

CONNECTICUT AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 7, 2025

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:** Alt Delegate Katie D, Sue D. DR1, Ray R. ALT D5, Jen L. Alt DR 9, Anne B. Alateen Coordinator, Trish Literature Coordinator, **Guest:** Betsy K., Vincent, Mark H., Paul K., Carmen, Betsy N., Jenna

Secretary Report: A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Morgan R. DR3; seconded by Jackie B Group Records Coordinator. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Stephanie S.

Bank reconciliation

Bank Balance \$31,770.11

Outstanding items (\$1,183.65) see check register tab for details

Checkbook balance \$30,586.46

diff \$0.00

Stephanie went over the report in detail. She also asked new members to pick up their badges at the break.

A motion to accept the treasurer report was made by Janine G DR11 and seconded by Deborah C. DR1, Motion carries unanimously.

Delegate's Report: Elaine M.

Elaine reported - Delegate News March 2025 New from WSO. WSO has seen a 30% drop in registered group numbers since the pandemic. The impact is that newcomers may have difficulty finding us. If you know of a group using the Al-Anon name that is not registered, please remind them of the importance of using the AlAnon/Alateen name. Group Records starting in March, forms will be available online to simplify the group registration process. No paper forms, Faster updates, more accurate records, easier reporting. Road Trip Designation Confirmed An opportunity to meet the Board which is going to be held in Omaha Nebraska October 25, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights A call for Regional Trustees is out -- please refer to ctalanon.org for eligibility criteria. – Suggestion- tap someone on the shoulder rather than just make a statement. Regional Trustees Application “The AA International Convention” to be held July 3-6 in Vancouver Canada- who’s planning to attend? Al-Anon is looking for volunteers to help, consider signing up to help at the event. Beyond the Group Level Service Definition, the Board recognized it was inconsistently using "service beyond the group level" on its applications. To clarify this, Trustees discussed the phrase at the January 2025 meeting as it is undefined in the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. The discussion revealed diverse perspectives and aimed to specify requirements for World Service positions. Consequently, the Board decided to have the Nominating Committee define specific service requirements for each role, replacing the vague term. Past A.A. Membership Requirement for WSO Service Following the October 2024 Policy Committee's confirmation of the existing “Service Participation by Al-Anon Members Who Are Also Members of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.)” policy, the Board of Trustees was requested to re-evaluate the current criteria for members applying to serve as WSO Volunteers and At-Large Committee members. The Policy Committee recommended that the Board reconsider using “cannot have ever been” rather than “are not” members of A.A. as stipulated in the policy. This is Elaine’s last year as Delegate and the Area Officers of Panel 63 will be ending their term on

December 31, 2025. It's a good time to start thinking about who will stand next for these roles for the out going term of 2025? As you are aware, we will be conducting a vote in June regarding the conclusion of the six year trial period as outlined in "Gratitude in Working Clothes." I would like to inquire if you have discussed the eligibility criteria with your GRs. Additionally, do you believe it would be beneficial to hold a Town Hall meeting to address this matter? Elaine is preparing for Conference and NERD which will be held from March 14-16 to discuss topics and prepare new Delegates for the Conference. It will be held in Rocky Hill where our Past Delegates, Gail, Gina and Marcia will be hosting the event. I'm preparing for the Conference with lots of reading material. It will be held from April 23- 28, followed by a visit to Steppingstones on April 29th, 2025. CAI Delegates were requested to submit a Conference Agenda Item Chosen Agenda Items - AlAnon Family Groups (CAI) for consideration at the Conference. Connecticut submitted one agenda item; more information will be provided soon. Previous CAI topics can be found online. Visit CAI to view past topics. We are still in need for a Public Outreach Coordinator for Connecticut to keep up our active committee's enthusiasm. Convention is just a few weeks away, have you registered? Thank you for your support.

Alt Delegate's Report: Katie D.(Read by Karen V.)

