

**2021 SPRING ASSEMBLY**  
**MOVING FORWARD WITH UNITY, COURAGE, AND PERSEVERANCE**  
**JUNE 12, 2021**

Meeting was opened by Elaine M. leading us with the Serenity Prayer. Stephanie R., DR 12, welcomed everyone and introduced Area officers, past delegates, AA guests and IT team.

Roll call and vote count was taken by Taffy P. Absent were: 2022 Convention chair, Martha N. and Website coordinator, Deanna G. Opening remarks by Elaine M. thanked all for their dedication and commitment to the AI-Anon program. She announced that the Tech team is available for anyone having problems and to use the Chat feature to reach them.

Motion to approve November's Assembly minutes that were previously sent out was made by Jim H., GR Rocky Hill; seconded by Carol D., GR Hartford. Motion passed by 72%, 0-no and 0-abstentions.

Elaine M. reminded the committee of the etiquette rules and who has voice and vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jackie B. thanked everyone for the group contributions and reminded them of the annual Budget meeting which will be held virtually on August 6. She stated that our income outweighs our expenses at this time.

<b><u>Treasury report for the month ending May 31, 2021:</u></b>		<b><u>Reserve Fund account:</u></b>	
Beginning checkbook balance	\$41,503.10	Beginning balance	\$17,953.28
Income received	1,736.00	Interest received	4,362.09
Less expenses	<u>( 250.17 )</u>	No withdrawals	<u>(00)</u>
Ending checkbook balance	\$42,988.93)	Ending Reserve total	\$22,315.37

Question was raised regarding the Area's tax-exempt status and what the amount of #4 the Reserve Fund Guidelines should be (not exceed one year's operating expenses, averaged over three years.)

*[Explanation: Operating Expenses: 2018-\$28,949; 2019-25,960; 2020-17,136 =Total: 72,045  
\$72,045 divided by 3 years = Average Operating Expense of \$24,015. Amount as of 5/31/21 in Reserve Account is \$22,315 subtracted from \$24,015 = \$ 1,700 "available" for transfer.]*

Motion to accept Treasurer's report as presented was made by Jim H., GR Rocky Hill; seconded by MaryAnn P, GR District 1. Motion carries unanimously.

**Alternate Delegate's Report:** Pat S. is glad to see face to face meetings and hybrids opening up. She is half way to her goal of attending every one of the Area's districts. Service positions are still a problem with District 10 and she would like to meet with anyone who attends a meeting in that district. She also thanked everyone who participated in the assembly's workshops.

**Delegate's Report – part 1:** Marcia M. stated that her second year at Conference was held virtually again. Her days started at 10:30 am. and ended at 10:00 pm. The agenda covered both 2020 and 2021 topic items. There was a total of 12 international guests. The Conference started

with setting the three primary goals: Spiritual tone of Conference; guidance to Board of Trustees and WSO and guardianship of our Twelve Traditions; and that they will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationship within structure, and be able to articulate discussions and decisions.

2020 Auditor's Report: Total revenue was \$5,566,276. Literature sales had decreased by 36%. 2020 Contributions increased over 51% and exceeded literature sales for first time since 1954. Groups contributed 33%, Individuals at 21%, and Bequests were \$185,482. Other income includes magazine sales, mobile app subscriptions, and investment income or loss. Major expenses included: salaries, payroll taxes and benefits, office expenses, PSAs, professional fees, travel, Conference costs, and bank/credit card fees.

Strategic Initiatives and programs accomplished in 2020:

- Mobile app launched
- Expanded connectivity with electronic meetings
- Improved trilingual focus by translating Annual Report and reduction of backlog
- On-going protection of Al-Anon's trademark and copyrights
- New PSA vendor who increases our coverage dramatically across US and Canada
- Received and analyzed competitive results

In response to pandemic, WSO raises were eliminated in 2020 and a reduction in staff was temporarily enacted. Staff returned in fourth quarter with plans to return to full staff in 2021. Printing and postage costs were reduced and all travel was postponed. Due to generous contributions and fiscal reductions, WSO ended year with a surplus of \$509,189. Auditors issued an 'unmodified' opinion (highest rating).

Since the Conference was unable to schedule a trip to Stepping Stones, Conference leadership arranged a virtual tour. Time was also allotted for outgoing panel 59 delegates to share their experiences.

