

CONNECTICUT AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 8, 2023

Approved as amended at the Area Meeting 12/1/2023

Chairperson Lisa G. opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. thanked everyone for making the meeting in spite of the weather, followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.

Roll call was taken by Karen V. **Absent were** Alternate Delegate Katie D., Janet S. DR1, Carol D. DR2, Jen B. DR4, Vicki R. ADR 4, Stephen M. ADR6, District 10 No representation, Wendy M. ADR11, Jennifer ADR12, AAPP - Gay B. Convention Chair – Janice R. Convention Co – Kate A., Group Records- Jackie B., Public Outreach - Eric B. Spanish Liaison – Roxanna, Website - Robert T., LDC Mgr. Lois F., Marcia Ex-Officio

Guests were Gail Past Delegate panel 57

Lisa let the members know that the October Area meeting will be cancelled and the next time the Area meets will be at the assembly November 4th

Secretary Report: Karen V. She asked members to make a motion to accept May 5, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion was made by Ron S. (DR3); seconded by Bob M (DR7) Motion carries unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Stephanie S. as of August 2023

Bank Reconciliation as of 8/31/2023:

Bank balance	41,322.89
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Checkbook balance	<u>41,322.89</u>
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Stephanie also presented the 2024 proposed budget for voting at the November 4th assembly meeting. members are to distribute to their groups and may follow with any questions before voting.

A motion to accept the treasurer report was made by Jen B.(DR4) and seconded by Justice K (DR 8)

Delegate's Report:

Elaine spoke about Trademark and copyrights of Al-Anon as a reminder to all members of our responsibilities as guardians of traditions.

Copyright – exclusive legal right to print or publish. Al-Anon is the ONLY one with legal right to produce CAL; this “protects the collective wisdom of Al-Anon members” Only WSO can use it or permit others to use it or print or publish any material. Group Registration forms now include permission to use CAL in your meetings. Can you print it and distribute it among group members? Yes, for that meeting only, but not outside the meeting, material distributed should be collected at the end of the meeting and destroyed. Example, questions in the book Paths to Recovery, you can photocopy the questions, To protect the copyrights of the material it is suggested that you do not type the questions due to the potential for typographic errors. When you are utilizing the Trademark there are certain things you need to remember when creating flier and or poster.

Trademark – our name and logos: Al-Anon and Alateen.

Common violations of Al-Anon/Alateen Trademark.

Reproducing and selling conference approved literature

Use of logo or name on unauthorized event or social media

Modifying the logo. Try not to be creative by changing the color and/or linking the triangles together.

Websites post Al-Anon readings along with other recovery readings.

Tik-Tok videos of reading CAL

Who has permission to use Trademark/Logo?

Service arm events and flyers

Registered service arm website and social media

Al-Anon Guidelines

Can request reprint permission from WSO.

Can photocopy or show CAL for a meeting, collected, and destroyed.

Read more about it – pgs. 116, 117, 127, 128 in Service Manual

Attached are the guidelines for creating fliers, please distribute amongst your members and review the process. Please follow the links of service. Please submit all fliers to your DR for review. Next step, the DR submits the flier to the Area Secretary for final review and distribution to Districts as well as the Webmaster.

POLICY ON ANNOUNCING EVENTS

At the World Conference Summary, a motion was presented to us for review, question, and approval, the motion read as follows: To amend the text of the “Conventions and Other Events”: “Workshops” and “Conventions and Other Events”: “Announcing Events” portions of the “Policy Digest,” which appear on page 90-92 respectively of 2022-2025

A.A. Events with Al-Anon/Alateen Participation Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) may invite Al-Anon/Alateen to participate in conventions or conferences at the Area or local level. It is within the autonomy of the Area/local service arm to participate or not? (See the guideline Al-Anon/Alateen Participation in an Area A.A. Convention [G-7].) An A.A. event must have Al-Anon participation to have Alateen participation.

Al-Anon/Alateen Events with A.A. Participation Al-Anon service arms may invite A.A. to participate in an Al-Anon hosted event. (See the guideline Cooperation between Al-Anon and A.A. [G-3].) Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/P27) v2 as presented.

The rewrite clarifies the kind of AA Events announced at Al-Anon/Alateen meetings. The motion passed at the Conference by the Delegates as well as the Board.

Takeaway: When announcing events, make sure they are the participating events are the five participating events of the Connecticut Al-Anon/Alateen Area.

📖 Service Manual pg. 90-92

📖 Events hosted by or connected to WSO, Area, District, Al-Anon Information Service

📖 A.A Events in Connecticut -When Al-Anon participates through one of its service arms or registered group in an A.A. event with speakers or workshops, these events may be announced at meetings.

