

CONNECTICUT AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 5, 2024

Chairperson Lisa G. opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. She welcomed everyone and followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.

Roll call was taken by Karen V. **Absent were:** Alt Delegate Katie D., ADR2 Lauren, DR11 Janine, Alateen Coordinator Kim G., AA Events Liaison Stephanie R, Convention Chair Janice R., Convention Co Chair Kate A., Literature Coordinator Tricia, Phone Service Leslie, Public Out Reach Eric B. (DR5 Sami W. was there with a proxy for Eric B.) Spanish Liaison Coordinator Roxanna, LDC Manager Lois F., BOD Chair Carol D.

Secretary Report: Karen V. She asked members to make a motion to accept December 1, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. There was a to change to correct the title of Jackie B. from DR4 to Group Records Coordinator a Motion was made to accept the minutes as amended by Janet S. (DR1); seconded by Vicki R. (DR4) Motion carries unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Stephanie S.

Bank Balance	\$33,390.05
Outstanding Items	(25.03)
Open item with bank to resolve	<u>1,102.58</u>
Checkbook balance	\$34,517.66

Stephanie went over all the lines items in detail going over the end of 2023. A reminder that variances can be negative if it does not exceed 10% of the budget. Any item that exceeds 10% of the budget will need to be approved at the area level.

A motion to approve additional expenses for AAPP and Webmaster line items that exceeded 10% was made by Janet DR1 and second by Morgan R. D3. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion to accept the treasurer report was made by Marissa W. (DR6) and seconded by Vicki R (ADR 4) Motion carries unanimously.

Stephanie and Elaine spoke about the budget process and asked members (coordinators and Area Officers) to be mindful when creating a budget. Elaine asked members with budgets to present to the Area how the budget will be spent in their perspective areas.

Delegate's Report: Elaine M.

Elaine asked if there are any new District Representative and Alternate District Representatives present this evening from District 3, 8 and 11. She welcomed all the new members. A gentle suggestion is to utilize the outgoing District Representative and Alternate District Representative as your service sponsor. The year has already begun for AWSC Elaine asked our Past Delegate Joan V to form a committee of Past Delegates to review our Gratitude in Working Clothes bringing it up to date. There is an interest in holding a workshop on the Service Manual which would be a great idea and would be helpful and informative to everyone no matter how long you have been in the program. The Workshop would be available to everyone not just individuals who currently hold roles at the Area level. Elaine has asked someone to consider putting a workshop together currently and she is waiting for a response. Al-Anon and Alateen members are encouraged to own a service manual which provides a clear and concise picture of the Al-Anon/Alateen Fellowship, its purpose, and functions and how it helps us to resolve group problems and maintain unity and harmony in the fellowship. She sent out an inquiry regarding participating with other states to host the 2028 Al-Anon International Convention. Currently those who have responded there is a 93% interest in participating. Elaine does need to

provide a response to the Delegate from Massachusetts and as your trusted servant she is going to take a leap of faith and respond yes. She believes we can put it together with the help of the surrounding states. This will also give us an opportunity to meet our neighbors and work together as a Team and meet the WSO staff. 2023- she was able to visit Districts 2, 3 and 11 and will continue to attend others over the next year. Another goal for Elaine is to try to put together a Handbook for Connecticut which will include not only the role descriptions but also information as to how we operate at the AWSC. Links of Service, while we have gone over the importance of the links of service, a gentle reminder is that we follow the links of service, members should use the links of service rather than placing a call to WSO, which she borrowed from another Delegate to help everyone understand the importance of following the links of service. Share this with all your members so they understand the importance of following the links of service. For Elaine personally, as your Delegate she had opportunities of growth in her own recovery and hopefully, have utilized the spiritual principles of our program. Always remembering to place Al-Anon's principles above personalities. As Elaine begins her second year in her term these are areas she will work on with the help of past delegates and Area Officers/Coordinators, working with the Website Coordinator, exploring a tech coordinator role to support events at the area level, as well as looking at how we carry the message of hope and help in AL-Anon/Alateen.

Alternate Delegate – Katie D. No Report

District 3 Report: Morgan R.

Morgan will be providing the Area updated information records of groups in District 3 once she has a more accurate information. She has a concern currently there is no treasurer or secretary for District 3.

