

CONNECTICUT AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 6, 2024
Amended and Approved on December 6, 2024

Chairperson Lisa G. opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. She welcomed everyone and followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.

Roll call was taken by Karen V. **Absent:** Janet S. DR1, Deborah C. ADR1, Carol D DR2, Lauren L. ADR2, Morgan R DR3, Sara R ADR3, Jen B DR4 Sami W DR5., Wendy Q. DR8, Jennifer K. ADR12, Carrie M DR13, AAPP Gay B., Anne B Alateen Coordinator., Trish G. Literature Coordinator, Leslie S. Phone Coordinator., Robert T. Web Coordinator, Guest: Mark L.,

Lisa discussed the change of the Fall Assembly date for 2025 due to a conflict at the facility. A motion was made by Jen L. ADR 9 to change the date of the Fall Assembly from November 8, 2025 to November 1, 2025 seconded by Katie A. Alt Delegate Motion carries unanimously.

Secretary Report: A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended by Jackie B. Group Records Coordinator; seconded by Vicki R. (DR4) Motion carries unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Stephanie S.

Bank reconciliation

Bank Balance	\$33,816.37	
Outstanding items	<u>\$703.80</u>	see check register tab for details
Checkbook balance	\$34,520.17	
diff	\$0.00	

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

A motion to accept the treasurer report was made by Stephanie R. AA Coordinator and seconded by Jackie B Group Records Coordinator. Motion carries unanimously.

Delegate's Report: Elaine M.

News from WSO- Elaine attended a Conference call Saturday, August 10, 2025, and she summarized the information. Where can you find it? On the WSO website. Because of the volume of information, Elaine decided to shorten the information and continue the remainder of the conference call information at the November Assembly 2024. Chairperson the of Board (COB), Conference Leadership Team (CLT, Finance, and Policy Committee. • COB o WSO Volunteers/Staff and volunteers completed training and reviewed the 2003 Alateen Motion. Note, rereading the motion helps to remember why the creation of the ASBR (Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements) Finances Matters - Reserve Fund – Elaine thanked everyone for sharing ideas in using the excess funds which she forwarded to WSO back in July. • The board approved 4 smaller expense items, one of which was to purchase a new mail-scanning system. The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) will present other ideas in the October Board Meeting. (stay tuned) for more information. • 2024 Budget o Revenues (Income)- Major source of income consists of the sale of literature and contributions. Other sources of income are from Al-Anon's Mobile App premium subscriptions, magazine sales and investment gains or losses. The projected sale of literature was lower than anticipated in the amount of \$244,258(projection \$279,045. o Expenses- consisting of WSO staff salaries and all associated costs, i.e., payroll taxes and benefits, and technology support. Conference costs (including interpretation), and offices expenses. The table below reflects the YTD Actual and YTD Budget. The change in net assets has resulted in an operating surplus of \$488,409, which is higher than the projected budget.

Net Increase (Decrease) The change in net assets has resulted in an operating surplus of \$488,409, which is higher than the projected budget.

- Investments
 - o At Conference, a question to the WSO on the source of the original investment was answered: Background- In 1970, the WSC voted to establish an Ample Reserve. \$80,000 was the dollar amount invested that year. Since then, the Ample Reserve continues to be monitored closely and has grown to the current amount with NO additional funds added over these 54 years. This history now appears in the G-41 Guideline on Ample Reserves
 - o Building Maintenance -an increase in occupancy expenses to support necessary building maintenance projects, increase of postage rates to allow mailings to the fellowship, and necessary technological improvements approved.
 - o While line items increased, WSO expenses aligned with the revised 2024 Budget. Oversight of the Budget is the responsibility of the Treasurer.
 - o Equalized Expenses- Delegates attending the 2025 World Conference in New York will be \$2,532. ♣ Full Cost \$3,617.17
 - o Task Force(s) 2024
 - o Personal and Service Sponsorship -Ended
 - o Revitalizing Alateen -Ended
 - Road Trip
 - o Mark your calendars for October 26,2024 where you can meet the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and the a few of the WSO staff members. Cost \$30.00 Registration September.
 - o Where- Columbia South Carolina 8am-5pm
 - o What can you expect? A broader understanding of committees and how they serve our fellowship, and how WSC structure works. Road Trip SC 3
 - Al-Anon 2028 International Convention
 - o 14bids were submitted. Connecticut is part of the submission along with Massachusetts, New York South, and New Hampshire
 - o 400 volunteers are requested.
 - o May 23 three cities have been selected.
 - o June visits to the three cities will begin.
 - o October a selection will be made., stay tuned! AA's 2025 International Convention with Al-Anon Participation: When: July 3-6,2025; Vancouver, British Columbia Canada, Celebrating 90 years
 - Held at Hyatt Regency Vancouver Hotel July 3- 6 2025
 - Registration opens September 10, 2024, at 12:00PM(ED) online.
 - o <https://www.aa.org/international-convention>
 - Al-Anon daytime sessions on Friday and Saturday
 - Projected Attendance;50,000 AA members with the hope of at least 4,000 Al-Anon/Alateen members.
 - Members wishing to book a hotel room from the block reserved for the International Convention must complete registration first. Here is the link for frequently asked questions? <https://www.aa.org/international-conventions2025-faqs>.

