

**New York North Area Assembly – Panel 61
Fall Assembly Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2023**

Opening

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

Carol C., Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:25AM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by David N., Newsletter Coordinator, and the Concepts and Warranties were read by Maggie E., AIS Rochester.

Welcome and Informational Items

Carol welcomed all participants to the Assembly and in particular, the new GRs (14 in attendance). She noted that only GRs will vote on the voting items later in the agenda. Carol reviewed the meeting etiquette information and voting procedures.

Roll Call/Vote on Substantial Unanimity

See attached record for the roll call. There were 48 voting members. The vote for substantial unanimity favored 2/3. Substantial unanimity was set at 32 votes.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was requested for Connie D., former Delegate, who passed away recently, and for others in the fellowship who are no longer with us.

Agenda

Secretary's Report

Cathy W., Secretary, read the minutes from the May 20, 2023 Spring Assembly. There were two corrections requested on page two and page three.

Maggie E., GR25, made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; the motion was seconded by Walt S., GR15. The motion was approved unanimously with 48 votes.

Treasurer's Report

Financial statements through August 31, 2023 were posted on the NYN website. Betty G.M., Treasurer, reviewed the statements and noted the following:

- ❖ Income was \$5,673.79.
- ❖ Expenses were \$2,647.32. The Assembly is the biggest expense and will be posted in October.
- ❖ Total funds available from all three accounts is \$33,643.51. A number of years ago, a member donated money to NYN and it sits in the Sage Mutual Fund with a balance of \$2,581,78.
- ❖ There was a correction from the statements presented in May; there was an expense in January that was from 2022.
- ❖ NYN has a Pay Pal account now that gives the capacity to accept electronic donations and registration fees.
- ❖ The appeal letter that was planned to be sent to all groups was postponed as were the updates to the finance policies.

Laura D., GR10, made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; the motion was seconded by Cindy E., GR01. The motion was approved, with 47 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

Delegate's Report

Kathi D., Delegate, gave a presentation (slides and report are posted on the NYN website) with updates on the following topics:

- ❖ The World Service Conference (WSC) structure
- ❖ Chair of the Board updates including literature, the International Convention, and Alateen Feasibility Study
- ❖ NYN Contributions to WSO – 110 of the 227 (48%) NYN groups have donated to WSO at least once this year; 89% of Districts had groups that donated; WSO spends \$321.25 per group per year; the average group contribution was \$89.55.
- ❖ 2024 Road Trip Application – NYN submitted an application; if selected, the Area's responsibility is to ensure 100 people attend.
- ❖ Electronic Meetings Task Force – how to incorporate electronic meetings into the Area service structure; if not in the Area, would be in the Global Electronic Area (GEA); will review what other Areas have done and bring back to the Assembly for a vote.
- ❖ Memorial Contribution – Connie D, Delegate of Panel 43, recently passed away; her contributions were far-reaching; will propose a contribution to WSO in her honor later in the meeting.
- ❖ Delegate Chat – the first Sunday of the month at 1:00PM and the first Thursday of the month at 7:00PM; see Events Calendar on the NYN webpage for more information.

Kathi responded to the following questions:

Brenda L., GR25, inquired about the Public Outreach Toolkit. Kathi responded that it provides ideas for doing public outreach from 13 various Districts and Areas.

Stevan, GR29, inquired if electronic groups are included in the 227 groups in the Area. Kathi responded that if they are new electronic meetings, they are in the GEA; if they were pre-pandemic face-to-face meetings and then went to virtual meetings, they are in NYN.

Reports from Coordinators, AIS Representatives, Committees, and Task Forces

- ❖ Immediate Past Delegate, Molly C. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Molly recognized the work of the Panel in adjusting to the challenges caused by the pandemic. New GR packets are available. Molly is gathering materials for a new DR packet.
- ❖ Alateen Coordinator, Mary S. – The report has been posted on the NYN website.
- ❖ Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP), Mary D. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Mary noted that recent WSO changes has made the process easier.
- ❖ Archives Coordinator, Maria S. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Maria thanked the task force who helped to scan 24 boxes of materials. There are only eight boxes of permanent files remaining.
- ❖ Business E-Meeting Host Coordinator, Mike R. – The report has been posted on the NYN website.
- ❖ Conventions Coordinator, Jim M. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Jim thanked Ruth S. and her committee for putting on this Assembly, noting that 75 people registered to attend. Hosts will be needed moving forward.
- ❖ Group Records Coordinator, Joan L. – The report has been posted on the NYN website.

