**Connecticut Area World Service Committee**

**Virtual Meeting Minutes**

**December 4, 2020**

The meeting was opened by Elaine M. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Roll call was taken by Taffy P. Absent from the meeting were: Rose W – District 10; Sue D.- Spanish Liaison; Marie B.- Answering Service

Guests included: Ron S., Jean, and past delegates Ellie L. and Gina R.

Elaine welcomed everyone to the last Area meeting and thanked all of the outgoing DRs, Alternates, and the Assembly’s technical team for their commitment. She wanted to focus tonight on how we might choose to bring more of our program into our business meetings. She encouraged everyone to apply the suggestions from “Resolve Conflict Resolution using our Twelve Traditions, the wallet card and Loving Interchange among ourselves.

**Secretary’s Report:** October’s Minutes were sent out. A correction was made to the Concept reading; it should have read Concept 10 and not Concept 12. Donna C-DR District 7 moved that the minutes be accepted with the correction; seconded by Rosalie L-DR District 9. Motion carries.

**Treasurer’s Report:** read by Jackie B. for the month ending November 30, 2020

Beginning Balance $39,213.29

Income 2,704.00

Less Expenses (\_\_\_785.80)

Ending Balance $41,131.49

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented was made by June C.- Archives; seconded by Justice K.-AA Events. Motion carries (24-yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions)

**Delegate’s Report:** Marcia M was impressed with CT Al-Anon’s membership who stepped up to the COVID-19 challenge and are still providing program via a virtual platform. She had the opportunity to hear all the out-going Panel 58 delegates share.

News from WSO: The first virtual International Al-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM) was held in October. It had a record-breaking attendance. WSO is continuing to process and ship order, even though literature sales are down 24% from last September. Although contributions are up, WSO is projecting a continuing deficit and has implemented some expense reductions.

An Electronic Newcomer’s packet has been approved (K-10) to be offered at $2.99. Staff will be implementing a recommendation to eliminate duplication in the kit.

**Alternate Delegate’s Report:**  Pat S. made note of Connecticut’s resilience during this pandemic. The two Fall Assembly workshops for Group Representatives and Public Outreach were well attended and informative. She thanked all the out-going districts 3, 8, 10 and 11 and hoped that they would continue in Al-Anon service. District 2 has invited her to attend their district meeting.

**District 4 Report:** Robert T. informed the committee that they have 18 Al-Anon meetings, 15 are currently active via Zoom with three smaller meeting electing to remain closed during pandemic, and four Alateen meetings. The district has three Zoom licenses which allows them to host multiple simultaneous meetings. Two meetings are hosted on personal Zoom licenses. Among active Zoom meetings is one Spanish, one women’s and one AA/Al-Anon joint meeting. All positions are filled at the district level.

**District 5 Report:**  Karen V. reported that her district consists of 26 meetings with 3 Spanish and two Alateen. Due to COVID, some meetings have been combined on Zoom and two are currently on hold. Norwalk Thursday has closed. She is still in search of an Alternate DR and Public Outreach coordinator.

**Concept 11:** Leslie S. from District 13 read an excerpt from *Reaching for Personal* Freedom on Concept 11 and shared her personal experience with this Concept.

**Serenity Breakfast:** Co-Convention chair, Martha N., announced that the Serenity Breakfast will be held Sunday, January 24, from 10-12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Registration is planned to go live on December 15 and will be on the CT website. There will be no registration fee. Registered participants will receive a confirmation email with Zoom link. Closed caption and Spanish translation will be available. Additional expenses for the Breakfast include upgrading Zoom account, securing translation services and purchasing a third party closed caption license. Contributions to the 2021 CT AFG Convention are welcomed to offset these expenses.

**Convention 2021:** Rick L.stated that the 2020 Vision of Hope committee met on November 15 via Zoom. Co-chair Martha N. has been working with the Tech Team to get a better understanding of how Zoom works. Although it was planned to be a one-day event, the committee has elected to add an opening meeting scheduled for Friday, March 12. 2020 Convention reimbursements are being prepared for all the pre-registered members.

**Website Coordinator:** Deanna S. updated the committee with the website’s Google Search traffic. In October, there was an 11% increase over September. The number of calls had decreased, but she believed that was because more people are using the website form instead to email for information. To date, there are 212 meetings listed on website. 176 have updated their status and 124 actively meet. 27 meetings are in person using social distancing and mask protocols. She is receiving more information regarding virtual events. The Area email distribution list has been updated. If you are not receiving Area emails, please let her know. She will be setting up the convention page very soon. Due to the number of changes, she sometimes runs out of time and cannot email everyone back. She suggests checking the website before sending her an email inquiry.

**Board of Director’s Report:** Deborah C. made a pitch for members to serve on the Board. She wanted to make people aware that there is time to submit a resume for a position. Qualifications and guidelines for submitting the resumes are available. Since several DRs will be completing their terms of service, this is the perfect time to try another position. The deadline is the end of January. The LDC has been experiencing telephone issues for the past several weeks. They have had ongoing issues with Frontier since July and will be changing their service to Comcast on December 8. They have received confirmation from the church that they will be moving the AFG office to the second floor. We will be maintaining the storage closet in the basement and will have another storage space off the Assembly room for more. She asked for volunteers to help with the move. All safety and mask requirements will be followed.

**Roles and Responsibilities:** The officers each took and read or discussed the job descriptions from “Gratitude in Working Clothes” for the following positions: AA Events, Alateen, AAPP and Archives. The purpose was to assist members to understand what the requirements and duties of these job descriptions. Past coordinators were asked to share their joys and challenges.

Elaine M. came away from the discussions with “Collaborate, Communicate, and Cooperate: Before closing the meeting, Gail L. wanted to thank everyone for their support of her as this will be her last meeting as Ex Officio. Martha Y, DR from District 11, also wanted to thank the committee as she will soon be replaced. A motion to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. was made by Morgan R-Literature; seconded by Justice K.-AA Events. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Taffy P.

Area Secretary