

New York South Assembly Area

Area Assembly Meeting June 11, 2017 MINUTES

Maryknoll
Ossining, NY

Opening

- Ellen D. opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer
- Traditions read by Sue V.
- Concepts and Warranties read by Emily
- Hope for Today, June 11, read by Leon
- Welcome – Ellen D., “Mutual respect is an important spiritual principle”
- Rules of the Conference read by members
- Wi-Fi access: KIUVL-LDBQT
- Spiritual Timekeeper - Regina

Reports

1. Secretary’s Report – Sue V.
Minutes were sent electronically to members. A limited number of printed copies were made available.
2. Open Positions:
 - AAPP – This position will soon be vacant. Lyna is assisting for a limited time more but is stepping down.
 - Website Coordinator
 - Nick stepped down and this position is vacant
 - The Website Coordinator cannot also be a member of A.A.
 - The Website Coordinator cannot also serve on an AIS
 - Alateen Coordinator
3. Host District is Needed for the October Assembly
4. Chair’s Report – Ellen D.
5. Delegate’s Report - Taaj

Taaj attended the 57th World Service Conference (WSC) from Sun. April 23 – Saturday, April 29 held at the World Service Office (WSO) in Virginia Beach. The theme is “Our Member – Our Hope for the Future.” Trustee Mary Gregory is serving as the Interim Executive Director until August. Mary reminded everyone ‘not to let the seriousness of our task keep us from having fun.’ Mary also described her experience coming into service as a ‘sure way for others to pick out your character defects.’ Delegates were reminded ‘we are all still members.’ Taaj says, “We are the minions. The Delegates are to the World Service Conference as the Group Representatives are to the Assembly.” The WSC is a loving interchange among members. Delegates were asked to ‘invite God into all conversations and leave the ego, “agenda” and attitude out.’ An ice-breaker Taaj loved was for Delegates to go around the room and share something that no one else would know about them. Taaj duplicated this ice-breaker for members at the Assembly meeting and all were given to the opportunity to share. Just about everyone present did so.

Taaj sported her New York South sash which all Delegates wore. She said that the New York South Delegate is historically known as "feisty." Taaj is serving together with 20 other new Delegates on the 57th panel of the World Service Conference whose slogan has become "Panel 57 – Rocking Step 11." She was immediately paired with a Trustee-Mentor. Members from all over the world attended. Countries such as Mexico, New Zealand, Canada and London, England were represented. Al-Anon is in communication with 41 countries worldwide. There were 92 voting members present. It was decided that a consensus would be 2/3's of the voting members or 61. Delegates voted electronically. Taaj really liked this because it maintains everyone's anonymity as they are voting. For this reason she would love to use this technology at our Assembly meetings. No more standing up and counting off!

One of the first things the WSC decided was to permit was picture taking and the sharing of pictures when reporting back at Area Assembly meetings but there could be NO sharing of pictures on the internet or any form of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

A variety of minor themes came through such as trust, confidence and reason as well as laughter, love and enthusiasm. Plus Delegates were all told to read the traditions and concepts of service ALL the time. Regarding motions, Delegates were told to focus on quality and clarity and to base it upon information not simply on an uninformed opinion: KBDM (Knowledge-Based Decision Making.) Finally, if the motion is written, Delegate's were asked not to "nitpick" it but ask, "Can you live with it?"

Another theme throughout the conference was that the Conference rights are traditional while the Board's rights are legal. Taaj asked for two volunteers at the Assembly to help perform a skit that she enjoyed from WSC. The skit contrasted Al-Anon Family Groups: "the Fellowship" vs. Al-Anon Family Group, Headquarters, Inc.: "the Organization." The skit was very informative and enjoyed by all. Highlights:

- The Family Group idea is nearly as old as Alcoholics Anonymous. In A.A.'s pioneering days from 1935 to 1941, close relatives of recovering alcoholics realized that to solve their personal problems they needed to apply the same principles that helped alcoholics with their recovery.
- By 1948, numbers of the Family Groups had applied to the A.A. General Service office for listing in the A.A. Directory and scores of relatives of alcoholics asked them for help. But as we know, A.A. was designed to aid alcoholics only.
- In 1951, two wives, Lois Wilson and Anne Bingham, formed a Clearing House Committee to get in touch with these 87 inquirers and to coordinate, unify and serve them; 56 groups responded. As a result of questionnaires, the name Al-Anon Family Groups was chosen. The name is simply a derivative of the first syllables of "Alcoholics Anonymous."
- By 1954, Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. incorporated as a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
- In 1961, Al-Anon's largest group conscience was created and the first World Service Conference was held. It was opened by Bill Wilson himself.
- In 1970, the WSC approved the Twelve Concepts of Service.
- Important to it all, is Al-Anon's Charter which appears on p. 171 of the Service Manual and can only be amended by the WSC.
- GRs are linked by group conscience to the WSC which is vitally important.

