

CONNECTICUT AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 3, 2024

Chairperson/Delegate Elaine M. 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:** Chairperson Lisa G., ADR2 Lauren L., DR5 Sami W., DR7 Robert M. DR8 Wendy Q., ADR11 Wendy M. ADR 12 Jennifer K., AA Events Liaison Stephanie R, AAPP Gay B., Convention Co Chair Kate A., Literature Coordinator Trish G., Public Out Reach Eric B., Spanish Liaison Coordinator Roxana R., Guest Past Delegate Gina R., Anne B., Prior PO Coordinator Kathe, Shelly

Secretary Report: Karen V. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Janet S. (DR1); seconded by Carol D. (DR2) Motion carries unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Stephanie S.

Bank Balance	\$31,913.67
Outstanding Items	<u>(778.60)</u>
Checkbook balance as of 4/30/24	<u>\$32,692.27</u>

Stephanie went over the actual/budget expenses and revenues in detail.

A motion to accept the treasurer report was made by Morgan R. (DR3) and seconded by Marissa W. (DR6) Motion carries unanimously.

Delegate's Report: Elaine M.

Opportunities to Serve on the Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM). She attached the information outlining the qualifications and details about serving AFG as an ECRM. After reviewing if you feel you have met the criteria, The deadline for submission is August 15, 2024. It is also time for Connecticut to apply for the Northeast Regional Trustee position to serve for a three-year term, one day at a time, one meeting at a time. She will forward the application to you on April 25, 2024, her hope is that someone will step up to represent the Northeast. FYI, you do not have to have been a Delegate just someone who wants to give back to the Al-Anon/Alateen program. WSO is asking Al-Anon and Alateen members to complete a survey, The survey will open on June 20, 2024- July 31, 2024, via In the Loop. The survey will take about 15 minutes, it is available in English, Spanish and French. Please look out for the survey and encourage your members to respond, this information helps WSO as well as professionals whose clients are suffering from the effects of alcoholism. Revisions have been made to the service manual on now V3P2427-v3-replacement-pages.pdf (al-anon.org) please update your service manual with the attached pages, the changes are color coded for versions. It is available in English, Spanish and French. Road Trip- You and the board connect. Connecticut is partnering with Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York South. The criteria are the location must have a major airline, full-service hotel support with transportation and a meeting place for 200 people. Massachusetts will take the lead in the submission of the application and gather information. Birthday Celebration- Have you seen last months' Forum Magazine? Al-Anon is celebrating its 70th birthday, Elaine reminded the DR's that it is important to understand the process of a member becoming a Alateen sponsor or Amias so that member are not discouraged of service.

Alternate Delegate – Katie D.

She is looking forward to seeing the Group Representatives, District Representatives, Area Coordinators and other guests at the Assembly. She thanked Districts 11 and 12 for hosting. She also wanted to sincerely thank Elaine, our Delegate, for her leadership and generosity of her time and talents representing Connecticut at the World Service Conference. She and her committee are well along in planning the workshop for the Assembly,

she thanked Gina R., Betsy N., and Leslie S. for their hard work and creative ideas! The focus this year is on understanding and using the Service Manual, and they are planning something fun and a little different. Instead of having a separate workshop before the Assembly, we will be integrating our “workshop” content into the Assembly itself throughout the day so that everyone can participate. I hope you all will be able to attend and she thanked everyone in advance for participating! Thank you all for service in support of our fellowship.

District 7 Report: DR7 Bob M. (Read by DR1 Janet S)

“Saturday Morning AFG” celebrated 50 years on April 6 • “Woodbury Wednesday Morning” will celebrate 50 years on May 15 • District 7 has eleven Al-Anon meetings. (Eight meetings are F2F) Two meetings are on Zoom o One meeting is hybrid. Most meetings have a GR. District meeting are held F2F the Wednesday after the area meeting There have had two picnics over the past two years that are well attended GRs voted in January not to renew the district Zoom license. This affected three groups. Two groups have purchased a joint Zoom license. One group will utilize a free Zoom license until they can get a chairperson to resume F2F meetings • District Treasury: We have a new district treasurer • We have a new GR (Lisa J.) for Thurs Lourdes of Litchfield • Alateen – district 7 has one AMIAS who has stepped down • PO – Committee meets monthly. Purchased free standing display racks that hold 4-6 pamphlets for displaying at libraries Racks are placed in libraries. Contacted Spanish liaison to spark an interest in starting a Spanish meeting in Waterbury • Alternate DR position is open

District 8 Report: Wendy Q. (Read by Jena J.)