Mega issue for 61<sup>st</sup> WSC was ***"In what way can we encourage and support members to share their skills and talents to fulfill the needs of AFG Headquarters, Inc. as a member of the Board of Trustees."*** This was to gather information in order to work towards an informed group conscience. Each sub group forwarded their ideas to the Conference.

2021 Preliminary Budget was presented:

- WSO forecasting a total revenue to be \$5,391,570 and total expenses of \$5,465,290
- Still need contributions to maintain operations. Forecasting contributions to be \$2,882,110
- Literature sales projected to be lower than historical levels due to center closures during pandemic
- WSO staff levels to return to normal. Completion of Membership Survey and expanded features of mobile app. Strategic Initiatives, and launching the trilingual online store.
- CT groups contributed 68% or \$139.08 per group that donates.

**15 MINUTE BREAK**

**Alateen Coordinator:** Lisa G. reported that the past year has been a challenge for Alateen meetings. Attendance has been down and continues to be so. She appreciated Al-Anon anniversaries and other Areas reaching out to Alateens as speakers. However, speakers cannot always be provided. During the AMIAS training session, they discussed how Alateen will proceed in meeting in person again. Factors to consider: parents/guardians willing for their teen to go to a meeting? Alateens will to go to a meeting? Sponsors willing to go to a meeting? Can they use the venue where they were meeting prior to going online? What are the facility's requirements for using the facility? How will social distancing be monitored? Do we try hybrid meetings?

**Area Alateen Processing Person:** Miguel C. has worked closely with the World Service Group Records office updating information on AMIAS', Alateen sponsors, Alateen meetings and CMAs in Connecticut. Annually each Area must re-certify their AMIAS/group sponsors to make sure that they are following our Area's Sponsor Requirements. This year the recertification process was finished ahead of schedule thanks to the DRs who responded to his request to think carefully and review the Policies and Procedures of 'signing off' on the Recertification form that was sent to them. He reminded everyone that without AMIAS/Sponsors there could not be any Alateen meetings

**Archives:** June C. reported that except for a few large items all the CT Archives have been safely stored in paige boxes. She has decided to keep all the audio material where they currently are, thus, eliminating the need to transfer the heavy metal cabinet. However, she is looking for a tape cassette in order for members to be able to listen to the tapes. In addition, she is looking for volunteers to help organize the contents of the boxes in chronological order.

**AA Events Liaison:** Justice K. called out for Al-Anon participation in the AA events. Many positions are open for CSCYPAA, Round-Up and Area 11 Convention. All AA events for 2021 will be virtual. Unfortunately, Soberfest has been cancelled this year. Rompiendo Fronteras is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will be held on July 24.

**Board of Directors:** Newly elected chairperson, Carol D. reported on the updates since the last assembly. Several members have stayed on as directors and two new directors have been approved. The LDC is open on Thursdays only from 10:30-3:30 p.m. She was grateful to all the groups and individuals who continue to send in donations to the LDC. The Audit subcommittee finished the 2019 Audit and presented several recommendations to the Area. They have also renewed the lease with South Congregational Church for a one-year period at the same monthly rate [\$600/month]. This will allow the AFG offices two rooms on the second level, locked storage rooms in the basement, use of Gray Hall for assemblies, as well as parking and a camera to allow the LDC to see who is buzzing to enter.

**2020/2021 Convention Chair:** Rick L. thanked Martha N. for her support and organizational skills and is looking forward to her chairing the 2022 Al-Anon convention. There is still \$985 in funds that need to be returned to members for the 2020 Convention. They are still contacting those members and will be sending out checks shortly.

**2022 Convention Chair:** Martha N. was unavailable to attend the assembly, but sent in a video. Plans for our next convention are being finalized and they are looking for members to participate on the committee. The next meeting of the planning committee will be September 19 on Zoom. She introduced her co-chair, Deborah C. Since Deborah was unavailable, Elaine M. read her report on the Theme contest for the 2022 Convention. She asked that the flier be distributed throughout the districts.

**Group Records:** Kelly D. thanked all the DRs who continued to submit GR-1 forms with group changes over the past year. She wanted to remind everyone about the importance of notifying her of meeting changes so that the website and WSO are updated. When newcomers show up and no one is there, it is reported back to WSO and the group is placed on an inactive status. GR-1 forms are found on our website, under members/group records. This page can also be used to register a new group.

