

CONNECTICUT AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 3, 2025

Chairperson Lisa G. opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. She welcomed everyone and followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.

Roll call was taken by Karen V. **Absent:** Lauren ADR2, Morgan R. DR3, Sara ADR3, Vicki ADR4 Ray R. ADR 5, Ann B. Alateen Coordinator, Gay B. AAPP, Leslie S. Phone Service, Guest: Betsy N., Janice R., Joan V., Miquel.

Chairperson Report Lisa G. Report

Lisa is working on establishing Protocols for AWSC meetings with the Area officers. It will be ready for our March AWSC meeting. Lisa is putting together an AWSC inventory for our meetings. The other is regarding paneling and Lisa is communicating with the past delegates for their guidance. Just a reminder the eligibility requirements will be voted on at the Spring Assembly and this is part of the consideration. A few reminders: "The same spiritual principles that guide personal recovery from alcoholism also direct the business practices of Al-Anon. Whether applied to Al-Anon service or our personal lives, these principles help us work and live in harmony with each other. There is no difference between good spiritual practice and good business practice. As our cofounder Lois W. said, "I don't think there is a spiritual part of the program. I think Al-Anon is a spiritual program. Every activity can have a spiritual motive." Protocol for speaking • When on the agenda for a report each person will have three minutes. • When asking a question or making a statement a person can speak one time only and will have two minutes, please formulate your questions before coming up. • Once a person speaks on what you were going to ask or bring up do not repeat what was said.

- Behavior • Respect one another.
- Do not interrupt, wait your turn.
- If anyone feels uncomfortable due to unacceptable behavior, they can ask for a moment of silence and ask everyone to say the Serenity prayer
- • If at any time the meeting gets out of hand, yelling, interrupting, disrespectful, confrontational, any type of unacceptable behaviors-the Area Chairperson will close the meeting.

Secretary Report: A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Jackie B Group Records Coordinator; seconded by Shay K. (DR12) Justice K. abstained she was out. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Stephanie S.

Bank reconciliation

Bank Balance	\$29,942.07	
Outstanding items	<u>\$1,024.40</u>	see check register tab for details
Checkbook balance	\$30,966.47	
diff	\$0.00	

Stephanie went over the report in detail. She also handed out Conflict resolution Cards to the Area Members

A motion to accept the treasurer report was made by Marissa W. DR6 and seconded by Wendy DR8, Motion carries unanimously.

Delegate's Report: Elaine M.

Elaine wished everyone a Happy New Year! She welcomed the new District and Alternate District Representatives of Panel 21, and told them to enjoy your journey and remember to breathe. Elaine mentioned that for some of us this will be our last year, for others the second year of their term of service. Presently there is not a lot of information from WSO, however this weekend Elaine will have two web conference calls to attend. The theme for the 65th World Service Conference 2025 is "Investing in Each Other to Preserve our Legacy". Conference will be held in Windsor Connecticut, and Elaine wished she could invite all to see what goes on at the Conference. As Elaine reflects on the theme of this year's conference her thoughts are, what or how has she invested in others to preserve our legacies. She will continue to question herself over the next few months before she attends Conference. She will present/share for three minutes her journey as Connecticut's Delegate. The Forum has information about the Conference and "love gifts" which are shared amongst the many Delegates to share with their groups. Elaine can travel with love gifts because it is close to home, if you feel so inclined encourage your groups to take on a project for our Delegate "Elaine" to share with the other Delegate's. Just think of how far your love gift might travel internationally. Please don't mail them to the hotel however, you can send cards to Elaine at Sheraton at Bradley International Airport, 1 Bradley International, Windsor, CT 06906, it was exciting at the end of a long day to pick up cards from members in Connecticut. A reminder about Conference Agenda Items (CAI) the deadline for submission is January 17th, 2025, for me to submit to WSO. We are still looking for a Public Outreach Coordinator, Spanish Liaison to step up to service, if you know of anyone, please tap them on the shoulder and ask them to contact me at ctdelegatepanel63@ctalanon.org Reminder- Serenity Breakfast is coming soon, how many of you have registered? Elaine shared on an old piece of literature from the Forum July 2016 "Stepping out of my comfort zone" that she rely's on.

