**Connecticut Area World Service Committee**

**Virtual Meeting Minutes**

**October 2, 2020**

Meeting was opened at 7:30 pm by Elaine M. with the Serenity Prayer. Roll call was taken by Taffy P. Absent from the meeting were: Kathy F-D2, Janet Z-D3, Kim G-D4, Stephanie S-D6, Lynn K.-D7, Rosalie L-D9, Helen B-D10, Martha Y-D11, Stephanie R-D12, Miquel C-AAPP, Martha N- Co-convention. Guests were: Betsy N., Ann B., Carol D, Janice R, Bridget Z, Gina R, and Ellie L.

Chairperson Elaine M. reminded the members who had voice and vote and that guests must be recognized by the chair in order to speak.

Motion to approve September minutes as presented was made by Jackie B-Treasurer; seconded by Katie D-D8. Motion carries with 21 yes and 1 abstention

**Treasurer’s Report** for month ending September 30

Beginning checkbook balance $41,111.93

Income received 1,484.00

Less expenses ( 2,536,85)

Ending checkbook balance $40,059.08

Treasurer Jackie B. reminded everyone that the budget will be voted upon at November’s assembly. She encouraged DRs to discuss with districts and to try and answer any questions the GRs might have. Motion was made by June C.-Archives to accept Treasurer’s Report as presented; seconded by Donna C. Motion carries unanimously.

**Delegate’s Report**: Marcia M. announced that Fall Assembly will be held virtually on November 7, 2020. Later, she will be leading a discussion on Paneling. WSO announced an opportunity to host a ‘Virtual Town Meeting’ on November 14, December 12, January 9, 2021 or February 6. There would be three speakers from WSO and the meeting would last 45 minutes. The hosting Area would be responsible for all logistics. The invitation form will be posted on October 8. Please let her know if Connecticut would be interested in participating—first come, first served basis.

**Alternate Delegate’s Report:** Pat S. attended a District 4 meeting and requested that she be invited to other districts’ meetings. She has planned two workshops for the Fall Assembly. Beginning at 10:30-11:30—one for Group Representatives and Alternates and the other on Public Outreach with coordinator Kathe L-B. There will be a panel of speakers and an interactive format for questions and comments from participants. She encouraged all to step up for new positions.

**District 2 Report:** Linda P. informed the committee that district 2 is composed of six towns and presently has 10 meetings, including two Spanish speaking. Their sole Alateen meeting closed two years ago and the Wallingford Sunday evening closed. All position except PO are filled. Kathe L-B sent out flyers to all groups. It was effective in recruiting an Alternate DR and Secretary. The district has set up a Zoom account in August with five groups and District using the account. One group uses a phone meeting, three are meeting face to face inside, and one group meets face to face outside.

**District 3 Report:** Kathy G. reported that the greater New Haven district has 14 meetings and one Alateen on Zoom: A beginners’ meeting and face-to-face in Orange, one phone meeting , and one meeting that is not meeting at this time. There are no hybrid meetings. People from Ireland and Australia are in regular virtual attendance. District 3 elections were held with Ron S (new DR), Jean B (new Alternate), Alex P (secretary) and Carol H (treasurer). Also added a permanent position of Zoom Administrator and two co-administrators. District is contributing to WSO, LDC, Area and District. Many members are supporting WSO through individual contributions.

**Concept 12:** Since DR Stephanie R. was absent, Alternate Mary C. was unprepared to discuss Concept 12. Marcia M. read the context from the Service Manual.

**Old Business:**

**Interpreters’ Guidelines:** Gail L hoped that groups had discussed the recommendations and that everyone was prepared to vote. She stated that the committee felt that the recommendation for funds was equitable for all events. AA Events Justice K. moved to accept recommendation and to periodically review amounts; Kathy G-D3 seconded.

Discussion:

* All event budgets include cost of interpreters
* Revisions as needed to keep costs regularized
* AWSC needs to get together from time to time to look at guidelines
* All should be involved

Motion carries: 18-yes, 4-no, 0-abstentions

**Paneling:** an explanation for reasoning of paneling was given by Marcia M. Discussion followed:

* Paneling implemented in 2005-2006 to allow for the continuation of AWSC business
* Coordinators are in the same panel as Area Officers
* Due to positions being unfilled, some coordinators are out of sync.
* Marcia suggested that Public Outreach have a one-year interim to get back on track for 2022 elections
* Facts need to be checked with past delegates for reasons why things changed
* If position is one year, do they have the opportunity for re-election?
* A lot of research went into discussion
* No reason why coordinators have to be on the same paneling as Area Officers
* Asking people to step up for positions is difficult and stressful for overworked delegates
* Original motion was only for DRs
* Keep as they presently are
* Place Spanish Liaison on panel with officers
* No motion needed to be made to bring to Assembly. However, it is important that documentation is noted.

**Assembly Report – District 8 & 9:** Katie D. went over procedures for our virtual November 7 Assembly. There will be two workshops from 10:30-11:30. The Assembly will begin at 12:15 pm. Time for assembly length is approximate—a place holder. Everyone will need to fill out pre-registration form. If GR or Alternate is not in attendance, a proxy needs to be sent to Area Secretary in advance

Elaine M. displayed a mock up of the pre-registration form. And reminded all that there are Areas that have an all weekend assembly compared to our few hours. Robert T from district 4 explained that voting will be done by Polling and showed the electronic form that will be used. Elaine will give instructions to guide DRs. If no computer is available to GR, she suggested a buddy system. However, on one vote may be cast. Only present (old) GRs would be voting.

**Public Outreach:** Kathe L-B informed committee that the Area PO meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. The Assembly workshop will be in lieu of November’s meeting. Monthly meetings consistently have 7-10 attendees. Currently only 38% of Connecticut is covered with district PO coordinators. Zoom invitations and agendas are emailed. Currently the committee is working on a new virtual health fair for the state of Connecticut and researching new digital online opportunities to present Al-Anon information. She listed a number of ways that Al-Anon information can be distributed to the population at large. Kathe also displayed a advertisement that a volunteer from District 3 produced with the approval from WSO.

**Convention Wrap-up:** Rick L. reported that the 2021 Convention committee will meet October 11 from 2-4 p.m. via Zoom format. It will still be the 43rd CT AFG Convention. He will recommend to the committee to return remaining 2020 convention registration fees so they can bring the Convention account back to its normal cycle. Once reimbursements and expenses for checks, stamps, etc. have been accounted for, the remaining monies will be returned to the Area. Will hope to have final accounting for the Fall assembly.

Questions and Answers were entertained by the committee for Rick and Kathe:

* Will Area see money paid in and paid out?
  + $1000 deposit to Red Lion is still questionable if it will be returned
  + Marriott refunded their deposit
* Can some items purchased for 2020 Convention be resold?
* Will AWSC get a Treasurer’s Report
  + Assembly if possible
* When will checks be sent out?
  + Requires two signatures
* Who was the creator of the advertisement from District 3? Was it with WSO approval?
  + Fay from Woodbridge and yes, WSO approved
* How will EventBrite refund?
  + EventBrite will refund less handling fee of $2.35. Must be contacted. Will supply email address.
* If virtual and a free event, how will we use interpreters?
  + Cannot accommodate two virtual formats at the same time
* At Missouri’s virtual convention, donations were requested. Approximately $2000 were contributed from members for the convention. Alateen was also given donations.

Motion to close was made by Morgan R.- Literature; seconded by Lisa G.-Alateen. Motion carries. Jackie B. led the meeting with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted. Taffy P., Secretary