Gratefully, WSO's budget is balanced with a small surplus of \$10,000. Operating expenses run \$5 million/year. WSO is working toward building a one-year reserve. Delegates were reminded that the \$1.00 that Lois and Anne placed in the basket in 1951 is worth about 10¢ today! Plus WSO spends \$261.00/group/year. Delegates were reminded to encourage groups to be fully self-supporting in their donations to WSO with larger and/or more solvent groups asked to contribute a little more than their fair share to carry smaller groups who are unable to contribute this amount. Members are also asked to encourage subscriptions to the Forum and to purchase the Service Manual.

The next International Convention will be held in July 2018 in Baltimore, MD over the July 4th weekend. Interestingly, a Site Selection Committee is already hard at work for the 2023 International. The three choices

for location are: Albuquerque, Denver and Seattle. A decision will be made by the October 2017 or January 2018 Board meeting and prior to the 2018 International Convention.

Now available on WSO's website is a 56-minute audio interview with Lois Wilson which can be listened to from the website or downloaded. Also there is a new book on intimacy underway plus pamphlets for parents and grandparents which are all being developed for publication in 2018. Moreover, WSO is working on a new mobile website that will include Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and a Daily Quote.

In the context of public outreach, inquiries from potential members include 33% from mental health professionals, 19% from addiction professionals and 18% from middle/high school educators. Furthermore, WSO would like to include writings concerning incarcerated members in the Forum as there are 48 incarcerated groups in the US and Canada. And there is a 19% increase in the sale of AFAs this year with a record 184,625 into the second printing. July 5th is the deadline to order 2017 AFAs.

A member survey is expected out in November or December 2017. The focus is newcomers and the starting age of our members. These surveys are extremely valuable to WSO. More to follow.

Among the agenda items chosen by Delegates was the welcoming of newcomers who are dealing with family or friends affected by drug addiction and the intentional use of the term "alcohol addiction" so as to be more inclusive. Delegates were also reminded not to use the words "my" to describe the alcoholic as it suggests possessiveness; we do not 'own' anyone. Also, not to use the term "qualifier" which is not an Al-Anon term.

Discussion about the "Just for Today" prayer was very the most lively topic of the Conference and all Delegates spoke. The discussion concluded by a raise-of-hands (no motion) whereby the consensus was "TO DO NOTHING and stop the discussion until further questions can arise."

- Memorable moments:

- Taaj got to see Lois' original typewriter (picture shown to Assembly)
- Taaj met Jonathan, a maintenance worker at WSO, who takes great pride in his job and told her, "It's ours and therefore it's ours to maintain."
- The Delegate from New Zealand told Taaj, "Doing service placed me with the winners."
- Another Delegate said, "As we share ourselves, we save ourselves."
- Yet another said, "I wasn't ready and I didn't feel ready, but I learned to always say yes to service."
- "Service is gratitude in action."
- "You can't keep it if you don't give it away."
- Taaj showed a picture of the Lois Wilson Memoriam Plaque on display at WSO which reads:
"We the members of Al-Anon Family Groups earnestly pledge to carry on the work of Lois W. Her memory will be sustained with each new generation of families and friends of alcoholics everywhere. She leaves us the legacy of the Al-Anon program and we will continue to search within our hearts to meet each new challenge, with the guidance and inspiration that Lois had provided, her life has been a blessing and her work is kept alive each time there is one more newcomer to the Al-Anon fellowship."

- Love Gifts – Taaj told us that the Love Gifts from our Area were a big hit. She thanked all who sent goodies from New York South.
- Alateen celebrates 60 years! There are 900 Alateen meetings in the U.S. and 680 Alateen meetings internationally. As always, Alateens are encouraged to attend Al-Anon meetings when no Alateen meeting is available.
- The Executive Director position at WSO remains vacant. Resumes and cover letters are being accepted through August.
- Finally, the 2018 World Service Conference will take place from April 16 – April 20, 2018. A visit to Stepping Stones is planned among other activities.

BREAK

[There was a brief meeting of AWSC members to hear the Trusted Servant Profile of Gerry L. who is interested in serving as the Area Alateen Coordinator. AWSC members voted to recommend Gerry L. (who is already AMIAS trained) to the Assembly for a final vote.]