- ❖ Newsletter Coordinator, David N. – David noted that a committee was formed to discuss the purpose and format of the newsletter and their work will move forward with the next panel.
- ❖ NYNAC – Walt S., D15, provided a report for Leslie C., NYNAC Coordinator, who was unable to attend the meeting. The report has been posted on the NYN website. Walt reported that the number of teens attending meetings has dropped, so unless there is an increase, NYNAC may need to be cancelled. The cost is \$155 per person and a donation was received for the t-shirts. Jim M., Conventions Coordinator, inquired if there was anything the members can do to encourage young people to attend Alateen. Walt responded that announcing Alateen meetings, especially to newcomers, is very important. Mary S., Alateen Coordinator, noted that more groups are also needed, adding that it is a deterrent when meetings are so far away from the teens that need them. When asked if anyone at WSO knows of Areas that are succeeding with Alateen, Mary S. shared that there is an Alateen Coordinators meeting monthly and all Areas are facing the same challenges, adding that NYN is better than some.
- ❖ Website Coordinator, Ellen V. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Ellen commented that the NYN website needs to be welcoming and pleasing and she is hopeful that it will be improved in the next panel.
- ❖ AIS Rochester, Maggie G. – The report has been posted on the NYN website. Maggie reported that AIS has an active outreach committee and is hosting an Alateen interest meeting on October 28, 2023 at 1:00PM via Zoom.
- ❖ Task Force for Assemblies – a proposal will be shared later in the meeting,

Discussion and Voting Items

1. 2024 Budget

Betty G.M., Treasurer, reported that she works with a Finance Committee. For the 2024 budget, most items carried over from 2023. She noted the following changes:

- ❖ Seed money for the Fall Assembly will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
- ❖ Seed money for the Spring Assembly was not included in 2023 and is budgeted for \$1,500 for 2024.
- ❖ Seed money for NYNAC is budgeted once per panel, so will be budgeted for \$1,500 for 2024.
- ❖ Website Design has been increased from \$200 to \$500. Ellen V., Website Coordinator, noted that she has received one proposal in the amount of \$800, but is seeking more proposals. She suggested that the amount be increased. Kathi D., Delegate, noted that this has been on NYN's to do list for a decade and will require hiring someone who has the time to dedicate to it. Maria S., Archives Coordinator, noted that the Albany area updated their website recently and the cost was closer to \$2,000. Cindy E., GR01, noted that Western NY had two quotes for \$5,000. Brenda L., D25, inquired about the ability to offset the expense when donations are down. Betty G.M. noted that NYN receives \$8,000 in donations each year. Joanne H., GR10, asked about the goal of the website. Kathi D. noted that the goal is to put in a content management system and to take the current content and put it into a format that is easier to navigate. The newest version of code will be used and it will be mobile responsive and web-accessible to all, which it is not currently. Stevan, GR29, inquired about whether the budget is only approved once per year and what happens regarding overages. He suggested deciding and approving an amount and then the Assembly could re-approve the line item if needed. Lisa M., GR19, made a motion to increase the Website Design line to \$2,000 and to approve the remaining budget as presented. Lynne W., GR09, seconded the motion. The motion passed with 46 votes in favor, one vote opposed, and

two abstentions. When asked if anyone wanted to provide a minority report, no one wished to do so.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:06PM and was called back to order at 1:06PM.