Hi everyone, sorry I am not with you tonight as I am in London visiting my daughter who is studying there for the semester. Thank you, Karen, for reading my report! I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Serenity Breakfast and found it to be a wonderful time of fellowship, learning and good food. Thank you to our Convention chair (Kate) and Co-chair (Shelly) and the many volunteers for a great event. Otherwise, it has been a quiet month for the most part, however, at Elaine's suggestion, I am starting a project to create a transition guide/manual for the District Representatives, and would like to hold a focus group to get input from DR's and Alt. DR's to understand what information you would find valuable when transitioning into these important service positions, and what items you may have that would be good to share across the Districts. I will send an email to schedule the focus group when I return but please send me an email with any thoughts you have in the meantime. Also, for the Spring Assembly in June, we will have a "job fair" as our workshop during the Assembly, and I will be asking all the Area Coordinators to attend to share information about their service positions, as well as some DR's and officers. If this is something you would be willing to volunteer to help organize, please let me know and we will get started in April. Thank you in advance for your support!

District 3 Report Morgan R.

We had a GR workshop in October focusing on best practices with our in-person, hybrid, and PEG meetings. This was well-attended both online and face-to-face, thanks especially to Katie D. who made the trek from Granby! Our district made a group conscience about its financials in January, including establishing a prudent reserve, revisiting our contribution amounts, and allocating funds to public outreach, literature, and Alateen. In this process, we discovered that our district has been making quarterly contributions of \$312 (\$1248 per year) to the CT Area since the '90s. We also increased mileage reimbursement from \$.30/mile to \$.50/mile to reflect current rate. We had several opportunities to grow, especially when it came to the ways we spend our collective basket dollars moving forward, hearing the minority opinion, and making decisions based on facts rather than fears. We made some investments in technology (Chromebook, wireless mouse and keyboard, speaker, extension cord) to help our hybrid district meetings run more smoothly. We find that this format is the most accessible to the members in our district; attendance is really good! District 3's Public Outreach committee has sent speakers to East Haven High School, Hamden Middle School, and Wilbur Cross High School. Speakers were very well received and invited to return later in Spring. We have a district "anniversary" event planned for May 21. Food, fellowship, and a screening of the Lois documentary are on the agenda! More information to follow as we get closer. We are proud to say that Connecticut's most populous Alateen meeting is back in business thanks to Dung L. and Still Don R. !!!!! Yay, team! Lastly, we are looking forward to co-hosting the Spring Assembly with District 4 in June!!

District 4 Report Jen B.

District 4 includes the towns of: Ansonia, Derby, Seymour, Milford, Shelton, Monroe, Trumbull, Stratford, and Bridgeport. We have a total of 17 Al Anon meetings in our district: 10 - In person, 3 - Zoom Only, 4 - Hybrid. There are two Alateen meetings in our district. 1 - Trumbull, 1 - Seymour High School (for students only) There are 2 additional Zoom meetings in Milford that are no longer part of the district. Instead, they have elected to be part of the worldwide electronic meetings. Our District 4 Group Records position has been filled. Our District 4 Literature Coordinator position has been filled. There continues to be a major push in our district for each group to have a PO coordinator to encourage spreading the message.

Concept 12 District 1 Deborah C.

– **The spiritual foundation for Al-Anon's world services is contained in the General Warranties of the Conference,** Article 12 of the Charter Al-Anon's Five Warranties give our Conference guidelines to prevent problems of money, property, power or prestige from diverting us from our spiritual aim. These warranties insure that our Conference limits its power in the spirit of our Traditions. The Conference operates with humility and maintains a healthy balance in matters of finance, personal authority and decision-making. These warranties can be applied to all our relationships if we want to live in harmony and peace with others and with ourselves Concept 12 is filled with wisdom to help me in my day to day living • In Warranty One I am reminded to have some savings and not go to extremes, which I did in the past. I just need to have enough. I can be reasonable when it comes to what I want and what I need and make appropriate choices. • Warranty Two, reminds me I have to face the problems that may arise with me in regard to authority. I came to understand that I have no authority on anybody else, but myself. • Warranty Three helps to consider everyone's' views during discussions that affect myself and others. It is important when making decisions that everyone involved voice their opinion regarding decisions to be made • Warranty Four talks about controversy and Warranty Five talks about democracy in thought and action. This tells me that I should avoid controversy, so I can remain democratic. These Warranties suggest that I am careful of how I act, react and interact. Living this way will allow me to enjoy the peace and serenity that is democracy. My Higher Power has to be at the center of my process of the decision-making, guiding me to respect and adhere to the Warranties as inspired in our Twelve Traditions. Concept Twelve guides our Spiritual foundation in both our Al-Anon and personal relationships.

