

New York North Area Assembly Panel 61
Summer AWSC Meeting
August 26, 2023
Virtual

Opening

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Serenity Prayer/Traditions/Concepts and Warranties

The meeting was called to order at 9:02AM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Brenda L., 25DR. The Concepts and Warranties were read by Kathi D., Delegate.

Welcome and Informational Items/Zoom Protocol

Carol C., Chair, welcomed the members to the AWSC meeting and noted that those voting during this meeting are Officers, Coordinators, Past Delegates, District Representatives, and AIS representatives. Carol reviewed the Zoom and voting protocols.

Roll Call/Vote Substantial Unanimity

See attached record for the roll call. There were 24 total voting members. The vote for substantial unanimity was as follows: 2/3 – 19 votes, 3/4 – 5 votes. Substantial unanimity will be 16 votes.

Agenda/Reports

Secretary's Report

Cathy W., Secretary, read the minutes from the May 19, 2023 AWSC meeting. Mary D. AAPP, suggested the word "with" be removed from the last sentence in the fourth paragraph on page two. Mary D. AAPP, motioned to approve the minutes as corrected; the motion was seconded by Kathi D., Delegate. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The report has been posted on the NYN website. Betty G.M., Treasurer, reported the following, reflecting the financials from January through July:

- ❖ Total revenue is \$4,701.70.
- ❖ Total donations is \$4,600.70.
- ❖ Total expenses were \$2,851.33.
- ❖ Primary checking: \$15,220.38.
- ❖ Reserve account: \$19,941.64.
- ❖ NYNAC Balance: \$509.40.
- ❖ Sage Ruddy Mutual Funds: \$2,581.78 for the period ending 5/31/2023.
- ❖ The differences in the financial statements from the presentation at the May Assembly include:
 - A deposit in January was counted in 2022, so it was deducted from January 2023.
 - A \$10 donation was recorded twice, as a donation and within the Northern Hi Lights for a subscription.
 - The May financial statements contained a partial month and included contributions and Northern Hi Lights.
 - The current report presented today includes activity through July 31, 2023 to avoid a partial month.

Brenda L., 25DR, noted that the headings need to be revised to say July 2023 and not March 2023.

Kathi D., Delegate, inquired if the account balances are as of July 31, 2023 or June 30, 2023. Betty G.M. will check and correct the dates on the reports. Kathi D. later confirmed that the balances are as of July 31, 2023.

Carol C., Chair, inquired about the balance in the NYNAC fund. Betty G.M. explained that the total fund is \$1,000 and a check for the deposit for NYNAC was processed.

It was decided that the report will be approved at the next AWSC once the above-noted corrections are made.

Delegate's Report

The report and presentation slides will be posted to the NYN website after the meeting.

Kathi D., Delegate, reported the following:

- ❖ Maui Relief – The Delegate from Hawaii provided the following address for those wanting to send cards or CAL to replace the supplies that were lost: Maui AFG, PO Box 1322, Wailuku, HI 96793. Kathi would like to present to the Assembly that NYN send a donation of CAL to Maui.
- ❖ Upcoming Fall Election – Kathi stated that the future is dependent on us. The positions are posted on the NYN website. Please share with groups and districts. The Service Manual outlines the requirements regarding AA members serving in positions (pages 86-87).
- ❖ Meditation Meetings – A recent discussion was raised in AFG Connects regarding meditation meetings. At the 2014 WSC, the response to this issue was that it violates the Traditions because it might be interpreted as a religious activity, affiliation with an outside entity, or endorsement of a particular practice or style of meditation. Meetings that require a particular form of meditation are not appropriate. Individuals are free to practice any form of meditation they see fit.
- ❖ WSO Updates – Fun facts from the 2023 International Convention that took place June 29 through July 2 include it having the most registered participants (4,517 including 179 virtual), participant traveled from 8,000 miles away, a big contingency from South Africa, and the highest elevation (4,967 feet). WSO will announce the next convention at the AA International Convention in 2025.
- ❖ 2024 Meet Your Board Road Trip – The 2023 Road Trip will be in California South (LA) on October 28, 2023. Applications for the 2024 Road Trip are due in September 2023. The Area is responsible to welcome attendees and Areas are encouraged to have at least 100 attendees. Kathi would like to submit an application again and it will require the Assembly's approval. The site is selected randomly from those applicants that meet the qualifications.
- ❖ 2024 WSO Equalized Expense – The equalized expense for 2024 is \$1,769. The full amount is \$2,527.68. NYN has voted to pay the full expense which is due at the end of the year.
- ❖ Monthly Delegate Chats – Kathi reported that the Delegate Chats are not hugely attended. They are scheduled for the first Sunday of the month from 1:00PM to 1:30PM and the first Thursday of the month from 7:00PM to 7:30PM. The link is on the Events calendar on the NYN website.

