

**Winter AWSC Meeting
March 18, 2023**

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 Mary D. The Concepts and Warranties were read by Kathi D.

Welcome and Informational Items/Zoom Protocol

Carol C. 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 17 total voting members. The vote for substantial unanimity was as follows: 2/3 – 15 votes, 3/4 – 2 votes. Substantial unanimity will be 12 votes.

Reports

Secretary's Report

Cathy W. read the minutes from the September, 2022 AWSC meeting. Requested edits include 1) removing the d from Reserved in the third bullet under the Treasurer's Report on page one, 2) changing the amount to \$18,500 in the second bullet under the Agenda for Fall Assembly section on the second page, and 3) removing Coordinator from Mary D., AAPP's title at the bottom of page two. Maria S. motioned to approve the minutes as corrected; the motion was seconded by Pat H. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Betty G.M. reported the following:

- ❖ Financial reports are sent monthly to the Officers.
- ❖ The balance in the primary checking account is \$13,841.60 as of February 28, 2023.
- ❖ In 2022, expenses totaled \$11,713.92, the bulk of which was in October and November and related to the Assembly and the Delegate's expenses. Income from contributions totaled \$7,562.17. Income from the Fall Assembly registrations was \$1,481.50.
- ❖ The cost to mail the Northern Hi Lights was \$477.00 (paper, ink, postage) and income received for the newsletter was \$155.00 (charge is \$11.00 per copy). Dave N. noted that he mails 48 to 50 copies, adding that a previous Newsletter Coordinator charged \$1.00 per copy. If everyone paid \$11.00, there would be enough revenue to cover the expenses. However, it is a suggested donation and not everyone pays \$11.00. Kathi D. noted that the newsletter is outreach and Dave supports this position. Mary D. inquired if those receiving a hard copy have been asked recently if they want to continue receiving a hard copy.
- ❖ The total 2022 budget was \$18,500.00.
- ❖ The 2023 budget is \$20,000.00. Three months into the new budget year, total income is \$1,606.60 and expenses are \$1,406.01. It was noted that the Delegate Personal expense of \$204.01 was from 2022.

Kathi D. inquired if there was a budgeted/projected amount for contributions and Betty responded that amount is estimated by looking at contributions from the previous year. In 2022, the budgeted amount for donations was \$8,000.00. Kathi suggested this be included on the report for comparative reasons.

Betty noted that matter regarding a second signature for checks will be on the agenda for the Spring Assembly. She noted the current rule is not functional.

Brenda L. motioned to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; the motion was seconded by Maria S. The motion passed unanimously.

Delegate's Report

Kathi D. presented her report which is posted on the website. Her report included the following topics:

- ❖ Finance Update – contributions in 2022 exceeded budgeted expectations; ended the year with a small deficit.
- ❖ 2023 Al-Anon International Convention – June 29, 2023 – July 2, 2023 in Albuquerque, NM.
- ❖ Road Trip – California South on October 28, 2023.
- ❖ Electronic Meetings – pilot in 2021 to explore the feasibility of Alateen electronic groups; form to transfer to electronic groups; meeting search updated; new guide for electronic groups.
- ❖ Regional Trustee – has been empty for one year; reviewed qualifications; term is 2025-2028.
- ❖ Chosen Agenda Item – due on March 24, 2023 for the 2023 World Service Conference.
- ❖ Area Task Force on Accepting Permanent Electronic Groups – Kathi will convene a task force to start developing policies and procedures.
- ❖ 2023 World Service Conference – April 20-23, 2023; no packages permitted this year.
- ❖ Forum – sharings of 200 to 400 words are being accepted.
- ❖ AWSC Roster – email changes to delegate@nynafg.com; updated roster will be emailed on March 24, 2023.
- ❖ Delegate Chat – held monthly on the first Sunday of month from 1:00PM to 1:30PM and the first Thursday of the month from 7:00PM to 7:30PM; link is posted on the Events Calendar.