Old Business

2024 Convention Chair Kate A

I would like to acknowledge that our Serenity Breakfast was successful. The speakers were great, offering their experience, strength, and hope. We met our expenses with a bit of profit. I will let Shelly share all the numbers with you when she delivers her report. We are in very good shape as we head towards our final Convention Planning meeting before the Convention on March 9th. I will say that we do nothing alone and that I have had the best Co-Chair and Convention Committee I could ever have asked for. Everyone has been diligently working within their committees preparing for the 22nd. We have several new individuals on the Convention Planning Committee this year. It is always great to see our program work as new people coming in can allow our Tradition of rotation of service to continue. I asked Shelly to oversee the Hospitality Committee as both Co-Chair and Chair are new to the Convention and one is relatively new to Al-Anon. Shelly has been invaluable to me, and I must say that just knowing she has been there has been a comfort. Unfortunately, as many of you know, Shelly will not be standing for Chair next year. I will let Shelly speak more to you on this topic when she delivers her report tonight. Our convention begins the morning of the 22nd at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel at 8:30. The Welcome begins at 9:00. We have a full schedule of Activities, the Labyrinth, Sales and Souvenirs, Hospitality, a Skit, Raffles, Literature sales, and more, as well as great Keynote and Spiritual speakers. It should prove to be an inspiring and uplifting weekend with our fellowship of recovery. If you have not registered, please do so soon. As of March 14th, you will no longer be able to take advantage of the decreased rate for a hotel room, which is \$115.00, you will also not be able to participate in the Buffet. The

Buffet will not be offered after the 14th because the hotel needs a set number so they can purchase and plan the food for the buffet based on the numbers by March 14th . If anyone here needs a registration form, please see me after our meeting. It has been an honor, and a learning experience, Chairing the convention this year. I am grateful to have had the chance. As always, just when you get the hang of your service, it is time to move on. I still have a couple of months to go, but I can feel the pangs of, "Wait, now I know what I am doing. Let me do it again!!!!" Our rotation of service is a brilliant idea, as is so much of our Program. We are the recipients of a program of recovery that becomes a way of life.