2. Format for Future Assemblies and Conventions

Carol C., Chair, reported that a Task Force was created to help guide the Area in deciding how to move forward with Assemblies and Conventions. The Area has traditionally made money when there was a convention attached to the Assembly. This panel has had a lot of discussion about the format for Assemblies and as this panel is coming to an end, wants to set a plan to move forward in the next panel. Betty G.M., Treasurer, shared the following proposal:

There are six meetings over the three-year panel. The proposal is to hold two in-person Assemblies and Conventions, two hybrid Assemblies, and two fully electronic Assemblies. If the first in-person Assembly and Convention is in Spring 2025, a committee will have 18 months of planning time. It is suggested to do this schedule on a trial basis and then reflect on how it is going in order to move forward. David N., Newsletter Coordinator, inquired about the thinking behind this proposal. Betty G.M. responded that because of the time it takes to plan, Spring 2025 would be the soonest for an in-person Assembly/Convention. The current budget includes the cost of travel and traveling less is fiscally prudent and reflects current reality. She also noted that there should be 227 GRs and the Area is not at the point yet. Jim M., Conventions Coordinator, inquired if the Assembly/Convention would still rotate around the Area. Betty G.M. responded that the Assembly/Convention could be anywhere in 2025, but the Election Assembly would be in Syracuse (according to the By-Laws). Carol C. commented that the proposed Assembly/Convention would be more program related which might attract more GRs who would now be able to participate in workshops. It was also suggested that a workshop for new GRs and DRs could be offered. She noted that this proposal would also give groups time to raise money to send their GRs to the Assembly/Convention. Cindy, GR01, inquired if the Election Assembly would also include a convention. Betty G.M. responded that it would be a blend of business and convention programming. Lisa, GR19, inquired about details regarding the venue for hybrid meetings. Betty G.M. responded that this format was hosted at a church in Syracuse last fall. The meeting was conducted all day and there was a computer set up to bring in members joining via Zoom. She noted that there would be more discussion about how the hybrid Assembly would work. Connie, GR06, inquired about how the Assemblies/Conventions would work for GRs. Carol C. responded that GRs would attend all Assemblies/Conventions. They would take part in all the business meetings, including important decisions, and for Assemblies with a convention, would be able to participate in workshops. During the Delegate's report, there would be no other workshops offered. Betty G.M. also noted that there might be an opportunity to bring in a national banquet speaker. Carol opened the floor for additional discussion.

- ❖ Ruth S., Past Delegate, Chair, and Convention Coordinator, commented that she is totally opposed to this proposal. She noted that there are 80 people registered for this Assembly and recent electronic meetings have not had that many participants. She also noted that it is more than a business meeting; there is sharing in the rooms, fellowship while traveling, seeing people from other Districts, and the opportunity to meet new people. She also noted that groups who pay for GRs to attend the Assembly should not be paying for fellowship. She stated that Areas can do Assemblies and a separate convention. She was more in favor of an in-person meeting with a Zoom option for those who just cannot attend in person. Ruth stated that the hardest part of planning an in-person Assembly is finding the hotel, but that it is possible to plan an Assembly in one year.