District 8 includes the towns of Hartford, West Hartford, Farmington, Avon, Burlington, Harwinton, Windsor, Bloomfield, Simsbury, Canton, Windsor Locks, East Granby, Granby and Suffield. We have a total of 13 active meetings in our district: 5 In person only 3 Zoom only 1 In person with conference call option 4 Hybrid (different versions of in person and zoom) One of those meetings is a Spanish meeting, and we do not currently have an Al-ateen Meeting in our district. We have a new district Representative and a new Treasurer coming in this calendar year. We are grateful for a wonderful District Secretary. We also are fortunate to have a new District Group Records position created and filled which is VERY helpful in managing group changes and information (especially with the changes to Permanent Electronic Groups). We are still seeking an Alternate District Representative and a District Public Outreach Representative. We continue to conduct our district business through zoom and continue to encourage all groups to attend, with most doing so. I am grateful for our active District and for the wisdom, guidance, and patience of all as I learn this new role of service.

Concept 7 District 9 Hank B.

Concept 7: The Trustees have legal rights while the rights of the conference are traditional Concept Seven addresses the balance between legal and traditional authority, and encourages us to seek clarity in our roles and responsibilities. In the past, our rolls and responsibilities may have been distorted, because we have been affected by the disease of alcoholism. We, also, may have been confused about the difference between legal rights and responsibilities and traditional authority. Today, we know there are matters that can only be resolved through the laws that govern us. For example, we may be given certain authority within the framework of a specific job description, or may be responsible for personal contracts. If there are disputes within these situations, the rules that govern the workplace, or the stipulations of the contract, are binding. Through these measures, we can find agreement in an equitable manner for those involved. However, the legal system is not the only authority that can help us. When we consider traditional authority in Al-Anon, we turn to the spiritual principles of the Legacies. In our personal lives, we seek guidance from a Power greater than ourselves. When we find ourselves in the middle of a disagreement or conflict, we may discover that a solution is found through calm reasoning and the wisdom of the spiritual principles of the Al-Anon program. Legal and traditional Authority Concept Seven helps me to recognize the legal and traditional authority in my personal life. I own a home, and live alone. Within the home, I can decorate it in a way that I find pleasing. I can entertain the guests that I choose, and also enjoy activities and hobbies. Outside the home, I have property to maintain, taxes to pay,

and maintenance requirements. Because this home is part of a community, being disrespectful to the legal parameters of living within this community would interfere with the serenity that I enjoy. Concept Seven helped me to make a decision concerning my son. Because of my son's alcohol and drug use, his violent behavior increased. As a result, he caused damage to my property, and was a threat to me. I understood that I had a parental obligation as long as he was under the legal age to be able to live on his own. After he became of legal age, he did not choose to abide by reasonable household rules, and continued to participate in illegal activities. I asked him to leave. The community then took on the responsibility to do what it could within its rights to keep him legally responsible for his actions. As a result, he experienced time in jail.

Old Business

2024 Convention Chair Janice R.

Janice learned so much about herself, she practiced our legacies and utilized her service sponsor and personal sponsor regularly. It was a successful convention, and was grateful to the planning committee, our co-chair Kate, past chair, Deborah and all of you who attended to make it such a success. They presented the recommendation of the venue to the committee for approval and the decision agreed with recommendations to hold the convention at the same hotel as last year. The meetings at the hotel, as well as on Zoom, which saved people traveling time and cut on our mileage expenses. Janice said yes to this position with some apprehension and fear. Thank goodness for all the tools of the Al-Anon program. She emphasized throughout the meetings that we all had to spend wisely and prudently. The Hotel charged separate room rental and staging prices per contract (unlike last year) with a 22% service charge. Corner's where cut where possible without damaging effects. The committee spent carefully. Due to their spending so wisely, we were able to cover all hotel costs and had excess funds left over. The left-over expenses exceeded expectations. (thank you HP). Janice was happy to report that the excess was \$3024.00 after having returned the \$5000.00 seed money to the Area Treasurer. With that in mind, the convention was able to contribute \$1080.00 to the LDC, Area Treasurer and WSO based on the policy in our 2022-2025 Service Manual, page 95. A few surprises/challenges during the convention journey with regards to the Program Chair and the Recorder, Bob Clark. It was resolved both situations successfully. Truly, we do not do anything alone. The total number of registrations was 378. 323 Al-Anon members, 41 AA members, 10 Alateen members and 4 guests. There were between 8-10 Spanish speaking persons at every Spanish workshop as well as 3 or so English-speaking persons. There were 71 banquet dinners and 104 hotel reservations. Registrants came from New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Maine. Unfortunately, Massachusetts had its own convention the same weekend, and a Spanish conference was being held in Boston the same weekend. For the first time this year, our convention offered our Spanish population a greeter who spoke Spanish, signs were placed throughout the convention in the Spanish language along with the "Program at a Glance" printed and provided on the website. The Spanish Chair coordinated this with the Properties Chair. In addition, our Spanish Chair had the Serenity Prayer and Declaration in Spanish on easels in the grand ballroom for everyone's convenience. Another first was to hold a workshop with the Area Officers to share their experience, strength and hope with regard to their service. Many people were overheard later saying they were glad they attended and were given a chance to get to know their Area Officers a little better. All the other workshops were well attended, please know that Janice was honored and humbled to have been the Convention Chair for the 2024 46th CT AFG Convention, Our Pathway to Peace. This convention could not have taken place without the entire Convention Committee and its officers. Thank you again! Also, many thanks to all members who attended and for all the Area's support. It was very much appreciated.