The five events in Connecticut are; Connecticut AA Convention with Al-Anon/Alateen Participation, AA Round-Up, CSYPAA(Conn State Young People in AA), Rompiendo Fronteras, and Soberfest all of these events have Al-Anon/Alateen participation.

Takeaway: When announcing Events please be sure they are with Connecticut’s Al-Anon/Alateen Area service arm.

News from WSO

2023 Contributions exceeded our budget expectation by 8%

Literature sales were down by 1% last month.

The quarterly appeal letter has been mailed from WSO, please check with your treasurer’s or CMA’s.

2023 Meet the Board Road Trip hosted by California South on 10/28/23 -not available.

A new toolkit for Public Outreach on the WSO website. Have you seen it yet?

The International Convention held in Albuquerque Highlights

In person registrations- 3,387 (42 Alateens and 293 A.A., 7 Professionals, and 54 guests)

Virtual registration 741

Setting a record of 4,517 registrants

Election of a New Global Electronic Area Delegate- Burt P, Panel 62 from California

Feedback regarding the membership survey of 2018

WSO – a guest speaker presented her dissertation based on the 2018 Membership survey. The topic titled, “Does it Work If You Work It? The Therapeutic Elements of Al-Anon Participation.”

The research relied on data from the 2018 membership survey. The individual focused on what professionals would need to know about Al-Anon Family groups. The research on longevity and a key component of better mental health

Model of Effective Al-Anon Participation

1. Attending Meetings
2. Spiritually Motivated
3. Working with a Sponsor
4. Engaging in Service
5. Service as a Sponsor/Service Sponsor

The Conference Summary availability, the end of August

So, what have I been doing over the summer months?

- 1, Working on a Task Force with 5 other Delegates from various states.
2. Attending WSO online meetings as required.
3. Meeting with 6 Al-Anon groups from District 10 to resolve the absence/presence of a District Representative.

Alternate Delegate – Katie was absent and no report was given.

District 12 Report: Shay, DR for District 12 presented her report. She introduced Jennifer the Alternate. District 12 represents the Shoreline from Brantford to Old Lyme. They have 10 meetings including one Alateen Wed. Evening at 7:30. This meeting is active but needs support. They recently added “Let it Begin with Us” young person’s Meeting in Guilford on Tuesday at 7:30. They have added a total of 4 GR’s and lost 1 since January. The district meets the Monday following the Area meeting at First Congregational church in Clinton. It is well represented with attendance of Alateen Sponsors and AMIAS, Group records, Treasurer, and Secretary. They are currently looking for a new District Public Outreach person. The district hosted 3 Anniversaries this summer that were all well attended. They also had success restarting their districts, Speaker Exchange. District 12 is well represented with a meeting for everyone. Some groups have a handful of people and other’s 20 or more.

District 13 Report: Carrie M. reported that district 13 consists of 4 towns: Fairfield, Westport, Weston, Easton in June she attended the Area Assembly, along with 3 GRs from this District. During the summer she visited 4 meetings where she encouraged members to step up to fill the open District level service positions. At the District level, they are in urgent need of an Alt DR, Treasurer, Group Records, PO, Literature. Since becoming the district 13 Rep in April, they had 2 District Meetings before the summer break. Sept 14th she will be having a District meeting where she will talk about the pamphlet The Joy of Service; Tradition 7 being fully self-supporting means service as well as financial support. I will also explain the importance of CMAs. Only Fairfield and Westport have active meetings. There are 9 registered meetings, 7 of which are hybrid, and only 5 have active GRs. Most meetings are without adequate representation. (GRs CMAs and Treasurers). She will be visiting all meetings in District 13 by the end of 2023, where she will continue to promote the importance of service.

Concept 3 Sami W. (DR5): The right of decision makes effective leadership possible. Sami shared on this concept and read from Path’s to Recovery.

Old Business

Spring Assembly Final Report Marissa W. (DR6) Stephen M. (ADR 6) and Robert M (DR7) District 6 & 7 Assembly Report August 2023

The 2023 Spring Assembly was hosted by Districts 6 & 7 on June 10, 2023. District 7 was responsible for setup and snacks and District 6 was responsible for registration and finances. The Assembly ran smoothly and received compliments for a job well done.

Records for the Assembly are now electronic. They held a face-to-face planning meeting in a church basement a few months prior to the Assembly. Our area chairperson provided an agenda and we went through the assembly planning checklist. An assembly floor plan was provided by the previous hosting districts (4&5) which was helpful.

The agenda and checklist for the planning meeting as well as the floor plan for the Wethersfield Community Center (WCC) will be provided to the next hosting districts (7&8) electronically.