- ❖ Molly C., Immediate Past Delegate, shared there is a whole new technology smart generation coming up. Service is going down. Business meetings by Zoom is productive and allows for more frequent meetings. She is in support of a trial for two panels.
- ❖ Janet R., GR15, shared that times are changing and money is tight for everyone. People like electronic meetings and feels that the Area needs to be open minded and accept change.
- ❖ Kathy M., GR21, commended the Task Force for their hard work. Kathy was the secretary for the Assembly planning committee and stated that they met monthly and were able to put it together in a year. She stated that hybrid meetings can be hard (i.e., voting), but she is worried that the number of participants won't support the Task Force's proposal.
- ❖ Walt S., GR15, stated that he was the treasurer for the Assembly committee. While in Pennsylvania, he participated in an Area convention every June and it was a time for personal growth. Speakers were from out of state. Separating the Assembly and convention would allow for a full weekend of recovery.
- ❖ Kathi D., Delegate, noted that this issue is not unique to NYN. Change is hard and the members need to consider what is best for NYN and for the future of AI-Anon. She noted that she feels it is possible to have fellowship online. The struggle with service is a world-wide issue.
- ❖ Cindy, GR01, stated that her area did a fundraiser and raised \$6,000. She feels that a convention can raise money. She also noted that she does not think that the Area could conduct all of their business in a half day.
- ❖ Gwen R., GR22, likes the idea of both an Assembly/Convention and a separate convention. She is not sure that an Election Assembly/Convention would work.
- ❖ Vickie D., GR22, noted that this trial would provide the data the Area needs to see how the proposed schedule would work.
- ❖ Kelly, GR22, noted that an in-person Assembly is far more inspiring as is getting to meet people and see how service has improved their lives.
- ❖ Cathy W., GR02, participated on the task force. She noted that a lot of small groups are having trouble sending their GRs to an in-person Assembly; \$400 is a stretch for small groups. She noted that the proposed meeting schedule may not be forever, but it would get the Area over the hump.
- ❖ Wendy L., GR19, noted that according to the schedule, the two in-person Assemblies/Conventions are in Syracuse, but wonders if they are able to take this on.
- ❖ Gwen R., GR22, noted that elections take more than one hour. Carol noted that the Election Assembly would have more business and less program.
- ❖ Betty G.M., Treasurer, suggested approving but not reading minutes at the meetings to allow more time for reports and discussion.
- ❖ Kathi D., Delegate, noted that there was a question in the Ask It Basket about whether the by-laws require the reading of minutes. She noted that the guide states that minutes are read at all meetings. She also noted that the format of the minutes is up to the discretion of the Chair.
- ❖ Brenda L., GR25, stated that technology could be leveraged for non-Syracuse groups and districts to plan for the Assembly. She also noted that there is a heartbreaking gap of getting together less. She asked members to consider what districts, AISs, and groups are doing to encourage fellowship outside of this link of service.
- ❖ Michael N., GR15, suggested a NYN fellowship meeting every other year similar to a Day of Sharing.

Roll Call

See attached record of roll call taken at 2:03PM. There are 49 voting members and substantial unanimity was set at 32 votes.

Wendy L., GR19, made a motion that NYN, on a trial basis, follow the schedule for Assemblies and Conventions as presented by the Task Force for all of Panel 64 and reflect on how it is going in 2028, the second year of Panel 67. The motion was seconded by Pat H., GR14. The motion passed.

The meeting took a break at 2:00PM and was called back to order at 2:22PM.

Elections

Carol C., Chair, led the voting of a new panel. She noted that she grew a lot in her service position. When she was deciding about standing for Chair, someone shared with her that Higher Power does not call the prepared, He prepares the called. The following Officers and Coordinators were elected, all with unanimous votes:

- ❖ Delegate – Carol C.
- ❖ Alternate Delegate – Betty G.M.
- ❖ Chair – Ellen V.
- ❖ Treasurer – Cindy E., District 1
- ❖ Secretary – Kathy M., District 21
- ❖ Group Records – Connie C., District 19
- ❖ Web Coordinator – Laura L., District 29
- ❖ Alateen Coordinator – Kelly Z., District 22
- ❖ AAPP – Vickie D., District 22
- ❖ Archives Coordinator – Janet R., District 15
- ❖ Business E-Meeting Coordinator – Maggie G., District 25
- ❖ Convention Coordinator – Jim M., District 18
- ❖ Literature Coordinator – Renee S., District 10
- ❖ Newsletter Coordinator – Wendy L., District 19
- ❖ NYNAC Coordinator – Mary S., District 12
- ❖ Presentation Coordinator – Mike R., District 26
- ❖ Public Outreach Coordinator – Maria S., District 8

Discussion and Voting Items Continued

Contributions to WSO

1. A contribution in memory of Connie D., former Delegate, in gratitude for her service to NYN, is being presented for consideration. Carol C., Chair, noted that a separate donation, as the normal NYN contribution, will also be made. Janet R., GR15, inquired how much is available to donate. Betty G.M., Treasurer, noted that the total funds in all accounts is \$36,224.93. The 2024 budget just approved totals \$25,150. A prudent reserve of \$11,074 must be set aside. Betty noted that of the total budget of \$20,000 for 2023, only \$11,917 has been spent so far and she feels that the budget will not be fully expended. Cathy W., GR01, inquired if a donation like this has been made in the past. Kathi D., Delegate, noted that as far as she knows, this has not been done previously, but that doesn't mean it can't be done now. She noted that there was a regional trustee that passed away, but she did not serve the Area. She said this proposal is brought forward now because Connie D. gave so much to NYN. The family would be notified of the donation as an expression of gratitude for all that she gave to NYN. Jim M., Convention Coordinator, inquired if 10% of the proceeds from this Assembly could be given. Kathi D. responded that this amount is not known now. Betty G.M. noted