**Delegate's Report Part II:** Marcia continues

**Policy discussions and votes** at WSC that were originally scheduled for 2020:

1. Bequests section of Service Manual. A Task Force was formed and recommended that the second paragraph [page 105] starting with **“In maintaining the principle of anonymity...”** that it belongs right under the “Contributions to WSO” portion because it applies to all subjects and not just Bequests. Motion approved
2. Recommendation procedure for applying housekeeping changes to the Policy Digest of Service Manual, i.e., Correcting typos, grammatical errors, adding words accidentally omitted, removing obsolete terms, processes or pieces of literature, updating names of literature or documents, or updating text to adhere to WSO style. Motion passed
3. Revision of Alateen Preamble to keep focus on welcoming any teen whose life has been impacted by someone's drinking. Discussion was intense at times and after vote, Concept 5 was used to hear minority voice. Motion was carried to approve revised Alateen Preamble.
4. Updating the ‘Announcement Events’ portion of Policy Digest of Service Manual. Removal of words such as ‘generally’ and ‘whenever possible’. Also, clarification of service arms so membership has clear direction on what events can be announced at meetings, newsletters, websites or WSO calendar. Motion passed

**WSC 2020 Annual Report** was reviewed. It provides a breakdown of all work done by WSO.

- Cost of services per registered group is \$263.33 (decreased due to pandemic)
- 409 permanent electronic meetings (169 phone meetings, 233 online Al-Anon meetings and 7 online Alateen meetings)
- Al-Anon launched first recovery mobile app in August 2020. Downloaded 26,272 times/ It has been updated to provide safety.
- Top five selling books were announced.
- Increased trademark and copyright infringement activities across all electronic platforms
- Three pieces of literature were presented for consideration:

- *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* showed examples of advice giving and cross talk and gender references. Committee looked for conceptual approval for new preface that would place book in historical perspective and develop a booklet of ‘gems’, possible including new material. Motion passed
- *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* carried a 1978 WSC motion that no changes could be made without ‘majority approval of the full Conference in session.’ The committee focused on possible ways to help membership to see the book in historical perspective of the time in which it was written. Conceptual approval to add a new preface to emphasize the timeless nature of Al-Anon’s spiritual principles that the book exemplifies. Motion passed.
- Last recommendation was to get conceptual approval to create a new Alateen “Just for Tonight” bookmark. Motion passed unanimously.
- Electronic Meeting Work Group presented two motions to the Conference:
  - Update Service Manual’s definition of Area to include non-geographically based groups.
  - To eliminate specific policy on electronic meetings in accordance with Tradition Three. And to recognize these meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups. Currently there are over 700 permanent electronic meetings (not groups) which have no recognition at WSC.
    - These two motions were passed. Now allows these meetings to elect a GR and to establish a service structure that supports all non-geographically based groups.
- Conference passes a motion to approve the on-going availability to provide simultaneous interpretation to French and Spanish-speaking Delegates. As part of the motion the cost of interpretations will be absorbed by the Areas as part of Equalized Expenses.
- A recommendation of an Al-Anon Longitudinal Study by the Associate Director of Digital Strategy regarding the three-year surveys of Al-Anon fellowship. Only concern was the lack of a control group. Suggestion from professionals was to conduct a longitudinal study which would consist of asking same members the same questions over a period of 5 to 10 years. Participants would be selected from members who opt in when completing the 2021 Membership Survey. The motion passed

**Two Task Force and One Thought Force presentation:** to develop a workshop for use by Areas, Districts and groups using *Conflict Resolution Kit (S-70)* and including Concept 5. A second Task Force was **Using the Concepts in Personal Recovery.**

The Thought Force on “Dreaming Big--Envisioning our Future” was to look at Al-Anon’s past and present and to envision what Al-Anon would look like in 5, 10, 15 and 20 years.

Throughout the Conference, we were put into brain-storming groups for the three Chosen Agenda items”.