Where will you be in July 2025? We hope to see you there! Please share this information with members in your respective Areas. This will be going out through in The Loop and AFG Announcements on August 28, 2024.

2018 Motion Eligibility

End of 2019 six-year Trial for Eligibility Requirements for an Area Officer Background information: There have been more iterations of the eligibility for standing for Area Officers to broaden the pool of candidates who could meet the eligibility requirements and could stand for Area Officers (see attached). At the end of 2025, this motion voted as a six-year trial period will no longer be in effect. Refer to Gratitude in Working Clothes for the eligibility. November 2019 Fall Assembly Motion: that the changes proposed by the Eligibility Requirements for Area Officers Task Force be accepted by the Connecticut Area Assembly to be implemented on a six-year trial basis, effective immediately upon passage. Motion passed with 113-yes, 7-no, 1- abstention

Eligibility Requirements December 2019 • Motion: to accept the report of the Electronic Task Force with our thanks. Motion passed. As of today, these are the requirements: ELIGIBILITY FOR AWSC OFFICERS' SERVICE POSITIONS Per a motion made and passed at the November 2019 Fall Assembly the following are the current eligibility requirements to become an Area Officer; 1. DR's who will have completed a 3-year term on December 31 of 4 the election year. 2. Past DR's who have completed a three-year term and who are currently active above the group level. 3. The DR's who at the time of initial paneling completed the 2- year term and are currently active above the group level. Beginning 11/2019 the above is in effect for a 6-year trial term. Delegate and Alternate Delegate are elected by a 2/3 Assembly vote and Secretary, Treasurer and Chair are elected by a simple majority. DR's-- As the 6 year trial for the current eligibility guidelines ends in November of 2025, I am asking you to review the current guidelines with your Group Representatives (for them to then discuss with groups and get back to you (DR's) to determine if improvements could be made to better the guidelines before the upcoming November 2024 Assembly or if the current eligibility requirements should stand as written. Should the groups response that no changes are recommended the current wording of the guidelines will remain the same except for the sentence "beginning 11/2019 the only change would be the

removal of the six-year trial". If there is interest in modifying/revising the current guidelines, I would then create the formation of a task force to review and make recommendations for eligibility. Any input from your district/group should be forwarded to me by October 15, 2024. Please keep in mind the "Links of Service" A gentle reminder, Elaine wanted to emphasize the importance of sharing the Delegate's Report to ensure that everyone is informed by reading the reports both at your district meetings and groups.

Alternate Delegate – Katie D.

Katie welcomed everyone and hoped that those of who were able to attend the Assembly enjoyed the workshop activities which included the Service Manual Scavenger Hunt and Service Manual Skit. They tried a different format to encourage participation from all attendees. The Fall Assembly is only two months away, so time to begin planning for the workshop. Once again, she is asking for help with topic ideas that you would find valuable, and for volunteers to help prepare and present the workshop.

Please see Katie after the meeting or email her if you have ideas or are willing to participate. Katie would like to visit 2 or 3 District meetings this Fall. Please let her know when your District is meeting, and she can coordinate a visit.