2024 Convention Co-Chair/ Serenity Breakfast Kate A. (Read by Janice R. Convention Chair)

As Co-Chair, she attended Area meetings to report on what was happening with the breakfast and other things that were within her purview. She also attended and reported at the monthly Convention Planning meetings. The Co-Chair is responsible for the Theme Contest. She learned that she had to create a flyer for the Contest. This was a challenge for one devoid of artistic ability. However, the entries began to trickle in and soon she had over 70 submissions. After the Committee voted, a winner was chosen. "Our Pathway to Peace." Putting on the Serenity Breakfast was fun for her, partly because she had so much support from other members of the Convention Committee. She was so amazed to see all the parts moving as one. There were a lot of details, but

what she experienced was the willingness of others who had taken on service to communicate with her and follow through. Each of them made the Serenity Breakfast happen, and they all did an amazing job. During the planning of the Convention, Janice was determined that she be exposed to every aspect. So, she found herself on many zoom calls with various committees and going to the hotel multiple times to meet with certain other Committees to understand their tasks and problem solve. Janice included me in the correspondence she had with committee members throughout the planning. Kate was fortunate that she was committed to offering her exposure to the workings of the Convention. She will now enter the position of Chair with knowledge and a sense of understanding that she may not have had.

PO Eric B (read by Karen V)

Eric apologized for not being there in person Monthly PO Committee meetings continue very strong with 12-14 in attendance every month. We have had a very eventful early Spring. Here are a few highlights he was at his daughter's graduation.

PO Completed:

The Connecticut Convention Al-Anon & Alateen. PO tables were a big success again with over 10 volunteers and well stocked Al-Anon and Alateen literature and handouts. The Alateen table had a dedicated monitor for PSA's and the Al-Anon table briefly played PSA's on a laptop. Round Up – lots of volunteers with a strong presence for Alateen PO. Many AA attendees did not know of Alateen. A lot of Alateen schedules and Al-Anon information was given out. Mental Health Fair at Norwalk High School was a great success. Over 400 students attended. The kids loved the wrist bands, and the Al-Anon Wheel of Good Fortune attracted many participants to the table. Volunteers were able to connect in many ways. UCONN SCHOOL of SOCIAL WORK - We had presentations to 2 classes in March each with 15-25 students in attendance. 3 volunteers were in person at each presentation, and I presented via zoom onto a white screen. The 2021 Survey, PSA's, FAQ's and more was displayed from the Al-Anon website. Both classes were extremely successful with a high level of student engagement. We are invited to come back again next year. I will be using these 2 presentations as a "model" for presentations to other colleges, universities, rehabs, and the like. Coming Up – Volunteers needed. If interested, please reach out to me at publicoutreach@ctalanon.org Bristol Health and Wellness Expo (approx. 1000 attendees) (DISTRICT 1) Sunday May 5th 10:00am – 4:00pm <https://stayhappening.com/e/passport-to-health-and-wellness-expo-ECO3FA2FPJ6> Page 2 of 2 2024 AA Events with Al-Anon Participation – 2 or more volunteers needed for each. Soberest, Saturday June 8th 9am – 4pm Willington CT (DISTRICTS 9 & 10) Rompiendo Fronteras/Breaking Frontiers, Saturday July 27th 9am – 3pm New Britain (DISTRICT 1) Area 11 Convention, Saturday September 14, (location TBD) CSCYPAA, Saturday November 30th, Groton (DISTRICT 11) Eric thanked everyone for service and "let's do even more – in

CTALONN.ORG DOMAIN Report – Robert T.