VOTE BY AWSC:

20 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstentions

6. GERRY L. FOR AREA ALATEEN COORDINATOR

Ellen made a motion to recommend to the Assembly that Gerry L. be appointed as Area Alateen Coordinator. Alissa seconded the motion. Sue V. read the Trusted Servant Profile for Gerry L. and a vote was taken:

MOTION AND VOTE TO APPOINT GERRY L. AS AREA ALATEEN COORDINATOR:

Originator: Ellen D., Second: Alissa

47 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstention

Motion carries

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR GERRY L:

631-514-9142

nys.alateen.57@gmail.com

7. Treasurer's Report - Gracemarie H. (Handouts)

Brief Summary of Finances as of May 31, 2017:

The cash we have in our Operating Account:	\$ 28,078.64	
The cash we have in our Money Market:	\$ 14,515.36	
Total cash		\$ 42,594.00
Amount allocated for specific use:	\$ 14,481.50	
Our year to date donations are:	\$ 15,754.81	
Our year to date expenses are:	\$ 12,454.67	
Difference		\$ 3,300.14
Annual Appeal		
Income generated by the appeal (mailed January)	\$ 1,704.92	
The cost for mailing the letters	\$ 900.00	
Difference		\$ 804.92

MOTION AND VOTE TO ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT:

Originator: Ellen D., Second: Michele

47 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstention

Motion carries

8. Alternate Delegate's Report – Emily

Emily thanked everyone for giving a day of service.

a. Group Inventories

Since our last Assembly, Emily conducted three group inventories and has two more scheduled. These are:

- April 29 – Babylon, evening meeting
- May 23 – Wantagh, mid-morning meeting (30 people, 3 observers)
- May 39 – Manhattan, daytime
- June 15 – Dix Hills (observers expected) – to be held
- June 25 – Upper Manhattan – to be held

Emily has noticed two themes emerging: 1. Groups are experiencing 7th Tradition challenges with respect to being fully self-supporting in service to the group and 2. Dominance

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EMILY:

718-768-0265

nys57altdelegate@gmail.com

b. Area Guideline Changes:

Emily explained that the Area has Guidelines and these are posted on our Area website. Every so often we look at them to see what has to be updated. Two potential changes to the Guidelines were reviewed and discussed today:

- Area Guidelines: Newsletter

HISTORY:

Motion was made by Marlene, second Diane, at the January 8, 2017 AWSC meeting as follows:

Proposed changes to Area Guidelines Version 5.1, Section 3, 3.2

- Name change from Southern Speak-Easy to Speak-Easy
- Add; This position cannot be held by an Al-Anon member who is also in A.A.
- Change minimum of four (not five) times per year
- Change workshops in the Area to "Area Workshops"

The motion was brought up again at the March 5, 2017 AWSC meeting and discussed at the April 1, 2017 Assembly meeting. Today the Assembly voted on the changes.

SECOND DISCUSSION AND VOTE BY ASSEMBLY:

45 yea, 0 nay, 2 abstentions

Motion carries

- Area Guidelines: Alateen Coordinator
Tabled

9. Group Records Coordinator: Pat G.

50 voting members present

32 visitors

Pat encouraged all visitors to please step up as a Group Representative.

10. Area Mailbox Coordinator Report - Arthur S.

Arthur reported he has been collecting the mail regularly and forwarding it to the Area Treasurer. The last time he did this was on Thursday, June 8, 2017.

11. *Speak-Easy* Coordinator Report – Marlene L.

The Summer edition of the *Speak-Easy* is out. Please submit articles for the Fall edition to Marlene L. at nyspeakeasy@aol.com. The next articles are due on August 1, 2017. It should be noted, no phone numbers nor personal email addresses showing last names will be published/posted. Please provide contact information using a 'generic' type email address:

Good: nysdistrictrep24@gmail.com

Not good: marlenelastname@gmail.com

12. Discovery Chairperson Report – Sabrina (in absentia)

Co-Coordinator, Diane F., delivered Sabrina's report remotely via a previously recorded video. Sabrina reports that the Discovery Convention is quickly approaching on the weekend of July 14, 15 and 16. The theme for Discovery 2017 is *"It Takes a Fellowship."*

All suggestions from last year were addressed for this year. One big request was a change in venue to The Renaissance Westchester Hotel in West Harrison, NY. There will be a full Al-Anon program with A.A. participation. A total of 47 meetings will be held including Al-Anon, Alateen, Spanish-speaking meetings and a candlelight meeting. Meeting topics will include forgiveness, money and the alcoholic marriage; old-timers meeting (25+ years), Steps/Traditions/Concepts, etc. There will also be a spiritual stroll, banquet and dance plus key note speakers. Sue P. will be our Sunday morning Spiritual speaker. Additionally, groups are encouraged to donate raffle baskets.