District 4 Report: Jen B.

District 4 includes the towns of: Ansonia, Derby, Seymour, Milford, Shelton, Monroe, Trumbull, Stratford and Bridgeport. There is a total of 21 meetings: In-person - 11 Zoom - 5 Hybrid - 1 Alateen - 1 Our Group Records position has been filled. There are still in need of a Literature Coordinator for our district. There is a new Alateen sponsor candidate who has been voted in as of our December meeting. She is continuing the process to become an Alateen sponsor. There continues to be a major push in our district for each group to have a PO coordinator to encourage spreading the message

Concept 5 Bob M. DR7

The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and ensure that they be heard.

(Info taken from 2022 – 2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, P 190–193 and from The Concepts (P57) Al-Anon's Best Kept Secret, P 8).

Concept Five consists of two types of rights for members; the right to petition and the right to appeal. These rights protect the minority viewpoint.

The Right of Appeal acknowledges that minorities can be right and that they perform a valuable service by compelling a debate on important issues.

The Right of Petition permits any Al-Anon member to petition the Board of Trustees through the links of service for the redress of a grievance after having exhausted all avenues. This process does not indicate that the action in question will be delayed while the petition or appeal is being considered.

Under Tradition Two, the group conscience is the final authority for Al-Anon world services. However, our group conscience cannot act directly in many service matters because it is seldom sufficiently informed about the problems at hand. During times of stress, emotional bias may prevent the group conscience from functioning efficiently or wisely. When the group conscience cannot act directly, our leaders must always be ready to do for the groups what the groups cannot do for themselves.

I like this concept because growing up in an alcoholic home I was frequently not able to express my view. This carried into my adult life. This concept gives me permission to speak up when I feel my viewpoint is not considered. I felt steamrolled quite a few times when it came to the decision-making process. I was glad to see such a concept the first time I read it. Whether it comes to making a group donation to the church for heat or putting flags up on all the telephone poles in my neighborhood, listening to everyone's viewpoint before deciding makes everyone feel like a winner. Raising a family, I would often call a family meeting and listen to everyone's opinion when choosing a place for vacation. This Concept is a game changer because it allows me to speak up rather than biting my lip.

Old Business

2024 Convention Chair Janice R. (Was Absent was ready by Janet S. DR1)

Our planning continues for our 46th CT AFG convention, "Our Pathway to Peace". It will be held on Saturday, March 16th through Sunday March 17th, 2024, at the Hartford Sheraton, South, 100 Capital Blvd, Rocky Hill CT. A pre-registration flyer has been completed and is to be posted on to CT Alanon Website by this weekend as well as having been sent to our Area Secretary for distribution with a correction regarding the hotel number. There is a link to Eventbrite as well as a link to Alateen forms necessary for the convention. Mail in registrations (\$30.00) must be postmarked by March 1, 2024, to receive the reduced pre-registration rate. There remains a limit of 400 persons, but we never reached capacity last year. I have sent a copy of our Pre-registration flyer to our AA Liaison to post on their website as well. The Pre-registration flyer is currently being translated into Spanish. Walk-in Registrations are \$35.00. Alateens are \$5.00 pre-registered or walk in. There is a banquet choice of three meals, (\$45.00) so please indicate your meal choice if you intend to attend the banquet. We have included a voluntary 7th Tradition contribution option. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 860-257-6000 and pressing 0 (front desk) as the 1-800 number does not confirm the discounted rate (a member and myself both called to check today). The front desk has this discounted rate of \$112.00 (+tax +service charge). You can also press "click" on the registration form to register online and that shows the discounted rate. Pre-Registration is by 3/1/24 to receive this discounted price of \$112.00. (Tax + Service charge not included). The Convention and Walk-In registration will open at 8:30 am on Saturday,

March 16th, 2024, at the Hartford Sheraton, South. The Convention Raffle will take place on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. A flyer will be distributed soon explaining how to enter the drawings. We have wonderful prizes. Participants must be present to win. There are still some committees looking for volunteers. A volunteer flyer both in English and Spanish has been posted and sent out to our Area Secretary. English and Spanish Literature will be available for purchase at the Convention. We will have signage in English and Spanish for everyone's convenience. Spanish interpretation will be available as well as headphones that include those hard of hearing. Keynote Speakers will include Al-Anon, Alateen and A.A. Keynote Speakers and other select meetings will be recorded and available for purchase. We have very appealing topics for our workshops and a surprise workshop as well. More details with regards to the Program will be forthcoming. I ask all District Representatives to encourage your Group Representatives to talk up the convention and have registration forms available at their individual meetings. See you all at the Serenity Breakfast!