They were able to get into the facility at 10AM to set up and the workshop began at 10:30. All requested tables and chairs were placed via the floor plan with WCC.

The workshop was held in the fireside room. It filled to full seating capacity and there was standing room only.

All in all, it was a good experience for our district to work as a team. Six 'district 7' GRs, the district treasurer and a volunteer from district 7 participated in the setup. Participation is the key to harmony. We also kept the snacks, refreshments, and coffee from running low.

Registration:

- Registration fee for Al-Anon and AA members was \$13; Alateen members was \$8
- Invited guests included Past Delegates and AA Officers (registration for these guests were no charge)
- Utilized Eventbrite for advanced registration process; Guidelines have been created for setting up and running Eventbrite to manage registration along with procedures for day of Assembly registration management. They are provided with this report.
- We had three volunteers from District 6 managing the registration table, checking advanced registrants in and accepting walk-in registrations
- Total Attendees - 114

Finances:

- Seed Money: \$5,000.00 in seed money provided by Area
- Income: \$1,396.49: \$1,305.49 Eventbrite registrations; \$91.00 walk-in registration
- Expenses: \$441.52 in reimbursements for supplies
- Net Profit: \$954.97 (less room rental expense handled directly by the Area)

2024 Convention Chair Janice R. (Was not present her report was read by Elaine) She reported that the contract was signed on 8/3/23 with the Hotel Sheraton South, 100 Capital Blvd, Rocky Hill CT. This is the same location as last year's convention. She also gave them a deposit of \$500.00 to hold the dates. The dates for our convention are Saturday March 16th through Sunday, March 17th, 2024. The hotel gave a very good price on the rooms and they extended it to include Friday night in case anyone would like to stay overnight earlier. The committee looks good so far, however, they still have openings remaining; Decorations (Chair and Co-Chair) and Co-Chairs for Flyers, Literature and Pre-Registration. She sent out a flyer a few weeks ago reminding people everyone is welcomed at our first planning committee meeting which will be held this Sunday, September 10th, 2023 at 1-3 pm at the Hotel Sheraton, South in Rocky Hill and to inform them of current openings on the committee. She looks forward to working with Kate A who is the Co-Chair. This is an

exciting opportunity for growth for Janice. She knows “**we do not do anything alone**” and is thankful for her service sponsor. If you have any questions, please email me at convention2024@ctalanon.org

New Business

2024 Convention Co-Chair/ Serenity Breakfast Kate A. (Was absent and was read by Elaine)

The Contract for the Serenity Breakfast on January 21st, 2024 was signed in August. It will be held at the same venue as last year, the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill. We have put down a deposit and chose a very tasty menu for our breakfast. She is currently calling members who would be inspiring speakers, to ask if they would share their experience strength and hope at our Serenity Breakfast. I am pleased to report that the Theme Contest had outstanding participation as they received 74 eligible entries. He is hoping that after the lull contributed to covid, that members are engaging and excited to participate once again. The theme contest is the official kickoff to our convention and this year's themes promise not to disappoint. During the months of September and October, she will be researching possible venues for the 2025 AFG Convention. She is honored to be the Co-Chair of the 2024 AFG Convention. She understands that she will be frustrated, panicked, overwhelmed, tickled, amused, tired, anxious, during the process, and grateful that she is a member of Al-Anon. Her guiding light will be her Higher Power, her companions will be all of you. Together we will experience the magic of creating a Convention together. Thank you.

Group Records Jackie B. (Was absent and was read by Elaine)

Her report updated members of the Permanent Electronic Groups (PEG's) in our Area, as well as, to other group records information.

In June she had requested DR's give her an idea of how many groups might become PEG's. To date I have still not heard from all the DR's but her guesstimate still stands at around 10 groups that may register as a PEG in the Area. As of today, there are 5 groups that have registered as PEG's.

Her report at the June Assembly outlined the time frame that World Service designated for groups who are currently meeting temporarily on zoom to make a decision to register as a PEG. There has been some info. going around that the time frame is 12-18 months, Jackie is reiterating that per a conversation she had with Valerie, AFG Records Manager with World Service, this time frame still stands at 6-12 months after an Area puts a process in place to admit permanent electronic meetings. So... DRs please remind your groups they have 9 months remaining to register. From my standpoint it would be great to have those meetings that are temporarily on zoom make a decision as soon as possible. She thinks the DR's might agree that getting everything “settled” as soon as possible is important, so that the focus can instead be put on other Area and District business. There have been a few meetings to date which have incorrectly registered on their own when trying to become PEG's. It's not that easy to rectify these situations. It takes time and effort on her part, the DR's part and causes more work especially for the World Service staff. Because of the confusion that seems to still exist around registering a permanent electronic group there will be a workshop at the Nov. Assembly to go over once again the Policies and Procedures put in place at the June Assembly.