Kathi responded to the following questions:

Molly C. inquired if the virtual ticket to the International conference will allow people to view all sessions after they are held or are they only live? Kathi will check. Kathi noted that people have talked about hosting watch parties and this is permissible, but all participants should register. Kathi also noted that there was some concern about the price being high, but this is the first time this virtual option is being offered and there are expenses related to technology and bringing in outside personnel to help that need to be taken into account.

Coordinator Reports

Reports from the various coordinators were provided online except where indicated.

- ❖ Alateen – Mary S. notes she facilitates a monthly meeting with AMIASs and is available to speak at groups and other Al-Anon meetings.
- ❖ AAPP – Mary D. reported that there are two new AMIASs and 10 of the 11 groups are certified; 6 of the 56 AMIASs have declined to recertify; there are 9 remaining that need to be certified.
- ❖ Immediate Past Delegate – the new GR meeting will be held on May 18, 2023.
- ❖ Archives – Maria S. reported that 250 documents are now posted online in the Area Information/ NYN Archives section; a task force continues to meet monthly; she noted that because it is a public website, last names should not be used. The documents are PDF and Kathi D. will ensure permissions do not require users to use a Gmail account or Google Docs.

- ❖ Conventions – the Spring Assembly will be all virtual; the Fall Elections Assembly will be held on September 29, 2023 through October 1, 2023, at the Embassy Suites Carrier Circle. Volunteers are needed for the 2024 Spring and Fall assemblies.
- ❖ E-Meeting – Mike R. continues to host Zoom meetings for NYN and District 26.
- ❖ Group Records – Joan L. urged groups to continue to update their listings and thanked the DRs for their assistance with this. Kathi D. noted that groups need to be careful, when naming their group, to not affiliate themselves with outside entities and that names have to be approved by the WSO.
- ❖ Literature – Diane C. reported that the new Service Manual is available for \$11.00; a new daily reader, “A Little Time for Myself,” will be introduced at the International Convention.
- ❖ NYNAC (no report available online) – Leslie C. reported that the seed money is insufficient to cover the downpayment for the contract with Casowasco. There have only been a few commitments. Leslie noted it was helpful to have a fundraiser. Betty G.M. inquired if there were other location options. Leslie responded that she has looked at others, but they don’t offer an overnight option. Leslie also noted that there have been a number of teens that have aged out and no new teens coming in. There were only eight teens that attended NYNAC last year. When asked about requiring teens to make a deposit, Leslie responded that most pay when they arrive and getting parents to submit their registration ahead of time is nearly impossible.
- ❖ Web – Ellen V. participates in the AFG Connects for Web Coordinators. Maria S. inquired if there is a plan to make the website a trusted site. Kathi D. replied that there is and she is working on this on the back end of the website. Carol C. added that this needs to be in place before being able to accept online payments.
- ❖ Newsletter – Dave N. has incorporated some format changes to the newsletter and he is trying to reduce the number of pages; there will be discussion about an online newsletter.
- ❖ Rochester AIS – Pat H. reported that AIS has a new website and there are two Zoom accounts that are available to the region; the Outreach Committee is active and strong and the Alateen meetings is going well.
- ❖ Finance Policies Task Force – Carol C. noted that the Assembly voted to increase the equipment line and to allow Officers/Coordinators to make decisions about these purchases. The task force has completed their work.

There was a break from 11:02AM until 11:16AM.

- ❖ Treasurer – Betty G.M. noted two additional items: 1) a PayPal account was created that connects directly to the checking account; 2) there will be a voting item at the Spring Assembly to eliminate the requirement for a second signature.
- ❖ Job Descriptions – Carol C. reported that she has been meeting with Officers and Coordinators to update the job descriptions and will move them forward for approval at the Spring Assembly.