District 9 Report: DR Hank

On 5/8/2024, Jenn L (from the Saturday morning AFG) graciously stepped up to the role of Alternate District 9 Representative. Her amazing enthusiasm and administrative skills are a great gift for our team. Since the last status report on 02/28/2023: - This district has voted to hold monthly hybrid business meetings on Zoom. - The D10 meeting, East Woodstock, was added to D9 on a trial basis. - The Connecticut Men's Electronic AFG became a Permanent Electronic Group on Zoom. - The D10 Willington meeting closed while the D9 Stafford Springs meeting moved to Willington. - Seven D9 volunteers have graciously assisted by staffing several Public Outreach events, including the Cromwell High School resource fair, two presentations at the UCONN School of Social Work, Soberfest, Breaking Frontiers, a presentation at the Ridge Recovery Center, and Manchester's Overdose Awareness event. They have covered the table, handed out literature, and put a friendly face on Al-Anon. One D9 GR assisted the Area PO coordinator in taking the business meeting minutes. - A subcommittee is forming to foster the creation of an Alateen meeting in D9. - One meeting, East Hartford, no longer meets. - Here is a summary of the 21 meetings defined in District 9 (from ogr.al-anon.org): Group Name Town Day Time Status Sunday Night Warehouse Point AFG East Windsor Sun 06:30PM Inactive Portland Sunday Night AFG Portland Sun 07:00PM In-person AFG At Monday Night Warehouse Point East Windsor Mon 07:00PM In-person South Windsor AFG South Windsor Mon 07:00PM In-person Monday Evening AFG Glastonbury Mon 08:00PM NCO+Hybrid Tuesday Night Women's Group AFG Glastonbury Tue 07:00PM In-person Restored To Sanity Step Group AFG Manchester Tue 07:00PM In-person Ellington AFG Ellington Tue 07:30PM Inactive Wednesday Morning AFG East Hartford Wed 10:00AM Inactive Wednesday AFG Enfield Wed 07:00PM Inactive Quiet Corner AFG East Woodstock Wed 07:30PM In-person Wednesday Night AFG Vernon Wed 07:30PM Hybrid Thursday Morning AFG Enfield Thu 09:30AM In-person Thursday Evening AFG Enfield Thu 07:00PM Hybrid Connecticut Men's Electronic AFG Zoom Thu 07:00PM PEG Willington Stafford Thursday Night AFG Willington Thu 07:00PM In-person Just For Today AFG Manchester Thu 07:30PM In-person Friday Morning AFG Manchester Fri 10:00AM NCO+Hybrid Bolton Friday Nite AFG Bolton Fri 07:30PM In-person Hope AFG Manchester Sat 11:10AM In-person Saturday Night AFG Enfield Sat 07:00PM Inactive In summary, District 9 has 16 active meetings: 11 In-person, 1 PEG, 2 Hybrid, 2 NCO+Hybrid, 0 Alateen, 0 Spanish. Hybrid = An In-Person meeting with electronic access

NCO = Newcomer Orientation PEG = Permanent Electronic Group District 9 has a \$624 remaining balance after 2024 expenses in its treasury.

Concept 8 District Janine G.

Concept 8: The Board of Trustees delegates full authority for routine management of Al-Anon Headquarters to its executive committees. In 1954, the Board of Trustees was created to administer the World Service Office. Their role was to oversee policy, group and public relations, finance and leadership. As Al-Anon grew, the