Jackie sometimes hears from members, whom may not know, about a change for a group they belong to. She feels strongly about **Links of Service**, She has begun asking the members to please send the change request through their DR or District Group Records person. She believes DRs should always be kept in the loop as to what the meetings in their districts are doing. At the very least the member is being asked by me to send these changes with a CC: to the DR and if there is one, to the District Records person. Thank you in advance DR's for getting this policy announced to the groups in the district. As to group changes, DR's if a group in your district is changing locations, please be sure the town they are moving to is in your district. Also, please ask members to contact you if they are unsure as to how to fill out a “New Al-Anon Group Registration” form or a “Group Record Change” form if it is for a physical group change which is still a printable form on the WS website or if it's an electronic group registration or change, that can only be done on line. FYI, the Webmaster Robert and Jackie are in close touch and they try to update meetings with WS and on the CT schedule as soon as they can. Thanks for patience on this.

Lastly, she awaiting a response from WS as to what their records staff is responsible for here in CT regarding notification to Delegate, DR, CMA etc. once a group does register to be a permanent electronic group.

Depending on the response from WS, there may be a housekeeping change to be made to our Policies and Procedures as to who notifies who. Thanks for allowing Jackie to be your AGRC, it's been more of a challenge than she anticipated but it has led to more growth on her part for sure.

Resume – Literature Coordinator Trish G.

Elaine M. read Trish G as a member willing to be of service in the Literature Coordinator role. She has been committed to Al-Anon for about 20 years. Her home group is Monday Southbury. She was a GR and Spanish Chair at the convention and for the committee. She is excited to share her experience, strength and hope and to continue to grow in this new service position.

Resume – Convention Co-Chair Elaine M. introduced Katie as a member willing to be of service as the convention co-chair. She has been a member of this fellowship for 24 years. Her home group is Wolcott Saturday Morning. She shared on tradition 2. **For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority- a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.** She emphasized “how we do nothing alone.”

She too is excited to share her experience, strength, and hope and to continue to grow in this new service position.

Members voted unanimously for Kate and Roxana to fill their perceptive roles.

Archives Justice K.

She has made a few visits to the Area Archives office this year. One of the lessons she has learned with this position is that the limited hours at the LDC means that she needs to take off work on Tuesdays to access the archives. As this program teaches her, she may be reaching out for help from volunteers to assist her with getting things done.

During the times I have been able to visit, she has found several interesting items and was reminded that in Connecticut, there is a strong history of cooperation with AA, as well as a commitment to being of service. She was asked to hold a table at our Spring Assembly. She built a display board with clips that allow for documents to be attached to the board without poking holes or taping the documents, allowing items to remain as preserved as possible. She also assembled a few binders organizing programs and flyers from past Area events in chronological order. She hoped that members had a chance to stop by and look at the interesting pieces that she picked out for display. Please feel free to reach out if you would like Justice to join any of your upcoming events.

One thing she is hoping to work on is establishing a way to access documents virtually. She had initially believed that digital archives would be best for long term storage option for our archive, but she is learning this may not be the case. She feels that there are records, especially those with historical or institutional knowledge, that would benefit the fellowship as a whole to have digital access to. She is hoping to work on this as she continues in this service position.

Spanish Liaison Roxana R. (Was absent and was read by Karen)

Roxana shared that the communication between herself and our Alanon members attending Spanish meetings are frequent and consistent. She shared the dates when these meetings and events were held as well as upcoming ones.

The groups are holding monthly tradition meetings. On July 6th of 2023 the Stamford invited an Alateen member to speak at their meeting. On July 11th the Norwalk team hosted the meeting focused on the 6th tradition. Then the Stamford team hosted the 7th tradition on the 19th of August. On September 17th the groups in Connecticut and Rhode Island will work in collaboration to host the meeting on the 8th tradition.

The Meriden team hosted their annual picnic on August 20th, 2023, from 11 am to 4 pm. And on November 18th the Spanish meetings in conjunction with AA members will be holding a one-day conference in new Britain CT. The focus of this one-day conference is love and service.

Roxana had the opportunity to attend a couple of these events as time allowed. She is also focusing on meeting members and fostering relationships.

Discussion on District 10 Elaine M. Discussion on retiring district 10 and to prepare a motion to bring to the assembly for voting. A healthy discussion was held and the members agreed to bring the motion (which Elaine would work on) to present to the Area Assembly for a vote.

Justice K. DR 8 moved that the meeting be adjourned 8:46PM; Second by Carrie M. DR 13
Meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen V., AWSC Secretary