2024 Convention Co Chair/ Serenity Breakfast Shelly M.

I hope all of you were able to attend our Serenity Breakfast as it was both enjoyable and inspiring. This report reflects the outcome of the breakfast. Serenity Breakfast Financials Net Income: \$8714 Expenses: \$7722.44 Profit: \$ 991.56 Attendance: Total Registrants: 233(not who attended) Event Brite: 144 By mail: 89 Al-Anon: 158 AA 29 Alateen 17 Guest 1 Unknown 28 There were 106 Questionnaires filled out and returned. Overall the feedback was positive. However, there are comments worth mentioning. 1. Were you able to hear and understand the speakers? 105 answered yes and many positive comments about the sound Amplification. 1 person felt the speaker spoke too softly 2. Did you like the format of the Serenity Breakfast? 42 Yes 63 Yes with comments 1 No 5 comments about the lack of coffee after registering. Several commented they would not have arrived at 8 AM if they knew the Breakfast did not begin until 9 AM 3. Would you like to see the date or month of the Serenity Breakfast changed? 14 Not aware the Serenity Breakfast is the prelude to the Convention. 1 did not like February too close to the Convention 1 said weather 88 said no 4. What did you like most about this year's breakfast? 105 Answered 1 No answer Speakers and food were the predominant answers 5. Comments 15 thank you's to the committee for your service. 5 first timers 11 complaints about lack of coffee 8 people complained of the cold need convention flyers at the breakfast 2 said the food ran out 1 asked for literature to be sold There was an issue I was made aware of the day before the breakfast. Because of the need to cancel the Breakfast due to snow, the chatter that was heard was that people without tickets were told to just go and they would be able to gain admission. Kate, the Convention Chair sent out an email blast the day before advising people not to do that. They would not be admitted to the event. We had 233 registered and 193 attended. We were consistent in that we held to the cutoff date per the hotel contract. If you did not purchase your ticket by the cutoff date, there was no admission to the event. The feeling was once exceptions are made a problem is created that does not need to happen. For the numbers to note: 233 Registrations 54 more than last year Our raffle committee hit it out of the park with \$834.00 in sales \$128 more than last year. \$75 was spent on Holiday Bundles leaving a net profit of \$759 The raffle gifts were: 3 Registrations to the 2025 Convention Beautiful basket from District 9 with treats and CAL 3 Holiday bundles Swedish Ivy (Bill Wilson plant) The total amount for the gifts for the 3 speakers was \$67.41 Bracelet with the Serenity Prayer A travel mug with the Serenity Prayer on the outside Bracelet with the word Strength Cards, gift bags. The total for printing was \$19.14 Questionnaires were in black and white to cut expenses Recommendations We need to change the arrival time to 8:30 AM. Coffee was delayed because the hotel had another breakfast event at the same time because we utilized our snow date. A written protocol is now in place for cancellation. That should not be an issue in the future if we remain with our original date. 1 person needs to manage both mail in and Event Brite registrations. Bring Convention flyers. It was an honor to Chair this event. It was made possible by all of you that created a wonderful morning. It had been many years that I had been unable to attend because of living outside of the US that I missed this event. I was so grateful to be back in the fellowship of Al-Anon here in CT where my life turned full circle. I regret that my personal family situation does not allow me to stand for Convention Chair 2026.

Sponsorship Workshop Janice R.

Hello, everyone. My name is Janice R and I am your Chair of the upcoming Fall Workshop 2025 on Sponsorship. The Theme is to be determined. I am happy to report we have secured a venue at a very reasonable price. It will be held at First Church of Christ Congregational, 830 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT. on Saturday, October 11th, 2025. It is handicap accessible. We have use of their ballroom, along with two extra

rooms; the parlor and the fireside chat room. Parking appears to be appropriate. We have full use of their kitchen as well. They have a screen for power point presentations and have wi-fi available. I have also been working with Stephanie (Area Treasurer) regarding the Fall Workshop Account at Webster so she can deposit the allotted budget amount into the account. I am also in the process of determining how many checks she has left. Upon verification from our Area Treasurer, I will proceed to compose the letters for the bank (since I am Board Secretary) and follow through the new guidelines for that specific account. Hopefully, I will have secured a Treasurer by then as well. The committee membership is increasing every day. I have a Co-Chair, Gina R. along with a secretary, but still seeking a Treasurer. I am looking forward to filling the vacancies remaining on the committee. We are in pretty good shape. I will have our Flyers Chair submit a Save the Date Flyer to be placed at the Convention on various tables throughout the hotel main floor as well as provide a copy of the Save the Date Flyer to our Area Secretary, Karen V. to be distributed to the Districts and Groups. The Co-Chair and I along with the Program Chair/Co-Chair will be reviewing the task force results via the WSO conference in 2024 regarding the Sponsorship Workshop formats and other available pertinent information. The Co-Chair and I have recently set up dates for our upcoming meetings. I am waiting for an email assignment from our Al-Anon webmaster. I look forward with excitement to this service. That is all for now.

Inventory- Lisa G.

This part of the meeting was spent on the guidelines that Lisa G. sent out to members regarding the protocol for AWSK meetings. We spent 15 minutes going over an Area Inventory. The first question addressed to the members was:

1)Is the Area process adequate for informing members about the Area and Worldwide Al-Anon/Alateen events and concerns?