board realized that as a group of volunteers they were not able to take on all that the original role entailed. Over time (in 1964) the board created the World Service Conference (WSC) who became the permanent guardians of Al-Anon's Traditions (see concept 7). The Board then assigned administrative functions to a more constantly available 8-member Executive Committee. This way the Board can focus on their primary role as the principal long-range planners of Al-Anon. They hold the vision for our fellowship and make sure that all of our decisions adhere to the guidelines of our conference. All the routine management of the WSO is conducted by paid employees who make sure that the phones are answered, information is available, and literature is produced and distributed. The Board of Trustees recognized that trying to do it all was impossible. They chose to focus on their primary purpose, while trusting others to take on the management tasks that were outside of their capacity. To delegate with confidence, the Board of Trustees must "learn to choose competent leaders, assist in setting the direction and tone desired, and then allow those designated to do their jobs" (Paths to Recovery, p. 296). This is a tall order for those of us affected by the family disease of Alcoholism. As it states in Reaching for Personal Freedom, "We seized hold over what little we could control, and were fearful of turning over some of that control to someone else." But Concept 8 gives us another way. I do not have to take on all of the responsibility. Instead, Janine identifies what is mine- my focus, my role, my responsibilities, my boundaries, my capacity. Once she knew what was hers, she could let go of the rest. She can trust others to take care of what is theirs. "I get to" practice this in Al-Anon service. As a DR it is not her responsibility to manage all of the meetings in the district. DR's primary purpose is to represent the groups in the district at AWSC meetings and to serve as a resource and information source for the groups." DR'S do their part and trust the GRs and district officers to do their parts. In her family she gets to practice this on a daily basis. Her husband surprised the family with a puppy a few weeks ago. Her first reaction was to panic--- so I called her sponsor right away. Her sponsor helped her to recognize that she was afraid that she would be the one who would ultimately have to take on all of the care for the puppy, because her husband and 4 kids (ages 10-18) couldn't handle it (one of her defaults of character). The sponsor reminded Janine that she is learning that she can choose love instead of fear as the basis for her decisions. The loving thing is to set clear boundaries. Janine has delegated full authority for routine management of Leia the puppy to the appropriate committee- her husband and kids. This means that she will have to sit, while they care for the puppy, sometimes badly, sometimes just differently than she would do it. This is hard for her, but she can see it as an opportunity to learn and grow. She is learning that she has choices. She can break an old pattern of stepping in and fixing everything and everybody. She is learning how to trust her family members to do for themselves. She is learning to let them have the opportunity to make mistakes, to learn, and to grow.

Old Business

2024 Convention Chair Kate A. She was happy to report that the contract for the 47th CTAFG Convention has been signed and a deposit of \$500.00 has been accepted on our behalf. Our Convention will be held at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, in Rocky Hill, on March 22nd & 23rd. This venue has satisfied our needs for the past two years after the disruption from the pandemic. She is hoping that it continues to do so. We have our first Convention Committee Planning Meeting at the hotel in Rocky Hill on September 22nd from 1-3pm. A few changes have been implemented this year. Given that this hotel has restrictions regarding hanging decorations, I have eliminated the Decorations Committee and created a new Entertainment Committee. I believe we are all ready to have some fun. The Theme Contest closed on September 1st. It was exciting to watch all the different themes coming in via email. However, she will let Shelly give you the details about our contest as it is really her domain. Our Treasurer has received the seed money for this Convention, and we are currently working on a budget. We have all positions filled except for a Co-Chair for Electronics, a Chair and Co-Chair for Hospitality, and volunteers for most committees. We continue to circulate flyers and announce this service need at meetings. Lunch will not be available. Unfortunately, the hotel cannot accommodate the size of our crowd for lunch, even brown bag. It was a sincere hope of ours that we could work out a simple sandwich and soup lunch. However, we were told directly that it is an impossibility. We will be notifying individuals of this when they register. Dinner will be a buffet with an Italian theme. We are hoping this will be

a way, as opposed to having a Banquet, to continue to keep costs down. Kate is honored to be the Chair of the 2025 AFG Convention. She realizes that she has quite the shoes to fill given the individuals who have come before her. Her goal is to do the best that she can, pray, pray, pray, try not to take herself too seriously, and to have fun. She thanked everyone for this opportunity for service.

2024 Convention Co-Chair/ Serenity Breakfast Shelly M.

The contract for the Serenity Breakfast on January 19, 2025, was signed in August. It will be held at the same venue as last year, the Sheraton South Hotel in Rocky Hill. She will be contacting members to ask if they would share with us their experience, strength and hope at our Serenity Breakfast. She was pleased to report that the 2025 Al-Anon Theme Contest has received 55 eligible entries. The Theme Contest is our official kickoff to our CT Convention and this year's themes promise to not disappoint. During the months of September and October, she will be researching possible venues for the 2026 CT AFG Convention. She is truly honored to be the Co-Chair of the 2025 CT AFG Convention. When she was asked, she did what you have taught her to do. She called her sponsor and discussed it with her. She prayed to her Higher Power and asked his blessing to help her accomplish this service commitment. She is reminded we never do anything alone. She thanked everyone for their faith in her.

