

Connecticut Area World Service Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2021

Meeting started. at 7:10 p.m. Chairperson, Elaine M., opened with the Serenity Prayer and telling the committee that by reaching out for help on AFG Connects, she has been able to walk through some problems created by this virtual format with others. She was also able to find a Spanish translator from another area to assist us.

Roll Call: Taffy P. took roll call: Absents: Kelly D.-Group Records and Marie B.-Answering Service. Guests in attendance: Board of Director members—Shirley B., Janice R., Carol D., Betsy N., Ann T-V; Gina R., Ellie L., Gail L.- past delegates and Ryan

Secretary's Report: January's minutes were sent out on February 16 for review. Donna C.DR7 moved that the minutes be accepted as presented; seconded by Karen V DR5. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Jackie B. reminded Committee that Area contributions are being accepted and contribution card that was sent out needed to be scrolled downwards to be seen.

Checkbook balance for months ending January 31, 2021 and February 28, 2021 were read.

Checkbook balance January 2021

Beginning balance	\$37,330.73
Contributions	1,686.80
Less Expenses	(<u>227.03</u>)
Ending balance	\$38,790.50

Checkbook balance February 2021

Beginning balance	\$39,790.50
Contributions	1,462.00
Less Expenses	(<u>93.59</u>)
Ending balance	\$40,158.91

Ron S. DR3 moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read; seconded by Karen V. DR5. Motion carries.

Delegate's Report: Marcia M. is looking forward to her first North East Regional Delegates (NERD) weekend. The World Service Conference will be held virtually the week of April 12-16. Cards of support and encouragement may be sent to Marcia's home address. Her Delegate's assignment at this year's Conference will be on the Literature Committee.

WSO News:

- Board of Trustees thanked the membership for their generous 2020 contributions which exceeded over \$3 million.
- Strategic Plan includes:
 - Improving trilingual focus (English, Spanish, and French) by translating Annual Report.
 - Launching recovery-based AFG Inc mobile app and expanding connectivity with electronic meetings.
 - On-going protections of Al-Anon's trademarks and copyrights

Area News:

- Call for resumes for Board of Directors (BOD). Committee formed to review and were forwarded to President to continue the process.
- Marcia attended the 1st Virtual Serenity Breakfast on January 24.

Alternate Delegate's Report: Pat S. reminded everyone that our first virtual AFG Convention is March 19 and 20. Attracting members to Area service is a challenge in District 10. She would love to speak with anyone who is attending those meetings to encourage them to participate in service. She attending a District 66 meeting and would love to attend, at least, one district meeting in each of our 13 districts.

District 8 Report: DR Justice K. shared that her district meetings are on Monday night following AWSC meeting. The district recently purchased its own Zoom account which will remain useful even when groups resume meeting in person. Most meetings have moved to either Zoom or Free Conference Call. Two meetings have been suspended. Groups continue to support newcomers by mailing literature to them. Their 7th Tradition has transitioned to the use of Venmo, PayPal or other payment platforms to support member contributions.

District 9 Report: Alternate DR Leigh S. shared that there are 18 meetings in her district, but no Alateen or Spanish speaking meetings. Even though contributions in her district are not as frequent nor as much as in the past, they are still following the 7th Tradition, although they no longer have a prudent reserve. The district is looking for a PO coordinator position that is now being filled by the Alternate DR. Most of meetings have switched to a virtual format. However, two struggling meetings have folded and two have been suspended until further notice.

Concept 1: Linda P, DR2. Outlined the history of our three legacies from the Service Manual pages 177 and 174 and shared from Paths To Recover on Concept 1.

Area Discussion: Ten minutes were dedicated to the discussion of group service positions and led by Leslie S. DR 13. What are other districts doing to get participation?

- Group inventories are helpful
- The Zoom atmosphere it is difficult to “shoulder tap.” Need to make a connection with group members and get phone numbers to follow up.
- The LDC receives a lot of email asking questions (i.e., where to send contributions). Links of Service are needed, as well as Service Sponsors.
- The Traditions and Concepts be brought into the district meetings
- The direct communication. Sometimes a meeting is just not meant to be.
- Area Officers are invited to district meetings to talk about their service.
- Some feel that they are too busy, but that service given is always appreciated and growth and love are received.

Any other suggestions can be sent to Leslie S

Serenity Breakfast: Martha N. gave her final report. Contributions received \$40. Expenses totaled (\$164.89). There were 226 in attendance.; 9 people registered for Spanish interpretation). The 27 returned questionnaires overwhelmingly agreed to continue to have a Serenity Breakfast. Many felt it was easy to access and enjoyed the speakers and most felt that date should remain the same.

2021 Convention Report: Rick L. noted that the committee met on February 14 via Zoom. Registration link was posted on February 17. Planning committee will again meet on March 7 to finalize any issues with the program and navigating the Zoom breakout rooms assigned. Program opens

at 6:30 pm on Friday, March 19. Alateens will have a Candlelight meeting at 9. NOTE: Alateen meeting is opened only to Connecticut Alateens, AMIAS and Alateen sponsors.

On Saturday, March 20, Zoom opens at 8:00 a.m. and will remain open during lunch for PO to run its programming.

Resumes for Co-Chair of Convention 2022: Marcia reminded everyone to talk up Convention and to send her any potential members who are interested in becoming Co-Chair. Job description is posted on CT Al-Anon's website under "Gratitude In Working Clothes"

Literature Report: Morgan stated that one of the primary functions of her service position is to attend all Area events and make Conference approved literature available. Since no live events have occurred this past year, she has created a website that displays all the literature we offer and a brief description of each. Some are free digital downloads and available in both English and Spanish. Link is: [Virtual Literature Table \(padlet.com\)](#). Forum subscriptions encouraged at this time.

AAPP Report: Coordinator Miguel C. spoke about the recertification process started March to June 10 for all CT AMIAS and Sponsors. Recertification forms have been sent to all districts that have Alateen meetings. Miguel would like them signed and returned by June 10.

Board of Directors Report: Deborah C. gave her final report as the outgoing President of the Board. On March 17, the Board will hold elections of officers and members. Two candidates have been forwarded by Nominating Committee and, if deemed qualified to serve, may be voted in at March meeting. She encouraged all who will be looking for a new service position to consider submitting resume in 2022.

Current activities:

- LDC has moved to new location on 2nd floor directly above Grey Hall. It has a new entrance and signage to direct members.
- LDC is open one day only on Thursdays
- Current LDC manager, Dawn G, is doing a wonderful job.
- Volunteers are always needed at LDC contact Dawn at office 860-244-0022.
- Through AFG Connects it was noted that the Massachusetts LDC now offers online ordering. She has contacted their office to open up communication and how we might replicate.
- Audit Sub-committee has completed Audits of all CT Al-Anon bank accounts. Committee will present final report at March 17 meeting.

Gail L. wanted to extend the Area's gratitude to Deborah for being president of the Board of Directors. Her service has been greatly appreciated.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Janet S. DR 1 and seconded by Rick L. Convention Chair.

Meeting was closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Taffy Perachio. AWSC Secretary