2024 Convention Co-Chair/ Serenity Breakfast Kate A. (Was absent and was read by Janet S DR1)

My focus last month and this month has been on organizing the Serenity Breakfast, which is to be held on January 21st at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill. *Pre-registration check-in will begin at 8:00 and the breakfast starts at 9:00 *There will be AA, Al-Anon, and Alateen speakers following the breakfast. *As of Tuesday 1/2, we have a total of 100 registrations: 65 Through Eventbrite and 35 by check. *This time last year we had 121 registrations. *Registration has been extended and now ends on January 14th . *Flyers are being changed to reflect the new deadline. *In the meantime, please talk up the Serenity Breakfast. Cathy, our secretary, sent everyone on the committee the flyers in Spanish and English. Karen distributed them as well. You can make some copies and distribute them at your meetings. *Last year's total was 179 attendees. We have room for 240 attendees. *The snow date for the Serenity Breakfast is January 28th. *There are pre-registration flyers in both Spanish and English on our website. *Our Flyer committee also recently made a "Reminder Flyer" which was also posted on the website and handed out to the GR's and members of the Committee. *These fliers were also given to the AA liaison Ray G for posting on their website. *We will have a raffle at the Serenity Breakfast as well. Tickets are \$10.00 for 18 tickets, \$5.00 for 7 tickets and \$1.00 for 1 ticket. *The Serenity Breakfast consists of French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, breakfast potatoes, yogurt and granola, muffins, as well as gluten-free muffins, fresh whole fruit, orange juice and cranberry juice, coffee, decaf coffee, and hot tea. *Janice, Paul (from our electronics committee) and myself met at the hotel on December 19th for a run-through. *I have been in communication with the Spanish committee as well, with regards to interpreters and other things they may need. *This year we will have a Spanish speaking greeter, as well as an English-speaking greeter, with the hopes of making all attendees comfortable and to answer any questions anyone may have. *Greeters, Raffle, Pre-registration, and Treasury are also on track. *I am currently working on the script for the breakfast as well as the speaker gifts. *I have filled out the registration forms for the Serenity Breakfast speakers and mailed them to our Treasurer. *I have reworked our Questionnaire sheet and that will be available to attendees at the breakfast. *The Steps, with our new logo, are printed out and will be placed on different tables to be read at the start of the breakfast. These are the facts in bullet point. However, let me take a moment to acknowledge that none of this would be happening if it were not for the grace and love of our Higher Power. I am humbled when I stop and remember nothing is done without my connection and reliance on my Higher Power. When I have been overwhelmed, I have taken a moment to sit and breathe and find my connection to my HP and my gratitude for being a trusted servant.

Group Records Coordinator Report – Jackie B.

As of this writing, CT has 12 registered permanent electronic meetings. As of this week, my count of meetings in CT still meeting electronically only is 20. Per World Service, CT has 158 active meetings in the Area plus 9 Alateen meetings. As I've said in previous reports, World Service has requested of all Area's that once they have Policies and Procedures in place as to admittance of electronic meetings, groups in that Area will have 6-12 months from the date policies are adopted, for meetings to decide to become a Permanent Electronic Meeting. For the new DR's and Alternates here tonight (and for all DR's and Alternates for that matter) that

means these 20 groups have until June of this year (since CT voted on Policies in June of 2023) to become permanent electronic meetings in CT.

The Group Records Page/Link of our website has been updated to reflect those Policies and Procedures adopted last June as to Electronic Meeting Changes and Registrations. Forms/links as to Changes to, and Registration of, Physical Meetings are also now up to date on the website. Go to ctalanon.org, login as a member, see "Welcome to the Members Page", scroll down to "Group Records Information". Thank you, Robert, for making the updates.