that this proposal is not about rank, adding that everyone is important. She suggested that people who knew her could give, but stated that it doesn't feel right to do this as a structure. Kathi D. noted that Connie went to the WSC for NYN and represented NYN at the WSC. Kim S., GR01, stated that this is a fellowship of equals and that singling someone out does not sit well with her. Janet R., GR15, stated that she is concerned that the Area is starting something that could be hurtful to people and could be considered an outside issue. She added that anyone can make a personal donation. David N., Newsletter Coordinator, stated that he feels it is a good idea and asked how much was proposed. Kathi D. responded that the suggested donation was \$100.

Kathy M., District 21, made a motion to send a memorial contribution to WSO in the amount of \$100 in gratitude of Connie D.'s service to NYN. The motion was seconded by Helen H., District 15. The following are the results of the closed ballot voting: 14 votes in favor, 29 votes opposed, and 5 abstentions. The vote did not pass.

2. NYN Contribution to WSO – NYN has not had a Spring Convention in three years. NYN typically donates 10% of the proceeds to WSO and it usually is between \$1,000 to \$1,500. Groups are also responsible to support WSO. While the Assemblies were being held virtually, NYN brought in enough money to cover its expenses which were very few. NYN has to pay the Delegate's expense (\$2,700). The Coordinators won't have expenses next year (a total of \$7,800). For the last two years, NYN has given generous donations of \$5,000. Betty G.M., Treasurer, suggested a donation of \$1,000.

Betty G.M, GR23, made a motion to send a donation of \$1,000 to WSO. The motion was seconded by Janet R., GR15. The motion passed with 38 members voting in favor, 5 opposed, and 6 abstaining.

Additional Items: District Updates and Announcements

A number of members shared about their various Days of Sharing taking place over the next few months.

Adjournment

Carol C., Chair, expressed her gratitude to everyone who attended the Assembly today. Michael N., GR15, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:56PM; the motion was seconded by Maggie S., GR25. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting closed with the AI-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy W.
NYN Secretary

NYN ROLL CALL

DRs _____ **GRs** X

Date: 9-30-2023

	Time: 9:39AM	Time: 11:37AM	Time: 2:03PM
01	7	7	7
02	3	3	3
03	1	1	1
04	0	0	0
05	0	0	0
06	3	3	3
07	0	0	0
08	2	2	2
09	1	1	1
10	4	4	4
11	0	0	0
12	2	2	2
13	0	0	0
14	1	2	1
15	4	4	4
17	1	1	1
18	1	2	2
19	4	4	4
20	0	0	0
21	2	2	2
22	6	6	6
23	2	2	2
24	0	0	0
25	3	3	3
26	0	0	0
27	0	0	0
28	0	0	0
29	1	1	1
TOTAL	48	49	49

NYN ROLL CALL

Date: 9-30-2023

	Time: 9:39AM	Time:	Time:
Position	Number: 19	Number:	Number:
Coordinators:			
Alateen	Mary S.		
AAPP	Mary D.		
Archives	Maria S.		
Business E-Meeting	Mike R.		
Convention	Jim M.		
Group Records	Joan L.		
Literature	-		
Newsletter	David N.		
NYNAC	-		
Presentation	-		
Public Outreach	-		
Web	Ellen V.		
Officers:			
Delegate	Kathi D.		
Alternate Delegate	-		
. Past Delegate	Molly C.		
Secretary	Cathy W.		
Treasurer	Betty G.M.		
Chairperson	Carol C.		
Past Delegates	-		
Past Trustees	-		
AIS Coordinators:			
Western New York	-		
Rochester	Maggie G.		
Syracuse	-		