In our January meeting he brought up two issues for discussion: 1) ongoing email issues with Ctalanon.org email addresses and 2) the need for a website upgrade, and its associated costs. Details of both situations were included in his report submitted for the March meeting. He hopes to have more specific timelines for my next report for the Spring Assembly. Regarding the email problems, we agreed to switch our email hosting platform to Google Workspace. Although this solution comes with full Google functionality which we may be able to utilize, the primary reason for the move is to a more robust email hosting platform. This will require work on my part to create the new mailboxes, document the new configuration, and then manage the transition over to the new workspace with all who use the Ctalanon.org email addresses. He will need to coordinate that timing with everyone in advance since all mailboxes will be affected. He does not have a target date at this time, but this will be his priority. Regarding the website upgrade, our webhost has created a website shell that will house the new website. But that is just the foundation to build on for the future. As noted, he will come up with a more specific planning timeline for the Spring Assembly report.

Break 7:45PM – 7:55PM

New Business

AAPP Alateen recertification Gay B.

The 2024 Annual World Service Alateen Group and AMIAS (Al-Anon member involved in Alateen service)/Group sponsor Recertification process is nearly complete, well ahead of the July 1st deadline. The area currently has 25 active AMIAS. One new AMIAS was voted into our area in February, and four AMIAS are not recertifying. There are currently seven active Alateen meetings. She thanked the AMIAS/Group sponsors and District Representatives who have completed the recertification forms in a timely manner.

Spanish Coordinator – No Report

Literature Coordinator (Read by Lois)

Since beginning her term as Area Literature Coordinator in the fall, she has attended and provided literature in both English and Spanish for 2 events. CSCYPAA which took place at the Sheraton at Bradley Field following Thanksgiving last year and our recent AlAnon Convention in March. For CSCYPAA, a table was next to Public Outreach and spent quite a bit of time making sure attendees knew our literature was not free, but needed to be purchased. This event had a somewhat disappointing sales total of under \$10 after the 5 hours at the event. Most successful event by far was our recent AlAnon Convention this past March. Started 8am and were ready to sell by 9. Numerous choices of books and pamphlets in both English and Spanish were provided. A card reader was provided this year which seemed a welcome addition, allowing us to take payment by cash, check or credit card. Cash/check sales totaled \$801 and our credit card sales totaled \$802.15. Customers were asked to round their sale amount up to the next dollar which was a positive effect and added another \$20.35 to our grand total of \$1,603.15. English titles totaled \$1,398.05 and Spanish titles brought in \$184.75. This summer, on June 8th, will be heading to the Soberfest event in Wilmington and on July 27th, will be providing literature for Rompiendo Fronteras. In the fall will be at the Area 11 Convention and CSCYPAA. She is grateful for the opportunity as Area Literature Coordinator and a volunteer at our LDC to share our wonderful literature which provides endless recovery within its pages. She has met and engaged with many interesting people as they seek recovery from the devastating family disease of alcoholism. It has afforded her a greater understanding and compassion for all of us who suffer and seek serenity. It has been her privilege to serve and she looks forward to the rest of the upcoming events for this year.

Archives – Justice K

Since the Fall Assembly, Area Archives held a table at the Area AFG Convention as well as Round-Up, an AA event with Al-anon participation. During the convention Justice placed a sign-up sheet for members were interested in joining the Area Archives Committee. During Round-Up, she was seated next to the AA Archives table and had the opportunity to chat with their Archives Coordinator and exchange ideas on preserving and presenting materials. In addition to the sign-up sheet at the convention, she has reached out to all the DRs and asked to be on their agenda to speak with GRs about the Archives committee. So far, she has attended Districts 3,5, 8,9, and 11. She thanked those DRs for allowing her to take up time during your meeting. For those Districts she has not attended yet, she hopes to attend over the next few months. Unfortunately, several meetings occur in person at the same time on the same night and she has not mastered being in two places at once. She has hosted three Archives Committee meetings to date. The meeting occurs every third Tuesday of the month with the next meeting on May 21st. So far, the attendance has been a little low, but she has had a few members reach out to her directly to express an interest in helping. She is hopeful to continue to meet monthly and be able to delegate tasks related to maintaining and improving. She also plans to coordinate periodic meetings at the LDC during operating hours to execute delegated tasks. On her last trip to the LDC, she picked up a box of AWSC Meeting reports and the scanner and began scanning meeting minutes from 1979 to familiarize herself with the scanning process. Additionally, she attended the WSO Archives Coordinator meeting on March 24th where she had the opportunity to meet other Area Archives coordinators and hear what is happening in their Areas. Several expressed an interest in digitizing their archived records while other Areas have been using platforms like Google cloud to store their digital records for some time. Other Areas shared their struggles with obtaining, collecting, or organizing their materials while others sought guidance on what is appropriate to keep with the Area or get rid of. It was nice to hear some of the similar themes shared among Areas and learn new ideas from those who have found a solution to shared challenges. Finally, there are several