There is, as I have reported in the past, still some confusion as to which form to use for various types of changes. Once again, DR's please reiterate to the GR's in your districts that it's ok to ask for help if needed prior to submitting changes directly to World Service. I would also request that any changes submitted by either a district or a group directly to WS be forwarded to me also, so that when WS asks for my permission on making a change (sometimes they do sometimes they do not) I will not have to spend time confirming that the request is accurate, I will already have the proposed change in my hands. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

AA Liaison Stephanie R (Absent not read)

Happy New Year!

Since December's meeting, I've visited districts meetings in districts 2, 8, 11 and (my district) 12. Many thanks, the District Reps for getting me on the agenda so quickly. I shared my gratitude, enthusiasm and joy from participating in 2023's events, asked for help for the 2024 events, saw old friends, met new ones and ate a lot of great holiday treats! Next week, I'm visiting district 4 and have room on my calendar to get to a few more districts. As a result of my visit with D11, I'm thrilled to report, 2 members have stepped up to help with this year's events!

On Monday, 29 January, I'll be hosting a monthly committee meeting to connect with members who are chairing an event, volunteering or simply would like to see what its all about! It will be a great time to connect, ask questions, and get updates on the event that can be passed along to the Area. The meeting schedule is below along with the event list. Please see what positions are still available and consider this service opportunity to enhance your recovery.

2024 AA Events with Al-Anon participation:

Round-Up: March 23, 2024

Event Chair: Fred P. Event

Co-Chair: Cindy T

Needed: Literature Chair, PO Chair, Archives Chair

Soberfest: June (date to be confirmed - could be 1st weekend)

All positions are needed.

Rompiendo Fronteras/Breaking Frontiers: July 27, 2024 (date to be confirmed)

All positions are needed.

Area 11 Convention: October 18,19, 20 2024 (date to be confirmed)

Event Chair: Janine

Needed: Co-Chair, Literature, PO and Archives Chair

CSCYPAA: November 29, 30, Dec 1 2024

Event Chair: Jacque P

Needed: Co-Chair, Literature, PO and Archives Chair

Brief Description of Service roles:

Chair - Attends event committee meetings, creates Al-Anon's program within the event's schedule, finds speakers, moderators and speaker gifts.

Co-Chair - supports chair with tasks.

The positions below are the links of service to the corresponding Area Coordinators in order to bring materials to the event. They also help find volunteers to staff the tables.

Literature Chair

PO Chair

Archives Chair

AA Events Coordinator Report 3 January 2024

Registration (if needed, such as Rompiendo Fronteras/Breaking Frontiers)

2024 AFG AA Events Committee Meeting Schedule:

Jan 29, Feb 26, Mar 25, Apr 29, May 27, Jun 24, Jul 29, Aug 26, Sep 30, Oct 28, Nov 25, Dec 30,

Zoom Information:

Meeting ID: 409 676 2055

Passcode: 121212

Dial by your location: +1 646 931 3860 US

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82673479585?pwd=hc4QSF6acq5cBzU9PDElIA88g9Xa7R.1>

Hope to see you! With love and gratitude in service, Stephanie R **Participation is the key to harmony!**

New Business

Welcome New Panels Districts (3,8, &11) Lisa G. Welcomed the new members of service and reminded them of the tools and reiterated what Elaine M. the Delegate discussed earlier in her report.

Resume for BOD Elaine M. No resumes

Ctalanon.org Doman Rober T.

Discussed issues with the ctalanon.org emails. Discussed issues with how to address. He discussed following the principles of the program as it pertains to Anonymity. Robert researched what other areas are using. Shared some options on how to have a more robust mail platform. Will provide a more detail report to the area. A motion was made by Marissa W. DR6 For Robert T. to proceed for a viable solution and Morgan R DR3 second the motion. Motion carries unanimously with one abstention ADR 4 Vicki R.

Robert T. requested additional funds for his budget due to upgrade necessities. A motion to increase his budget by \$300 was made by Janet S. DR1 and second by Carrie M. DR13 Motion carries unanimously.

Lisa G. reminded everyone of meeting dates and refreshments will be provided on March first by Districts 1 &2

Morgan.R. DR3 moved that the meeting be adjourned 8:39PM; Second by Sami W. DR5

Meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen V., AWSC Secretary