Kathi responded to the following questions:

- ❖ Brenda L., 25DR, inquired about the policy regarding dual members and eligibility to serve. She asked if a person is no longer attending AA, can they be a GR? Kathi responded that the Service Manual does not address those who no longer consider themselves a member of AA, so this decision is between the group and the individual. This is an example of the unenforceable. If a person is actively attending AA, the answer would be no.
- ❖ Maria S., Archives, noted that the presentation slides say mediation and not meditation. She noted that in District 8, there is a monthly meditation meeting. They called WSO and were told it might be linked to organized religion and advised this was not appropriate. However, the group used Tradition 1 to continue.
- ❖ Pat H., Trusted Servant, inquired if it would be appropriate to have a time of meditation at a Day of Sharing. Kathi responded that it would be okay in that case because it is part of an event, not a group.

- ❖ Cerise H., 10DR, inquired about providing funding to Maui. Kathi responded that it will be decided later in this meeting if this will be forwarded to the Assembly for discussion.
- ❖ Brenda L., 25DR, stated she was having trouble finding the reports for this meeting. Kathi responded that they are in Area Events-Summer AWSC-Click Her to View Reports. They are also posted in the NYN NewsFlash section.

The ASWC stopped for a break at 10:20AM and resumed at 10:30AM.

Coordinator Reports

- ❖ Immediate Past Delegate, Molly C. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. The new GR meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 7:00PM on Zoom. A slide has been added to the presentation regarding using BCC on emails for anonymity. Molly is also gathering information for a new DR meeting.
- ❖ Alateen Coordinator, Mary S. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Mary provides virtual training and Alateen network meetings.
- ❖ Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP), Mary D. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Her primary responsibility is sponsorship certification for Alateen.
- ❖ Archives Coordinator, Maria S. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. There are only 2 of the 24 boxes remaining to be scanned. She thanked those on the task force for their help. Jim M., Conventions Coordinator, inquired what will happen with the boxes once all the materials are scanned – will they be preserved or disposed of. Maria responded that the required financial documents will be saved in hard copy and everything else will be disposed of. Jim commented that when this position gets turned over to a new coordinator, it will be so much simpler with only one box and a flash drive.
- ❖ Conventions Coordinator, Jim M. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Jim noted that hosts for the 2024 Spring and Fall Assemblies are still needed.
- ❖ E-Meeting Host Coordinator, Mike R. – The report has been posted on the NYN website.
- ❖ Group Records Coordinator, Joan L. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Joan thanked the DRs for their communications regarding group changes. Carol C., Chair, inquired if Joan gets a copy of changes that are made directly on the WSO website. Joan confirmed that she gets a message from WSO when changes are made. She noted, however, that she frequently gets information for NY South groups and WSO is not catching this error. Molly C., Immediate Past Delegate, inquired how many active groups there are in NYN. Joan responded that she will get that information.
- ❖ Literature Coordinator, Diane C. – Diane C. has moved out of the state; there is no report.
- ❖ Newsletter Coordinator, David N. – No report submitted. David noted that the Newsletter Committee has not met recently.
- ❖ NYNAC Coordinator, Leslie C. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Leslie reported that there are six teens and four sponsors who have committed to going to NYNAC this year. She is contacting other groups and so far, there are no additional commitments. Leslie will contact the camp to inquire about their cancellation policy as there may not be enough participation. Jim M., Conventions Coordinator, inquired if teens know that finances should not prevent them from attending. Leslie responded that it is not a matter of money; it's the bodies. Leslie stated that the dates of NYNAC are October 27-29, 2023 and the cost is \$155.00 per person.
- ❖ Website Coordinator, Ellen V. – The report has been posted on the NYN website.
- ❖ AIS Rochester, Maggie G. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Maggie reported that the book depot is busy with the new daily reader. Outreach has also been active. The terms for the service positions are ending and they are recruiting for replacements. There are two electronic beginners meetings that are well attended and are available to anyone in NYN. There is an Alateen meeting within the AIS service area and they are recruiting AMIASs. An informational meeting is being held on October 28, 2023.