Alt Delegate's Report: Katie D.

Katie wished everyone a Happy New Year! She is looking forward to 2025 and how to be of service to continue to nurture our fellowship and our Area to reach those in need. In December, Katie had the privilege of attending the District 6 and District 7 meetings. She really enjoyed meeting the Group Representatives and learning more about the district and meetings across the state, and was impressed with the organization and information provided. She thanked Marissa, Stephen and Bob for including Katie, and congratulations Bob for a successful election for a new District Representative, District Treasurer and District Secretary! As a reminder, we will be posting the PowerPoint and hand out materials on the CT AI-Anon website under Area/Assembly Business and the 2024 Fall Assembly link. Please feel free to use the materials and share with your GR's and members. In the next few months, Katie will continue to visit additional District meetings, and as mentioned in December she is thinking about the workshop for the Spring Assembly in June and having a "Job Fair" to introduce GR's and DR's to the Officer and Area Coordinator roles as new representatives will be voted on at the 2025 Fall Assembly. Please share your feedback or any other ideas – thank you!

District 1 Report

District 1 has an Alternate DR, Sue D, a Treasurer, Lori D and for the first time in several years there is a Public Outreach Coordinator, Lynnette C. Still in need of a District Secretary. Our first District meeting for 2025 will be held on Wednesday January 11th in person as long as weather permits. District 1 includes the following towns; Newington, New Britain, Plainville, Southington, Plantsville, Terryville, Bristol, Plymouth, Wolcott, Berlin, Cromwell, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. We have a total of 17 Groups in District 1 2 Permanent Electronic Groups (PEG) • Sunday 7pm (formerly Newington) • Friday 6pm (formerly Southington), Adult Child Group 2 Hybrid Groups • Thursday Newington Gals 7:30pm • Friday Rocky Hill 7:30pm 13 In-Person Groups • Monday Plainville 10am • Monday Wethersfield 10am • Tuesday Newington 7pm, Step Meeting • Wednesday New Britain 7pm • Wednesday Southington 7:30pm, Parents Group • Thursday Terryville 10am • Thursday Plantsville 7pm • Thursday Bristol 7pm • Thursday Newington Men's Meeting 7:30pm • Thursday Wolcott 7pm • Friday Newington 9:30am, Babysitting available • Saturday Bristol 9:30am • Saturday Wolcott

9:30am District 1 has 8 AMIAS, unfortunately we have no active Alateen meetings at this time. AMIAS are very involved in the Alateen PO Subcommittee and participate in Area AA events at Alateen PO tables. Alateen is also trying to get an Alateen Meeting in one of our town schools Deborah is looking forward to her new position as District Representative and will keep the Area apprised of an updates to our current meeting status as well as projects the District undertakes.

District 2 Report Not Present

CT Al-Anon District 2 is very active with 10 meetings weekly; 8 in person, 2 zoom and 2 Spanish. We also have 3 Alateen meetings per week, 1 Tuesday Evening Middletown and 2 Institutional.

District 2 has been fortunate to have had the leadership of Carol D as DR for the past three years and Nancy J as our Secretary for the past four years. Both leaders are stepping down and new GR's will have an opportunity to step up to these open positions. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 9 at 7pm via Zoom.

Our Treasury is very strong which allowed us to give substantial year end gifts to WSO, CT Area and the LDC. We were also able to buy several copies of the newest publication for all groups in the district.

Mark L continues as our Treasurer and Lauren L continues as our Alt- DR.

Lauren L will lead the District 2 meeting, on January 9, 7pm via Zoom. At this time we will vote on new officers for 2025. The Service of our District 2 members is strong! Some of the ways in which we have given service:

- Public Outreach person in Lauren L with Mark L and Tina L working a Public Outreach booth in Middletown at a Health Fair.
- Carol, Lauren, Darlene, Laurie and others stepped up to help put together the Fall Assembly!
- We will have members volunteering as speakers and moderators at the CT Al-Anon Convention in March 2025
- We are proud to have Lisa G serving as Area Chairman
- Dung L is the newest Alateen sponsor and Cat S submitted an application to become an AMIAS
- The Cheshire Wednesday morning meeting was revitalized by a few District 2 members and is now a solid meeting again. I am very proud of our District!! Respectfully, submitted Lauren L

Concept 11 District 13 Carrie M.