- *Newcomers in a virtual world – How can we serve them?*
- *Maintaining the relevancy of the links of service in a time of increased and accessible electronic information.*
- *What steps can we take today to let the young members of Al-Anon know that we take diversity and growth seriously and are working towards change and acceptance?*

Time to Talk items were:

- Returning to face-to-face meetings looking for Experience, Strength & Hope
- Group inventories in a virtual world
- Sharing your hybrid Area, district or group meetings.

In-coming Board of Trustees were given traditional approval by WSC and were elected at the Board meeting which is held immediately following the end of the Conference.

Al-Anon's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be held virtually on July 10, 2021 at 2 p.m. Sold out 500 limit. WSO will be making speakers from the event available via WSO website the remainder of the year.

Next Road Trip event will be held in Cleveland OH on October 23, 2021. Be on the lookout for registration information as space is limited. WSO is also taking applications for the 2022 Road Trip. If Connecticut is interested, deadline for application is September 17, 2021.

Al-Anon's 7<sup>th</sup> International Convention is June 29, 2023-July 2, 2023 in Albuquerque, NM. Marcia ended her report by extending her gratitude and love to all of CT Al-Anon. She also mentioned that Connecticut is in need of a new Website Coordinator.

**LDC Financial Report:** Ron S. began his report by showing several charts. Our current LDC bank account as of May 31, 2021 is \$11,324.00

- 2019-2021 Quarterly Income/Expenditures Graph showed the impact the pandemic had upon the CT LDC. Expenses were closely monitored and adjusted to keep pace with the sharp decline in income.
- 2020 Annual LDC Financial reported that all figures were down for 2020. Income was down 69%; expenses were cut to 63%. Office was temporarily closed last spring.
- 2021 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter LDC Financial report showed income totaled \$6,258 and expenditures totaled \$5,978. Electronic transactions (credit/debit cards) have become the dominant means of purchase. LDC switched phone/internet service to more reliable but more expensive source. Contributions from membership increased to \$1,197.

**No Report from LDC Manager:** Dawn G.

**Literature:** Morgan R. reported *The Forum* Editorial Advisory Committee voted to approve a change to the "Instant Meeting" section of *The Forum*. Instead of focusing only on the Steps, topics have been expanded to various interests of its members, i.e. slogans, sponsors, etc. Each month in the magazine, the "CAL Corner" section contains members sharing on a particular piece of literature. They are looking for sharings on: *Al-Anon's Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions*, *Living Today in Alateen*, *Discovering Choices*, and *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming our Losses*. Subscriptions have declined. Encouraged members to talk to groups about purchasing subscriptions or gifts.

An electronic copy of *Welcome, Newcomer!* Is coming soon. A revised paper version of the newcomer's packet will not be available until current inventory is depleted. There is a Members Blog available at [al-anon.org/member-blog](http://al-anon.org/member-blog) and members are encouraged to contribute. Morgan

is also available to committees and is happy to present/discuss potential ways to make literature available.

**Phone Service:** Marie B. reported that the number of calls has been down from last year. She will also be stepping down from her position due to her health and family issues. She stressed that it is imperative that groups update their meeting information as WSO and she may send a newcomer to a group that is no longer meeting. She asked DRs to go onto the website and check their district's groups to see if they are active.

**Public Outreach:** Kathe L-B shared the screen showing the poster with a QR code and explained how it works and where it will take people who use it. The Public Outreach committee will be meeting all summer. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 15 at 7 pm via Zoom. A new PSA is due out in August.

**Spanish Liaison:** Sue D. reported that at the start of pandemic, Spanish-speaking groups went to virtual or phone meetings. Most have returned to in-person meetings except for Stamford. A number of Hispanic members attended the Serenity Breakfast and Convention with interpreters present and FreeConferenceCall was used. Sue has two main goals: One is to have an on-going conversation with the GRs of the Spanish groups about how the District and Area can support them; second, to develop a larger pool of interpreters for our events. We need people fluent in three languages – English, Spanish and Al-Anon speak!

**Website Coordinator:** Betsy N. read the report from Deanna G. who has stepped down to spend time with her new family. There are 213 meeting listed. 184 updated status and events, 34 meetings have opened face-to-face with safety protocols in place. Please let the website know if there are any inaccuracies.

Motion to close the meeting was made by Mary Ann P. GR District 1; seconded by Frannie E, GR district 2. Meeting was closed with Elaine M. leading us in the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Taffy P.  
AWSC Secretary