- ❖ AIS Syracuse, Kristi S. – No report submitted. Kristi shared that she is brand new to this position as are several others at the AIS.
- ❖ Fall Assembly Committee Chair, Ruth S. – Ruth reported that the Assembly will be held in five weeks, September 29 through October 1, 2023, at the Embassy Suites at Carrier Circle in Syracuse. Registration is now open; participants may register and pay online or can submit a paper registration form and check. There will be no large fundraiser, but there is a quilt raffle that Arlene K., Trusted Servant, displayed. Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. Please distribute the flyer to groups. There will also be raffle baskets and a 50/50 raffle. Lunch and a banquet are available at an additional expense and reservations must be made by September 9, 2023. Walk-in registration is available, but lunch and the banquet will no longer be available at that time. Kathi D., Delegate, inquired if people can get raffle tickets for the quilt at the Syracuse AIS. Ruth responded that she can make that available. Kathi D. noted that the online registration form did not allow her to select a lunch option. Ruth stated that a link is included to pick the lunch option. Cindy E., 01DR, inquired if districts are required to bring a raffle basket. Ruth responded that they can. Carol C., Chair, also noted that groups can donate a raffle basket. Connie H., 10DR, asked if the 8:00AM AWSC meeting will be in person only. Carol C. responded yes. Cathy W., Secretary, inquired if volunteers are needed. Ruth S. stated that no volunteers are needed for the hospitality room, but they are needed for registration. She added that food donations must be only pre-packaged foods and that only bottled water will be available. Groups can also donate money. Fresh fruit is not permitted. Participants may bring whatever they want with them. Rooms will have a microwave and small refrigerator. Walt S. commented that he seldom hears Alateen announced in meetings in an effort to help promote Alateen within the groups.
- ❖ Finance Committee, Betty G.M. – Betty will prepare a report to be posted online. She reported the following:
 - An accountant provided guidelines regarding what financial information to keep in the archives. These guidelines will be used to write a policy.
 - Electronic payments are now available online. There is also the ability to move specific donations between accounts (Convention, NYNAC, etc.).
 - Scholarships for Assemblies – NYN has a reserve account that reflects a full year's budget (\$20,000). Scholarships are not currently in the budget.
 - An annual report for contributions is being prepared. Several letters, based on the size of the group and their giving history, will be mailed to the groups. Those groups who have given will be recognized. The letters will go out by the end of September.
 - The 2024 budget was presented at the Spring Assembly and will be approved at the Fall Assembly.

There was additional discussion about scholarships for GRs to attend the Assembly.

Cerise H., 10DR, noted that a group in her district takes a separate collection for money to send their GR to the Assembly. Betty G.M., Treasurer, commented that this should be a part of the group's budget. She recognized that this can be a big lift for some groups.

Jim M., Conventions Coordinator, noted that there is a line in his district budget to help GRs. He added that he has a problem with this at the NYN level. His preference is to have districts and groups do fundraisers to help raise money for this, not NYN. He also noted that under Tradition 7, groups are self-supporting through their own contributions.

Kathi D., Delegate, pointed out that fundraisers cannot be earmarked for scholarships; it can be included in the budget.