Concept 11 The World Service Office of selected committees, executives, and staff members. (Info taken from Reaching for Personal Freedom Page 164, Page 166) Concept Eleven reminds us that there are enough people – with a diverse range of viewpoints and an abundance of skills and talents – to share the burden of the most difficult tasks. It would be short-sighted for us to work alone, when working with others would be both easier and more effective. Incorporating Concept Eleven into our daily activities, we can be organized without being inflexible. We can plan without controlling every detail. We can treat others with respect and dignity and reap the benefits of working together to accomplish a common goal. Concept eleven helps to increase my understanding of how to delegate without micromanaging. Each of us brings different talents and gifts to an organization. Each person's talents and gifts are necessary to the organization. Studying our book Paths to Recovery (B-24) has helped me understand Concept Eleven, and how I can apply it to me life. I can keep spiritual principles front and center, even when taking care of the ordinary business of life. In Al-anon I have learned to be aware of my purpose in every situation. How Concept 11 applies to Carrie: As the co-Chair for an annual retreat, it was her responsibility to encourage other women to serve as committee chairs (someone in charge of name tags, another in charge of decorations; raffle; etc.) She did not need to oversee the details of how each committee performed their task. Each committee worked independently. It all came together for a lovely spiritual retreat for all the attendees. It also has taught Carrie to ask for help when needed and to know she is not responsible for everything around her. She can use this in her daily life.

Old Business

2024 Convention Chair Kate A.

Our Serenity Breakfast is in a few weeks. Kate will allow Shelly to fill you all in on how that is progressing. Reminder to everyone here to please, if you have not yet, purchase your tickets. We will not be selling tickets at the door. Ticket purchases will end on January 12th.

On January 7th, Kate will be attending a Program Committee Meeting via Zoom. She is looking forward to the meeting. The Program committee has been doing a wonderful job in preparation for the convention.

Kate will also be attending the Activities Committee Meeting in-person on January 10th. Many individuals have offered their talents and expertise for this year's Activities, and she hopes to meet some of those individuals at this meeting.

Shelly and Kate visited the hotel again yesterday to talk about organization for both the Serenity Breakfast and Convention. As always, the meetings at the hotel are informative.

Overall, the Convention Committee is running smoothly. The biggest challenge right now is getting enough volunteers to help at the Convention. Many of our Committees have reached out to Abby, Chair of the Flyer Committee, to produce flyers directly asking for volunteers. She is also encouraging Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs to attend meetings that they do not usually attend to ask for volunteers. Hopefully, this is a temporary problem. However, it does again point to a reluctance among members to step up for service.

On another note. Kate is growing excited about the Convention and knows that everyone will have a wonderful time at the Serenity Breakfast.

Serenity Breakfast Shelly M.

The focus last month and this month has been on organizing the Serenity Breakfast which is to be held on January 19th 2025 at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel 100 Capital Blvd in Rocky Hill. Pre-registration check in will begin at 8:00 and the breakfast starts at 9:00. There will be an AA, Al-Anon and Alateen speakers following the breakfast. As of Tuesday Dec 30, we have a total of 112 registrations: 76 through Eventbrite and 36 by check. This time last year we had 100 registrations. Registration ends January 12th. Please talk up the Serenity Breakfast. Last year's total was 179 attendees. We have room for 240 attendees. The snow date for the Serenity Breakfast is February 2nd. There are pre-registration flyers in both Spanish and English on our web site. 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 flyers were also given to Brian C the AA liaison for posting on their website. We will have a raffle at the Serenity Breakfast. Tickets are \$10.00 for 18 tickets, \$5.00 for 7 tickets and \$1.00 for 1 ticket. The Serenity Breakfast menu consists of French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, yogurt and granola, muffins, gluten free options coffee, juice, and tea. Kate, Carol D and Shelly met at the hotel Jan 2nd for a run through. Shelly will be in touch with the Spanish committee as well with regards to interpreters and other things they may need. Greeters have found a Spanish greeter, as well as an English-speaking greeter with the hopes of making all attendees comfortable and to answer any questions anyone may have. Raffle, Pre-registration and Treasury are also on track. Shelly is currently working on the script for the Serenity Breakfast as well as the speaker gifts. Shelly has filled out the registration forms for the Serenity Breakfast speakers and mailed them to our treasurer. Shelly is working on the Questionnaire sheet and that will be available to attendees at the breakfast. The steps with our new logo will be printed out and will be placed on different tables to be read at the start of the breakfast. Shelly took a moment to acknowledge that none of this would be happening if not for the grace and love of our higher power and also for all those in this program mentoring her on this path of Al-Anon service.