PO Eric B

The first PO Committee meeting just 2 days ago on Wednesday night since our summer break. 12-15 were in attendance. Updates for Recently Completed Events Participation at AA event – Soberfest June 8th. Wilderness Lake Campground, Willington CT (District 9/10) Al-Anon PO Lead – Jen L, Volunteers Cindy V & Sean Alateen PO Lead – Alex, Co-Lead Greg W, volunteer Kevin Results / feedback. Al Anon and Alateen PO attended this successful event. The Ridge Recovery Center June 22nd Hartford Health Care, Windham CT (District 10) Volunteers George Z, Michele F, Jane R Results / feedback. The event went extremely well. Presenters were limited to an hour. George set up a format which allowed for 3 Al-Anon presenters to speakers for 15 minutes and included breaking out what Al Anon is along with a bit of the background by each presenter. This format will be used for future presentations. Will follow up for another presentation. Participation at AA event - Rompiendo Fronteras/Breaking Frontiers. July 27 Saturday St. Francis Church, New Britain (District 1) Al-Anon PO Lead - Kathe LB – Volunteers Amelia, Doris and Sean Alateen PO Lead - Ann B., Co-Lead Gail L, Volunteers Tina, Fran and Gina Results / feedback. Strong Al-Anon presence with a table for PO and Alateen PO side by side. See attached email from Doris International Overdose Awareness August 29th Center Memorial Park, Manchester CT, (District 9) PO Lead Jenn L Results / feedback. Fantastic visibility to Public Officials please See attached email from Jenn L. General - positions needed, comments, suggestions for incoming Area POC 1. Secretary for PO Committee meetings to take notes and help with agendas, logistics, scheduling and follow ups... 2. Area PO Coordinator - Eric B. term is ending 12/2024. 3. Alternate Area PO Coordinator - possible idea for next APOC to assist with agendas, logistics, scheduling and follow ups and tracking of PO materials... Budget for next Area PO Coordinator was completed and submitted at the budget meeting in August. The 2025 Public Outreach budget was decreased from \$6,000 dollars to \$4,500 dollars and will be voted on during the November Assembly. Upcoming Events (Leads and volunteers needed) All AA events have both Al Anon and Alateen tables to build awareness. Al-Anon Public Outreach Leads and volunteers are needed for these events. A Lead is a member volunteering to attend and “lead” the event, find 1 or 2 volunteers for the PO table and coordinate getting materials for their event and passing along to the next PO event Lead. Health and Wellness Expo approx. 250-300 people This Sunday, September 8th, 12-4. Plainville (District 1) Volunteers are recruited from local meetings by Shirley and are all set. Participation at AA event - Area 11 Convention approx. 400 people expected September 14, 9am-4pm Al-Anon PO table mid-day and afternoon volunteers Contact PO Lead – Kya at kyasct@gmail.com Alateen PO Lead – Pete and Sigrid, Volunteers Deborah and Gina Health and Wellness Event Tuesday, September 17th. 4:30 - 7. The Pavilion at Crystal Lake, 144 Prout Hill Rd, Middletown. (District 2) Mark L and Tina L Annual Wellness Expo – UConn Stamford (District 5) Saturday, October 5th. 12-5 The event is open to the public and attracts a diverse crowd of over 500 + attendees, including individuals and families ranging from ages 20 to 60+. Literature may be distributed only due to the high table cost. Passport to Health, Statewide Benefit Holistic Expo Double Tree by

Hilton, 42 Century Dr. Bristol, CT (District 1) Sunday Oct 20th, 10-4. Free Admission to the public. This is a huge event volunteers are in place. Annual Employee Safety, Health and Wellness Fair New Haven City Hall (District 3) Thursday Oct 24th, 9-1:30 George Z - event which takes place with city employees and the public. UCONN School of Social Work presentation (District 8) Hartford Monday November 18th 4 - 6:30 We are finalizing speakers / presenters. CSCYPAA November 29,30,Dec 1 (District 11) Mystic Marriott Hotel, 625 North Rd., Groton CT Al-Anon PO Lead; Volunteers and PO Alateen Lead Kevin and Tina Alateen Subcommittee Report / Agenda was presented by Kathe LB Completed Soberfest and Rompiendo Fronteras with great success. Lots of material given out and connections with AA members. Woodbridge meeting has closed. Upcoming – the last 2 AA events: AA Convention and CSCYPAA. The Alateen PO Subcommittee is well prepared. The PO Alateen Subcommittee members are also very active with several health fairs within their towns and schools this fall. Eric thanked everyone for their service – it has been honor and privilege to serve.