- ❖ Thought Force for Assembly Format, Betty G.M. – An initial and one other meeting have been held to clarify the charge of the Thought Force and identify reasons why people do not come to Assemblies. A model for multi-site virtual meetings was also reviewed. Betty noted that this Thought Force has a lot of work to do. Brenda L., 25DR, shared the reasons identified for why people don't attend Assemblies: cost, travel time, declining membership and number of groups, lack

of understanding of the links of service, and missing district links. Possible solutions include: multi-site virtual meetings and promoting carpooling and room sharing. There is no recommendation to share at this time as the Thought Force is just beginning its work.

- ❖ Electronic Meetings Task Force – nothing to report. Kathi D., Delegate, noted that information will be presented at the Assembly to get more people involved with this task force going forward. Carol C., Chair, noted that this task force was formed to discuss and work out the details regarding accepting permanent electronic groups into the NYN Area.

Discussion Items/Presentations

- ❖ 2024 Spring Assembly – Virtually or Hybrid District Hosts – Carol C., Chair, asked if there was time to plan an in-person Spring Assembly/Convention and if any districts have stepped up to host. Jim M., Conventions Coordinator, commented that he believes there would be time to do a hybrid Assembly at the facility in Fayetteville, NY (same as Fall Assembly 2022). He noted his preference for a hybrid Assembly but is also okay with virtual. Carol noted that historically, the AWSC meeting is on Friday night; perhaps a meet and greet could be hosted before or after the AWSC meeting. The new GR meeting is held electronically the Thursday before the Assembly. The meeting on Saturday is the Chair's responsibility. There is also a Sunday spirituality panel with three speakers. The district host takes on the responsibility to organize the ice breaker/meet and greet and the Sunday spirituality speakers. There was no host for the 2023 Spring Assembly, so there was only the AWSC meeting and the Assembly meeting, but no ice breaker/meet and greet or spirituality speakers. Carol expressed concern that NYN is getting away from the historical format. She noted that an in-person meeting is more involved and more time is needed for planning. The cost is also more expensive. She stated that if no one steps forward for Spring 2024, it will be a virtual only meeting. Jim M. commented that Ruth S. and her committee have done a great job planning the Fall Assembly. He likes an in-person component. He stated that if this upcoming Fall Assembly goes well, it may be incentive for future in-person Assemblies. He does not want to give up on in-person meetings. He suggests either in-person or hybrid meetings. Ruth S., Past Delegate and Chair of 2023 Fall Assembly Committee, stated that in-person meetings are so important. There is the meeting in the car on the way to and from the Assembly, sharing in the hotel rooms, etc. It is so much more than just the business of the Assembly. However, it is a lot of work. She also noted that Spring includes a Convention, a weekend of fellowship, meetings, and exposure to service. Ruth stated that she does not think there is enough time to plan an in-person Spring Assembly which typically takes two years to plan. Her committee started planning the upcoming Fall Assembly one year ago. Mary D., AAPP, agreed that personal contact is so important. It also helps with the cost and filling the required number of rooms at the hotel. Cindy E., 01DR, stated that she is a new DR, but has been a GR and a DR in the past. She has helped host an Assembly two or three times and agreed that it is a lot of work. She likes a more central location for the Assembly. She also appreciates the fellowship, friendships, and camaraderie, especially important for new GRs. She suggested one virtual and one in-person Assembly each year. Maria S., Archives, echoed the value of in-person meetings, adding that it helps any member learn more about the Area because they don't understand the function of NYN. She also likes the idea of one virtual and one in-person Assembly each year. Maria noted that if the 2024 Fall Assembly is held in Syracuse, the Syracuse districts don't need to be expected to host. Carol asked if anyone was willing to plan the spiritual panel for Sunday for Spring 2024. She suggested planning for a hybrid 2024 Fall Assembly and by that time, there may be momentum for an in-person 2025 Spring Assembly. Mary D. noted that if the meeting is completely virtual, there is no opportunity for the Convention component. Ruth noted that according to NYN guidelines and policies and procedures, the Convention component is totally separate from the Assembly business and is a stand-alone time of fellowship and activities. When the Assembly has been held virtually, the Convention has fallen by the wayside. Perhaps the Convention could be added to the Fall

