, 15 no and 4 abstentions)

16. **Ask-It-Basket: Diane** - see attached

17. **Announcements:**

18. **Motion to adjourn: Tim G.** Dist.1 & 2nd by Walt S. Dist. 15. Passed by Voice Vote. Closed with the Al-Anon Declaration at 4:30pm.

Shared Table Discussions on the Presentation

- Can't keep Newcomers coming
 - Don't think it is Bias thinking. They don't hear the message or aren't ready to hear it.
-

- Different belief systems. Do the best with what we have, that's what we have at the time.
 - Open about the closing and have changed to the AI-Anon declaration.
-

- Has someone designated as greeter to welcome newcomers from the minute they walk in the door the first time.
-

- Use the Steps/Traditions & Concepts and be gentle and show kindness.
 - Over time the judgmental thoughts diminish with bias because of growth in the program.
-

- Find and seek out meeting where there is diversity and learn how to interact
- Each meeting has own culture.

- Had closing prayer discussion- Using silence – a long moment of silence to pray for those still suffering.
-

- Diversity- go to where there is more diversity and do Public Outreach
-

- Keep our group healthy.
 - Do inventory and study legacies, etc.
-

- High Power works in our groups by bringing a newcomer.
-

- Accessibility issues
 - Don't smother the newcomer
 - See a newcomer in the parking lot and introduce yourself
-

- Has member with social disability – don't judge
- No expectations of others in the meeting

ASK-IT-BASKET- Diane C. Delegate

Asked for a show of hands on who has seen the WSO website. Check out the front page.

Q. A Rochester group wasn't listed on the WSO site and emailed the WSO with the information and haven't heard back.

A. *Contact Lynda S. groups records – start locally at the AIS group records. Could be address on contact info dropped. Check if group registered.*

Q. How to make a suggestion to add to newcomer packet

A. *Start locally. The newcomer packets are \$1.40. Don't have to use the newcomer package. Each group can decide what your meeting wants to use. You should only use CAL and include a schedule and contact info for WSO and local level. Suggestion for something not in the packet you can contact the WSO. Remember it needs to be CAL.*

Q. Are new "How AI-Anon Work" books sold thru Amazon.com?

A. *These books are listed on Amazon by private people are probably used. Only the WSO has the copyright. Diane will double check with the WSO.*

Q. The WSO spends approx. \$268.00 for each group, what do they do?

A. *Found "How \$15.00 is used" on the WSO Member's website.*