**CONNECTICUT AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**March 3, 2023**

Chairperson Lisa G. opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Roll call was taken by Karen V. Absent were DR 4 Jen B, DR-10, DR 13-., no representation, Gay B. AAPP, Marcia Ex-Officio Guests were Betsy N., and Leslie S.

Lisa welcomed all members and thanked everyone for the last-minute change to have this meeting on zoom due to the weather. Lisa also reminded members who has a vote. Meeting and Agenda dates have been posted. Please contact her should you wish to be placed on the agenda. Lisa announced that the area will have permanent place for future meetings. It will be at:

North Haven Congregational Church

28 Church Street

North Haven

Lisa thanked Ron S. for assisting in finding a place. For the Spring and Fall Assemblies the Wethersfield Community Center has been secured. There will be a workshop which Katie, our Alternate Delegate, will facilitate. Lisa will contact the DR’s in advance on who will be hosting. Lisa also announced that a member would be stepping up for service tonight for one of the coordinator positions.

**Secretary Report:** Karen V. There was one change to the minutes to correct the last initial to Bob M’s Report. Change the letter from V to M. to January’s minutes. She asked members to make a motion to accept January 6th minutes as amended. Motion was made by Sami W. (DR5); seconded by Ron S. (DR3) Motion carries unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Presented by Stephanie S. as of March 2023

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Beginning Cash 1/1 | 35,223.25 |
| plus YTD Income | 2,801.00 |
| less YTD Expenses | 4,809.89 |
| Ending Cash | **33,214.36** |

Stephanie presented changes made to the financial reports. She reported:

Allocated costs of name badges for Coordinators to their individual budgeted line item ($8.50 each) If there is anyone who needs a badge, please email Stephanie with your name and position.

Coordinator/Ex-Officio costs are paid by the Area and come out of your individual budgeted line item

**GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Stephanie had bundles of 20 contribution cards / envelopes for the DRs tonight, due to the change on zoom she will bring them to our May 5th meeting.  In the meantime, attached is a file with group contribution cards (3 per page) in her report.  ***Please encourage your District and Groups to contribute to the Area, as our contributions are down.***

Janet S. (DR1) moved to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented; seconded by Carol D. (DR2). Motion carries unanimously.

**Alternate Delegate Report**

Katie reported that it is time to start to plan for a workshop at the Spring Assembly. One topic that has been suggested is on Service Sponsorship. It might also be helpful to have a workshop for new Group Representatives. Please email [katie@nmcouncil.com](mailto:katie@nmcouncil.com) with any thoughts you may have. She will also need volunteers to help plan and present the workshop, so please let her know if you are willing to help! She is looking forward to visiting with the districts and will start to reach out to the DRs to connect and coordinate to attend some of the district meetings this year**.**

**Delegate’s Report:**

Elaine discussed her preparation of the World Service Conference as well as the upcoming NERD Northeast Regional Delegates Conference. In the past Delegates were permitted to exchange Love Gifts however, WSO has made a decision that Love Gifts will not be distributed or accepted. A flyer has been distributed with all the pertinent information.

WSO suggested that members and groups can send cards and letters of support to their Delegate at the World Service Conference. Please address as follows:

Elaine Mitchell (Hold for WSC 4/19-4/24, 2023) The Founders Inn and Spa 5641 Indian River Rd. Virginia Beach, VA 23464 USA Cards can arrive after April 15th. Remember to use your trusted servant’s name and home address as the return address if mail delivery is delayed. Return address is Elaine Mitchell 33 Long Hill Rd Clinton, CT 06413 If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Elaine.

WSO is also suggesting that anyone and/or a group can send a monetary contribution to WSO.

Our Area needs the following positions:

Literature Coordinator

Spanish Liaison.

Elaine has asked all members to help reach out to anyone who might be interested in either one of those positions, please tap them on the shoulder. Also, anyone who is interested in becoming the 2024 Convention Co-Chair please forward your resume to me at [delegate@ctalanon.org](mailto:delegate@ctalanon.org)

The new service manual is finally in print in both English and French. Spanish is soon to be released sometime in March.

Elaine reported that the delegate representing the Global Electronic Area has decided to resign from his post. The Al-Anon/ Alateen International Convention held in Albuquerque New Mexico is open for registration cost is $145 and while it would be nice to view as a group, they are asking each member to register separately.

Elaine reminded members of Lois’ birthday is (March 4) and as in the past members have been encouraged to place a piece of literature of hope anywhere honoring our co-founder. Celebrate Lois's Birthday! What better way to celebrate our Cofounder than by inviting her to join your group, District, or Area meeting or event. Gather with your closest Al-Anon friends and watch as Lois shares her personal recovery story with you. Lois’s Story (AV-1) can now be streamed online. A one-week rental period is available for $25.Go to al-anon.org/av1 to learn more about Lois’s Story, watch a short trailer, and rent. I wonder how many of you hear tonight subscribe to “In the Loop”? It is a valuable resource for you to share with your members and to learn about happenings at WSO.