Discussion Items/Presentations

- ❖ Job Description Updates – Carol C. thoroughly reviewed the updates, additions, and deletions to the job descriptions, with new content in blue and yellow highlighted text representing recommended omissions. These descriptions will be reviewed at the Spring Assembly so that they will be ready for the Fall Elections Assembly. Carol noted the following items that require further discussion or action:
 - Secretary Job Description: It was noted that motion forms for electronic meetings needs to be discussed. It was also noted that approved meeting minutes have not routinely been posted on the website, so this will be corrected moving forward.
 - Literature – There is no process in place to address the third and fourth bullets; Diane C. is working on this.

- Web Coordinator – It was noted that the Web Technician is a position appointed by the Web Coordinator. Kathi D. fills that position now. It was noted that some Areas hire someone for this position. Betty G.M. noted that this is a skill that the Area can't always count on someone having in the Area.
- ❖ 2023 Spring Assembly – will be held virtually as cost was prohibitive (rooms \$199 per night). The Fall Elections Assembly will be in person.
- ❖ 2024 Spring Assembly Host – Carol C. reported that there is a thought force that is discussing the Assembly format. They suggested an in-person convention per year and the rest of the meetings would be virtual. Kathi D. suggested an in-person Spring Assembly and Convention which would be hosted around the state and a virtual Fall Assembly. When asked about hybrid meetings, Carol responded that this still needs to be resolved. Pat H. suggested that the Fall Assembly might put the Area in a better position to decide what to do moving forward. Maria S. suggested finding a place with lower hotel rates and then find a District nearby to host. She also noted that there are several Districts without a DR and groups may not be getting the message about the importance of attending the assemblies. She suggested focusing on getting more DRs and GRs. Jim M. commented that the local groups are struggling to get people to show back up at meetings and many are much smaller than they were pre-pandemic. He also suggested that the time of the year may be prohibitive as there are a lot of local events (i.e., graduations) that take hotel rooms; perhaps the Area should consider having the Spring Assembly at a different time of the year. Betty G.M. questioned if there would be enough people to have an in-person event. Laura L. suggested considering a central location and a one-day event to limit travel and eliminate the overnight. Diane C. noted that the Spring Assembly with a Convention increases the number of people attending which may help keep the costs down. She also noted that she feels there are too many unanswered questions to make a decision at this time. Carol noted that the recommendation of the task force for the Spring Assembly was to have the business portion be done online so that everyone would be free to attend the Convention portion, and then the Fall Assembly would be online. Pat H. inquired if a contract was signed for the Fall Assembly. Diane C. responded that a \$500 deposit was paid and that the rooms are suites with two doubles or one queen and a pull-out couch. The fee includes breakfast and a snack package. She also noted that the committee is working on a fundraiser. Mary D. expressed her opinion that the days of having 75 people attending in person are gone. Carol noted that it seems that the consensus is that the group is not ready to consider an in-person event for Spring 2024 and that the Area needs to build back up the groups and Districts. Kathi D. noted that there may be some Districts that are ready to host in person and if the Area says no, it takes this off the table for them. Mary S. suggested bringing this issue to the GRs at the Assembly. Diane C. stressed the unity of AI-Anon, adding that the more people stay apart, the further apart they feel. Kathi D. made a motion to add to the agenda for the Spring Assembly to seek a District to host the 2024 Spring Assembly and Convention; the motion was seconded by Molly C. The motion passed with 17 yes votes, 1 no votes, and 1 abstention. After the vote, Jim M. noted that he can check to see if Dwyer Hall (Fayetteville) is available for Spring 2024. Betty G.M. noted that although she wants to be able to meet in person, she doubts there will be enough people that will attend and suggested that perhaps NYN could provide a subsidy.
- ❖ Nominating Committee for the Fall Assembly – Carol C. noted that someone suggested a nominating committee to ensure that people will stand for the various positions at the Fall Assembly. Pat H. inquired about the responsibilities of the committee and Carol responded that she is not sure yet. She stated that the committee could brainstorm ideas about the best way to get people to stand. The objective is to think about who we know, share the job description, and ask them to show up at the meeting. This could be done in person, by email, or by any means possible. Molly C. shared her experience that she never volunteered; she was always invited. Diane C. inquired if the Delegates have discussed this or have any ideas. Kathi D. will share information with Carol to distribute. Carol

also noted that she may bring this topic to the Officers and Coordinators meeting for further discussion. Joan L. commented that it is important to let people know that the positions will be available come this fall. She offered to do this and Kathi D. suggested using the links of service to get the message out (DRs share with GRs who share with their groups).