All members are encouraged to attend Discovery whether they come as day-trippers, one-night stay, two-night stay or more. Presently we have only 129 room nights (need 200) and 113 banquet meals (need 160.) The Area must meet our room/banquet commitment by July 1st or we must pay to cover the shortfall. Pat C., Treasurer, was present at the Assembly meeting and accepting registrations on-the-spot. Ellen D. announced that the AWSC voted to let the Convention Committee purchase special Alateen "birthday" buttons for all attendees in honor of 60 years of Alateen. Presently there are only three Alateens registered. More Alateens are encouraged to register.

13. Alateen's 60th Anniversary

Motion made by Sabrina, second Taaj, at the March 5, 2017 AWSC meeting as follows:
"I motion we do something as an Area to recognize the 60th Anniversary of Alateen."

MOTION AND VOTE FOR AREA TO "DO SOMETHING" FOR 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALATEEN:

34 yea, 0 nay, 2 abstentions

14. Area Alateen Coordinator Report – (Vacant leading up to today, now held by Gerry L.)
Tabled.

15. Forum/Literature Coordinator – Marissa (Absent)
Tabled.

16. Public Outreach Coordinator – Regina

- July 5th is the deadline to order 2017 AFAs.
- It is suggested we take pictures of the AFA and/or FORUM and post it on Instagram or other forms of social media.
- The deadline to accept resumes and cover letters for WSO's Executive Director position is June 15, 2017.

17. SENY Liaison Report – Rene V.

Rene V. reported that the 2018 A.A. SENY Convention will return to the Tarrytown Marriott. More information to follow.

18. NYC Intergroup Liaison Report – Yasmina

Yasmina reported that Intergroup has been concentrating on registering as many meetings as possible. Presently there are 275 meetings in New York City and not all of them have IRs or GRs. Intergroup's Group Inventory previously scheduled on June 20, 2017 has been postponed until September.

19. Spanish Intergroup Liaison – Edita

- Save the date for the XXVIII Convencion Hispana “Nuestra Vision 2017” on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at St. James Church, 84-07 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY (Queens) from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$30 which covers registration, breakfast and lunch.
- Intergupo Hispano has a new name: Servicio de Informacion Al-Anon/Alateen
- Servicio de Informacion Al-Anon/Alateen will have a group inventory on Sun. October 15, 2017. Assistance is needed.
- There is a Spanish Alateen meeting starting on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. at St. James Church, 84-07 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY (Queens.)

20. ALISON Liaison Report
Tabled.

21. Westchester/Putnam AIS – Chris M.

- Westchester/Putnam AIS has just completed an AFA distribution project to numerous groups in districts 24, 25, 26 and 27.
- The next edition their AIS newsletter is coming out soon.

22. Suffolk AIS
Tabled.

23. Rockland AIS – Marcia B.

Marcia B. reported that she has been voted Chair of the Rockland AIS. Rockland AIS has volunteers answering the phone daily. They also host an Al-Anon Informational meeting at a local hospital every Saturday. Plus they are presently creating a database of professionals in the community for public outreach purposes.

24. Website Coordinator – Vacant
Tabled. Nick has stepped down.

25. Al-Anon’s 2018 International Convention

- Registration will open in August for the 2018 International Convention to be held in Baltimore, MD. The Early Bird Registration fee for the Convention (until December 31, 2017) is \$130.00. Hotel arrangements are made separately by members who directly contact the hotels.
- Marcia B. is exploring the possibility of the Area chartering a coach bus for the event. In order to assure availability, Marcia is urging the Area to decide as soon as possible as to whether or not we want to do so.

26. AMIAS Training

Ellen D. will conduct an AMIAS training this Saturday, June 17, 2017 in Manhattan, 54th and Lexington at St. Peter’s Church.

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Yearly Recertification
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. New AMIAS

27. Announcements:

- There is a new meeting in Rocky Point (Suffolk County) on Wednesday nights.
- Elaine announced that District 21 (Manhattan) will host a 2 ½ hour workshop on Sat. September 23, 2017 at Holy Name Church on 97th Street.

- Eileen announced that Districts 31 and 32 (Sullivan County/Ulster County) have a new meeting on Sunday nights at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 50 Market St., Ellenville, NY.
- A Share-A-Day will be held on Sat. November 4, 2017 at St. John's Roman Catholic Church, Route 375/Holly Hills Drive, Woodstock from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. There will be a full Al-Anon program with A.A. participation.
- Ruth announced there is an Alateen meeting on Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Bearsville, NY (Woodstock) that needs support. Presently there is only one 14-year old boy attending. They really would like to have more Alateens attend.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sue V.
Area Secretary