upcoming events that Archives has been invited to, including Soberfest (June 7- 9 th), and Rompiendo Fronteras/Breaking Boundaries (July 27 th) that will require volunteers to help run the table. She will personally be away during Soberfest but would still very much love for Archives to participate if possible. Please continue to announce the Area Archives Committee meeting during your district and group meetings. If any of your members express an interest, please feel free to direct them to Justice and she would be happy to answer any questions!

BOD Carol D

The Board of Directors (BOD) oversees legal and financial issues. They have accomplished many things since her last report to the AWSC. Presently they have 9 members, Janice R., Secretary, Katie D. Treasurer, Ann T-V., Shirley B., Michael C., Stephanie S., Martha N., Ron M., and Carol D., they are always looking for more (there can be 10 members). Consider reviewing. It is one of Carol's responsibilities to sign contracts for all Al-Anon events. All contracts are reviewed and signed by the President or the Treasurer. As a reminder: legally, no other member can sign a contract. Lois F. was hired as manager of the LDC. She started in May, almost 1 year ago. She has made many innovative improvements that have helped the LDC run even more smoothly. Everyone is very grateful for her hard work and her talents. Business has increased. • Michael C., previous Treasurer, opened a bank account with Webster bank. There is a safer way to accept credit cards at the LDC and to sell literature at events. • We negotiated a lower rate with Comcast for phone and internet services at LDC and a new contract. Has been signed • At the annual meeting in March, Michael stepped down as Treasurer, but will continue to serve as a director; Katie D. was elected Treasurer; Ron M. was voted on to the Board and Kathy G. resigned. • Financially the Area and the LDC are healthy.

Alateen PO Gina R.

A sub committee was formed 3 months ago. Gina and Kathe will be on this committee. First project was to implement table cards. They were handed out at the area meeting to the DRs to pass along to Gr's the card will have information regarding schedule meetings in CT. To help improve communication regarding Alateen.

June Assembly Update - Shay K. DR 12 and Janine DR 11

The William J. Pitkin Community Center in Wethersfield has been reserved for June 1. The following will be set up for the assembly: 3 coffee pots, 2 podiums, mics and screens, tables for registration, presentation, kitchen, and area offices. It was recommended by the facility to bring HDMI cables just in case. GRs are requesting 22 volunteers from our district. The decorations and refreshments (coffee, water, plates, napkins, and candy) will be purchased for the event. The Eventbrite is set up for the Assembly and ready to go live. The registration fee is \$13 for general admission and \$8 for Alateens. Once we get the go ahead, we will send out a flyer so everyone can register. We will be sending out invitations to past delegates and AA Officers (registration fee is waived for these guests). At the last AWSC meeting each district was asked to sign up to bring either, drinks, snacks, bagels and fixings, fruits, and veggies for our refreshment table. Each district should bring enough for 30-40 people. Costs should be reimbursed by the district. Here is the list: District Food 1 Assorted Chips 2 Drinks- Water 3 Drinks (seltzer cans) 4 Fruits and/or Veggies 5 Bagels/Muffins and Fixings 6 Bagels/Muffins and Fixings 7 Assorted snacks 8 Fruits and/or Veggies 9 Fruits and/or Veggies 11 Drinks (soda/juice boxes) 12 Bagels/Muffins and Fixings 13 Small packages of assorted cookies

Elaine asked members to take a vote of confidence for Kate A. to be the Convention Chair. Passed unanimously.

Elaine presented A Alateen Coordinator Resume. Anne B.

She was present at the area meeting and shared her experience strength and hope as an Al-Anon member throughout her (Over 20+years) in Alanon. She has served at both the group level and at the area. Elaine asked members to take a vote of confidence for Anne B. to be the Alateen Coordinator for the duration of the term 1 year and a half. Passed unanimously.

Elaine presented A Convention Co-Chair Resume. Michelle (Shelly) H.

She was present at the area meeting and shared her experience strength and hope as an Al-Anon member throughout her (Over 30+years) in Alanon. She has served at both the group level and at the area. Elaine asked members to take a vote of confidence for Shelly H. to be the Convention Co-Chair. Passed unanimously

A motion to close the meeting was made by DR1 Janet S. and Second by DR4 Morgan R. Meeting closed 8:32PM with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen V., AWSC Secretary