Spanish Liaison Miquel C.

Miguel spoke about the Spanish Liaison Coordinator position. He spoke about the creation and the need to service the community. He emphasized that the Spanish Coordinator does not have to speak Spanish that the communities would work with the individual willing to step in this service position and willing to visit the groups meetings and anniversaries. Miguel did a wonderful job communicating to the area and he was well received. Janine brought up diversity and how to move forward in reaching out to others who don't look like us today.

Elaine asked the DR's what are you doing in your districts as a PO project to support diversity and inclusion?

Archives Justice K.

Since her previous reports, she has done some research and developed a measurable and achievable plan to take the first step in digitizing the area archives. Tonight, she would like to make a motion to pay up to \$500 to have the AWCS meeting and Area Assembly minutes for the history of Area 7 professionally scanned. While the minutes from the Assemblies and AWSC meetings are only a small part of the materials we have stored, they are the most useful materials that we should be preserving. Currently we have most of the minutes from 2014-2022 available on our website. Her goal is to have the remaining records, which do not currently exist digitally, scanned and saved in a searchable format.

The company Charter Oak Scanning, out of Stonington, CT: <https://charteroakdigital.com/>, charges \$.14 a page and has the capacity to handle delicate materials with care. Here is the math: The earliest records of groups registered in CT is 1952, but the first World Service Conference was not until 1961, so there likely was not much "Area" activity to be recorded. That is about 63 years of records. Given the last 10 years (2014-2024) are already available digitally, we do not need to scan those. Based on the records that were available, Justice estimated that there are about 55 pages of minutes documented per year. $55 \text{ pages} \times 53 \text{ years (1961-2014)} = 2,915 \text{ pages}$. $2,915 \text{ pages} \times .14 \text{ (cost per page)} = \408.10 . The one factor that can/will increase the cost per page is labor for older/more damaged, stapled, taped, etc., documents, as well as the cost of the flash drive that the materials will be put on.

Area 11 (AA) recently used this company to scan 1302 pages, and the added cost for their project was about \$30. As I propose we scan more than double this amount, I am adding an extra buffer and rounding up to \$500.

Once the materials are scanned, we can upload them to a google drive account linked with the Area Archives email account- allowing them to be accessible to coordinators to come; with the option to share information to members at their request. To summarize, Justice is making:

A motion to spend up to \$500 to have the Area 7 AWSC meeting and Area Assembly Minutes be professionally scanned and saved digitally. Made by Justice K. Archives Coordinator Seconded by Jackie B. Group Records Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.

Tech Coordinator - Elaine M.

Elaine let the area know that there was a piece of information that needed to be added in order to proceed with the Technology Coordinator position.

A motion was prepared by Jackie B. Group Records Coordinator to move to support the addition of a Technology Coordinator to the AWSC with a voice & Vote for a 3-year Term. The motion was seconded by Deborah C. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Sponsorship Workshop (October) Elaine M.

There was a consensus by the members to run a sponsorship workshop sometime in the fall.

A motion was presented to have a workshop in the fall with the date to be determined by Stephanie R. Seconded by Jen B DR4 Motion carried unanimously.

Janice R. was at the meeting and presented her willingness to run the workshop. She presented her Al-Anon resume. There was a discussion and a vote of confidence was made by the Area members to accept Janice R. To run the workshop. Congratulations Janice R. Thank you for your ongoing service.

Coordinators Reports Lisa G.

Lisa mentioned that she will continue to educate the members on paneling. She also went over the Calendar dates explain the difference of the AWSC meeting Dates and the Agenda meeting dates.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Carrie M DR13 and Second Jen B DR4 by Meeting closed 8:40PM Motion carries unanimously. A closing with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen V., AWSC Secretary