CTALONN.ORG DOMAIN Report – Robert T. (Absent read by Lisa)

He will be working on the new website over the course of the summer and there has been a significant learning curve with the new interface. However, things are coming together, and he is excited about the many of the changes that should make the new site easier to use. His goal is to have the interface and content ready in time for the Fall Assembly on November 9th . In the course of transferring content to the new website it became apparent that we need to reorganize our Members and Area documents and records. It is virtually impossible to find a specific document in our current website. So, we are reorganizing the documents to make them more obvious and accessible. She was very excited about the new meetings listings. The new format is an easily searchable and sortable listing for our Connecticut Area meetings, that includes location information and maps. Similarly, the new Events listings will offer more information, with both a calendar view and location details. Meeting and Events updates are the bulk of my regular workload, and he is currently keeping them updated on both the new and the old websites. She is in the process of working through all the 150 + Ctalanon listings to assure they are displaying the most current information he has. Please notify Robert (and Jackie B) at grouprecords@ctalanon.org if there are any inaccuracies in our listings that should be corrected. Sorry that he could not be present to deliver this in person. But you can always reach him at webmaster@ctalanon.org . He would be happy to discuss any questions you may have.

New Business

2025 Budget Stephanie S.

Stephanie reviewed the budget in detail. A Vote to approve the budget as presented- for DR's to bring back their GR's so they are prepared to vote at the November Assembly. Motion to approve the 2025 Budget as presented was made by Janine G. and second by Jackie B Group Records Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.

Fall Assembly Update - DR1 Janet S. and DR2 Carol D. (Report given by Mark L. Guest from D2)

Mark updated the group in the status of where the districts were in regards of the assembly. Things are going smoothly. Getting ready to send out to the district's what each group will be providing at the assembly.

AA Events Liaison - Stephanie R.

Stephanie presented a report that outlines the ongoing questions and subsequent conflict between coordinator roles as it relates to AA Events and hope to shed light on an Al-Anon solution. As you may or may not be familiar, Gratitude in Working Clothes is a guideline for each Area service position, a guideline to help with the role as well as the inherited corresponding service binder. Binders contain useful information from those who've previously served in these roles. These members may have added notes or updates useful for that the next service member. AA Events Coordinator had 4 binders. The volume of documents in those binders were overwhelming. Looking through them which took a few days – she was happy to report that now there are 2 streamlined binders. That said and after several AA Events had since passed where Stephanie was asked “why are you doing literature” or “who's role is it to get a literature chairperson”. These questions were a result of her attempts to bring literature to the event when she (1) didn't have an AA event chairperson, (2) couldn't find a

literature chairperson or (3) the Literature coordinator did not agree it was part of the Literature Coordinator's role. There was little or conflicting information in the binders, no specific information in GIWC. When she sought information from others, she again received varying responses. Hence, the conflict between the AA Events Coordinator and the Literature Coordinator roles and why we have been questioning under whose role responsibility is it the literature chairperson and volunteers for an AA event. She reviewed GIWC again, scanned other Area's websites, Al-Anon's Conflict Resolution cards and our traditions and concepts. She created the attached graphic to help her get a 'lay of the land' in hopes of seeing where the roadblock lies. Through Al-Anon's Links of Service and Traditions 9's 'create committees directly responsible to those they service', I am asking for help to walk through this roadblock using Al-Anon principles. She is grateful for the growth opportunity and happy to answer any questions you may have.

A motion to close the meeting was made by DR Bob M. and Second by Stephanie R AA Events Coordinator
Meeting closed 9:20PM with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen V., AWSC Secretary