Assembly. Kathi D., Delegate, suggested adding this to the agenda for the Fall Assembly to vote on how the Area will hold the Spring Assembly/Convention and if no one hosts, it will have to be virtual. She encouraged everyone to go back and share this information with the groups and hopefully, someone will step up at the Assembly. Martha, 24DR, stated that hers is a small district and hosted a Spring Assembly/Convention with another district which made it much easier. Carol commented that the Area might only be able to do virtual meetings until there are more members to step up to help. Brenda L., 25DR, inquired how long it took to plan the 2023 Fall Assembly hybrid meeting. Jim responded that there were three districts that hosted the Assembly and they split up the responsibilities. They were able to put it together fairly quickly. The most complicated task was securing the hotel rooms for the Trusted Servants. He noted it was like an extended Day of Sharing. He noted it would be possible to have other meetings (Convention) during the Assembly business meeting. He added that the guidelines are very helpful and there are many people who have hosted before that would be willing to help. He also noted that it is a lot of fun. Carol stated that this item will be added to the agenda for the Assembly. She again asked for everyone to take back to their districts and groups the request for help in setting up a Sunday panel of spirituality speakers for the 2024 Spring Assembly.

Agenda for Fall Assembly

Carol C., Chair, reviewed the agenda for the Assembly and noted the following:

- ❖ 2024 Budget
- ❖ WSO Contribution
- ❖ Elections
- ❖ 2024 Spring Assembly
- ❖ 2024 Road Trip Application
- ❖ Donation to Maui

Kathi D., Delegate, provided additional information about the Road Trip. WSO has posted an RFP with the requirements (hotels, airport, etc.). The Area identifies the location and submits the application. WSO selects the winner by a random draw and handles all of the logistics. The Trustees meet on Saturday with AI-Anon members and share about the structure of AI-Anon and how the Traditions work with the legal part of the fellowship. If selected, the Area will be part of a welcome committee and will be required to get the word out to the members. WSO requires at least 100 participants. There were well over 200 that attended in Ohio. Kathi noted that she doesn't think there will be a problem with attendance if everyone promotes the event. NYN has submitted an application in the past and Kathi will ensure that the previous hotels listed will meet the need. Carol C., Chair, noted that Syracuse was selected because of the airport and number of available hotels.

There was a roll call at 12:05PM. There were 21 voting members. Substantial unanimity is 14.

Molly C., Immediate Past Delegate, made a motion that NYN Area submit an application for the 2024 Road Trip. The motion was seconded by Ruth S., Past Delegate. The motion passed with 20 votes in favor and one abstention.

Carol C., Chair, opened discussion regarding adding a contribution to Maui to the Fall Assembly agenda. Kathi D., Delegate, stated that she would like the Assembly to decide on the amount of the contribution. Maggie G., AIS Rochester, inquired if this fit with Tradition 7. She stated that there are natural disasters everywhere. She inquired how the Area can pick this one and not others. Kathi D. responded that in the past, Areas have shown support for other Areas experiencing natural disasters. Her personal opinion is to contribute CAL and not money. Groups can also contribute. Brenda L., 25DR inquired how big an Area

they are. Kathi responded that the district is the whole island of Maui and their AIS. Ruth S., Past Delegate, stated that Panel 52 (2012-2014) contributed literature to help NY South who was affected by Hurricane Sandy. She also stated that she interprets Tradition 7 to be within the Al-Anon fellowship. Jim M., Conventions Coordinator, shared that NYN also contributed to District 10 when severe flooding caused the loss of all the literature in the LDC and also helped with Hurricane Ida in the South. Cerise H., 10DR, inquired if the contribution was CAL or also money. She noted that when someone has lost everything, a financial contribution is helpful. Ruth responded that the Area provided CAL because that would allow them to focus on other things. Kathi D. noted that individuals have other resources they can donate, but this is an outside issue. For NYN, Kathi suggested helping the Maui literature depot. Carol inquired how a donation of CAL is made. Kathie suggested placing the order and having it shipped to the address provided. Kathi D., Delegate, made a motion to add to the Fall Assembly agenda to discuss the possibility of a contribution to the Maui AIS office in the form of CAL literature. The motion was seconded by Cerise H., 10DR. The motion passed with 19 votes in favor and one abstention. It was noted that one voting member, Laura L., 29DR, left the meeting prior to the vote.