**Upcoming Events:**

AA Area 11 Round Up- Virtual and In-person March 18, 2023

Al-Anon/Alateen 45th Convention March 25-26th 2023

Al-Anon Alateen International Convention June 29 – July 2, 2023

**District 8 Report:** DR Justice K. reported that District 8 is made of 14 groups: Hartford, West Hartford, Granby, Simsbury, Collinsville/ Canton, Windsor, and Unionville. One group is a Spanish speaking meeting on Wednesday Nights in Hartford. Most groups are represented and engaged at our district meeting that takes place on the 1st Wednesday following the AWSC Meeting at 7:15 PM on Zoom.

At districts meeting discussions on how to look, as a group, at what is the most meaningful use of our GRs time and focus the meetings to include these ideas. In addition to reporting back from the AWSC meeting, one thing that is being done at the district meeting is a brief review of a section of the service manual. Each meeting, one member shares on the section they read, offering highlights and interesting points that they found in the reading. There is a brief discussion of the section reviewed and appoint a volunteer who will be responsible for the next month’s section. The volunteer has the autonomy to decide how many pages they wish to read and review at the next meeting. Another item on our agenda are reports from each group. This allows space for GRs to share new updates, things that are going well, or challenges the group is facing. We have found this to be a good opportunity for GRs to connect with each other and gather Experience Strength and Hope to bring back to their groups.

Additional, as a district, a group conscious is taken to hold all our business meetings on Zoom indefinitely as we have found this makes the district meeting more accessible to the most people. In exchange for not paying rent for a physical space all year, we have decided to use some of our funds to hold an annual district event that allows for in person fellowship and connection. Last summer was our first event which we kept it simple by gathering for a picnic at Salmon Brook Park in Granby. Justice looks forward to seeing what ideas the district comes up with for this year’s event!

**District 9 Report:** DR Hank B. reported that District 9

In the last two months Hank visited 14 meetings in district 9 to say “hello”, show his face and to do a brief assessment. He supplied a summary of the 20 meetings defined in District 9 (from ogr.alanon.org).There are 3 meetings which appear to be at risk of going inactive due to covid19, aging out, low turnout or unfilled service positions. In summary District 9 has 15 active meetings: 10 In-person, 4 Hybrid, 1 Electronic, 0 Alateen , 0 Spanish,

There is $630.82 in the treasury.

**Concept 1:****The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al‑Anon world services belongs to the Al‑Anon groups.** Ron S. (DR3) read from Paths to Recovery page 251 and from the service manual page 79 and 80.

**Old Business**

**Phone Service** Elaine M. introduced Leslie S as a member willing to be of service for the Phone Service position. Leslie was a Gr, treasurer, secretary, and DR and a Alateen sponsor for 7 years.

Members voted unanimously to accept Leslie’s willingness to be of service as a Phone Service coordinator. Thank you, Leslie.

**Serenity Breakfast:** Janice R. reported the Serenity Breakfast was a huge success. Pre-Registration, Spanish, Electronics, Raffle, Greeters and Properties Committees all operated smoothly and timely. Everyone enjoyed the speakers. All the speakers received their gifts with a thank you card that day. She presented the results from the questionnaires which was reviewed with Gina M at the hotel. Janice Thanked everyone who participated in the Serenity Breakfast for their service commitment as well as the entire committee for their support of this pre-convention event. She is looking forward to our 2023 AFG Convention, and I know it will be a success.

**2023 Convention Report:** Deborah C. reported that there was only a few weeks away from our 45th CT AFG Convention, Let It Begin With Me In 2023. The Convention is in-person and will be held March 25th – March 26th at the Sheraton Hartford South at 100 Capital Boulevard in Rocky Hill. She encourages members to book hotel reservations. At this time there were currently 199 registered for the Convention and 63 registered for the Banquet. 43 members were needed to be registered for the event to break even. Deborah encourages everyone to talk up the Convention at your meetings, be sure convention flyers are circulating and especially emphasize the need for Banquet registrations and Hotel Room nights. Deborah expressed her appreciation for your support in getting information regarding the convention to the groups. The subcommittees have been busy finalizing details of the program. (Al-Anon, A lateen and A.A.), as well as details for Spanish interpretation, raffle, convention information flyers In keeping with our Al-Anon 7th Tradition, the convention is self-supporting. The convention committee received $5,000.00 in seed money allocated through the AWSC budget at the start of our planning year. The goal is to return the full $5,000.00 to the AWSC once convention finances are finalized. In order to be self-supporting, the committee is asking for voluntary contributions from members registering for the convention. Voluntary contributions will be a great help towards returning the full seed money. You can make a 7th Tradition contribution by adding it to the mail in registration form or the registration on Eventbrite. A wonderful day of recovery is planned with keynote speakers and individual workshops. Please visit the Convention page on our website ctalanon.org to see the “Program at a Glance” which lists all the workshops and activities

**New Business**

**Thought Force Survey PEG (Permanent Electronic Groups)**

Katie handed and presented a power point presentation on Permanent Electronic Group Task Force, with her committee which consisted of Jackie B., Ron M. Gina R. Robert T.

They are looking forward to discussing and incorporating with groups feedback**.**

Please pass along the presentation to your groups so that this may be discussed at the next Area meeting.

Ron S (DR3) moved that the meeting be adjourned 8:20 p.m.; seconded by Stephanie. (Treasurer). Motion carries.

Meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen V., AWSC Secretary