Shay K. DR 12 she felt that it was adequate

Justice K. Archives Coordinator – She thinks the chain and amount of information is good would like to more interest in having a longer conversation regarding studying the structure of service and the manual. She realizes this inventory is taking a step in that direction.

Kate A. Convention Chair -The word adequate would mean better results. She does not know where the weak link is?

Lauren L. DR 2 – Agrees with Kate A. would like to see more enthusiasm feels that is the missing link. Process is good. Need to educate groups. Service has changed members.

Stephen M. Alt. DR2 – Would like to see more fun at the area meetings.

Morgan R. DR3 - really appreciated and was very grateful that the members have taken the time to have an area inventory. The set up is good. She stated she found the reports confusing. The delivery can be different.

Elaine M. Delegate- her suggestion to the members to attend area meetings regularly. Have a service sponsor. This is how she learned about the fellowship. Being present and reading the service manual. Desperate enough to learn.

Janine G. DR 11 – Communicate well at the area level would like more time at the area meeting to better understand the reports. District meetings are too long trying to passing the reports on to the GRS.

Lisa G. Area Chair – Working on extending time as a group to communicate better.

Stephanie R. In some of the group meeting that she attended there was no business portion. GR's distribute Area reports. This is part of links of service and it is a critical part. Desperate to be willing member and then to be enthusiastic.

Carol D. BOD Chair loved the reminder of enthusiasm. Bring service manual to group business meetings. Reiterated the importance of links of service.

Lisa G. Area Chair – shared what other states do regarding their assembly. Some states have more than 2 assemblies a year other have weekend long assemblies. Area meetings in other states can be a minimum of 3 hours.

Marissa W. DR 6 - Suggested to leverage out the willingness and thoughtfulness of our members to attract members in service as one example of an issue that may be of concern to the Area. Additional Conversations are needed.

Elaine M. Delegate – Spoke about the history of the area meetings. In the past a survey was done and the DR'S of that time wanted to reduce the area meetings.

Deborah C. DR1 Spoke about the need for the reports at the area meeting. She shared how she summarized the reports so that GR's can feel more confident in sharing the information to members. She found that the GR's did not read the summary. How does a DR address this issue enthusiastically.

Morgan R. DR 3 spoke about more enthusiasm. Take 5 minutes of every meeting to share a little information from the area. Instead of sharing all at once.

Janine G. She would like to see something like the AFG Connect for the DR's in our Area.

Jennifer DR12 Spoke about the desperate willing member. She has a service sponsor and a sponsor. She has stepped up in her program. She "will be" enthusiastic she came in desperate - a willing member to get her personal recovery. This program is saving her life.

Tech Coordinator Resume- Elaine M. Mark H submitted his resume for this position. He shared his experience strength and hope to the members and his desire to fill this position. He was honest and would not be able to step in until June 2025. He has been a member for 5 years and has a sponsor. He was the Al-Anon Convention – Electronic Chair and Co-Chair. He was an Al-Anon communicator coordinator at the group level.

A vote of confidence was passed by the members unanimously.

Spanish Coordinator Resume- Elaine M. Paul K. and Carmen

Paul K. submitted his resume for this position. He shared his experience strength and hope to the members and his desire to fill this position. He has been a member since 2020. He was a GR in his home group, and Alt GR, and the Al-Anon Convention – Electronic Chair and Co-Chair.

Carmen submitted her resume for this position. She shared her experience strength and hope in Al-Anon service. She was part of the translation group back in 2013. She attends meetings. She loves the Al-Anon Community and to be part of service.

Both members expressed the desire to bring in the Spanish groups closer to all the events in Al-Anon.

Both members were well received and it was a close vote. **Paul K. received the vote of confidence to fill the position.** At the end of the voting process Carmen showed her willingness to work with Paul K to strengthen the areas role with the Spanish communities.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Justice K. Archive Coordinator and Second Marissa W. DR6 by Meeting closed 9:40PM Motion carries unanimously. A closing with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen V., AWSC Secretary