Jim M., Conventions Coordinator, noted that for the Elections Assembly, that the elections have sometimes been moved to the morning session and continued into the afternoon because they may take a lot of time. He offered this as something to consider for the agenda for the upcoming Fall Elections Assembly.

Additional Items

Pat H., District 29, announced that there will be a Day of Sharing on October 21, 2023 in Victor from 12:30PM to 3:00PM. The theme is "A Little Time for Ourselves."

Mary S., District 12, announced that AIS in Western New York is participating in the AA Convention on November 6-8, 2023 and there will be an Al-Anon speaker on Saturday.

Cathy W., District 15, announced that there will be a Day of Sharing on October 21, 2023 from 9:30AM to 12:00PM. The theme is "Keep It Simple."

Kathleen L., District 17, announced that there will be a Day of Sharing on October 14, 2023 in Randolph. It starts at 8:30AM and the theme is "Steps to a Better You."

David N., Newsletter Coordinator, requested that flyers for Days of Sharing be sent to him to include in the newsletter.

Adjournment

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34PM upon a motion by Betty G.M., Treasurer, and seconded by Mary D., AAPP. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy W.
NYN Secretary

NYN AWSC ROLL CALL

Date: 8/26/2023

	Time: 9:02AM	Time: 12:05PM	Time:
Position	Number: 11	Number: 11	Number:
Coordinators:			
Alateen	Mary S. (see also DR)	Mary S. (see also DR)	
AAPP	Mary D.	Mary D.	
Archives	Maria S.	Maria S.	
Convention	Jim M. (see also DR)	Jim M. (see also DR)	
Business E-Meeting	Mike R. (see also DR)	Mike R. (see also DR)	
Group Records	Joan L.	Joan L.	
Literature			
Newsletter		David N.	
NYNAC	Leslie C.	Leslie C.	
Presentation			
Public Outreach			
Web			
Officers:			
Delegate	Kathi D.	Kathi D.	
Alternate Delegate			
Immed. Past Delegate	Molly C.	Molly C.	
Secretary	Cathy W.	Cathy W.	
Treasurer	Betty G.M. (see also DR)		
Chairperson	Carol C.	Carol C.	
Past Delegates	Ruth S.	Ruth S.	
Past Trustees			
AIS Coordinators:			
Western New York			
Rochester	Maggie G.	Maggie G.	
Syracuse	Kristi S.		

Others:

Pat H. – Trusted Servant
 Arlene K. – Trusted Servant
 Ellen V. – Trusted Servant

NYN ROLL CALL

DRs X GRs
 Date: 8-26-2022

	Time: 9:02AM	Time: 12:05PM	Time:
01	Cindy E.	Cindy E.	
02	Cathy W.	--	
03	--	--	
04	--	--	
05	--	--	
06	Connie W.	--	
07	--	--	
08	--	--	
09	--	--	
10	Cherise H.	Cherise H.	
11	--	--	
12	Mary S.	Mary S.	
13	--	--	
14	--	--	
15	Walt S.	Walt S.	
17	Kathleen L.	Kathleen L.	
18	Jim M.	Jim M.	
19	--	--	
20	--	--	
21	--	--	
22	--	--	
23	Betty G.M.	--	
24	Martha	Martha	
25	Brenda L.	Brenda L.	
26	Mike R.	Mike R.	
27	--	--	
28	--	--	
29	Laura L.	Laura L.	
TOTAL	13	10	