- ❖ Trustee Applications – Kathi D. covered this in the Delegate’s report.
- ❖ Presentation Topic: Service – Carol C. noted that someone would be needed to present this topic at the Assembly. Brenda L. asked for clarification and Carol responded that when putting together the program for the Assembly, there is typically a presentation. Because the Spring Assembly will be virtual, she wonders if people want a presentation. Kathi D. noted that there was a very engaging skit at the Cleveland Road Show entitled, “Service Recharges Your Batteries.” She feels it would be beneficial to include at the Assembly. Carol will connect with Kathi about the skit. Brenda noted that her District wanted a Day of Sharing but was unable to get it together. Instead, they had a fellowship event where people could be together face to face. She feels more focus needs to be on getting people to attend meetings.

Agenda for Spring Assembly

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

- ❖ Discussion of 2024 Spring Assembly and Convention
- ❖ Job Description Updates
- ❖ Nominating Committee for the Fall Elections
- ❖ Trustee Applications (if any are submitted)
- ❖ Second Signature

District Updates

- ❖ Mary S. – an in-person Day of Sharing in the Buffalo area is scheduled for April 22, 2023. Eleven groups are planning the event and one is celebrating its 10th anniversary.
- ❖ Mary D. – an in-person Day of Sharing in Dryden is scheduled for April 22, 2023 hosted by District 10.
- ❖ Brenda L. – an event is scheduled in District 25 for April 15, 2023.
- ❖ Molly C. shared that it is a tradition to do a skit in the last year of the panel at the Fall Assembly. She has a 10-minute skit in mind and will share it with the Officers and Coordinators at the Spring Assembly. Please contact Molly if interested in participating.
- ❖ Diane C. – The International Convention includes a Love Parade and each Area is represented by one person. She inquired who is participating for NYN. Carol C. offered to follow up on this.

Adjournment

Mary D. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:03PM; the motion was seconded by Molly C. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was closed with the AI-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy W.
NYN Secretary

NYN AWSC ROLL CALL

Date: 3/18/2023

	Time: 9:14AM	Time: 11:56AM	Time:
Position	Number: 10	Number: 10	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	Diane C.	Diane C.	
Newsletter	David N.	David N.	
NYNAC	Leslie C.	Leslie C.	
Presentation			
Public Outreach			
Web	Ellen V. (see also DR)	Ellen V. (see also DR)	
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)	Betty G.M. (see also DR)	
Chairperson	Carol C.	Carol C.	
Past Delegates	Diane C., Molly C., Connie D.	Diane C., Molly C., Connie D.	
Past Trustees			
AIS Coordinators:			
Western New York			
Rochester	Pat H. (see also DR)	Pat H. (see also DR)	
Syracuse			

NYN ROLL CALL

DRs X GRs
 Date: 3-18-2023

	Time: 7:50PM	Time: 11:56AM	Time:
01	--	--	
02	Ellen V.	Ellen V.	
03	--	--	
04	--	--	
05	--	--	
06	--	--	
07	--	--	
08	--	--	
09	--	--	
10	--	--	
11	--	--	
12	Mary S.	Mary S.	
13	--	--	
14	Pat H.	Pat H.	
15	--	--	
17	--	--	
18	Jim M.	Jim M.	
19	--	--	
20	--	--	
21	--	--	
22	--	Sue O.	
23	Betty G.M.	Betty G.M.	
24	--	--	
25	Brenda L.	Brenda L.	
26	Mike R.	Mike R.	
27	--	--	
28	--	--	
29	--	Laura L.	
TOTAL	7	9	