

RHODE ISLAND AL-ANON AREA 49
MEETING MINUTES
SUMMARY
March 11, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

Opening:

Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer
Reading of the 12 Traditions
Reading of the 12 Concepts of Service and General Warranties of the Conference
Read from the Service Manual (Pages 75-76)

Introductions:

Alternate Area Chair; Area Secretary; District 5 Rep/Group Records Coordinator; acting Office Manager; Cranston Warwick Day GR/Alt. District 4 Rep; Area Treasurer/Alateen Process Person; AA Liaison/North Providence Step GR; Alt. District 3 Rep; Public Outreach Coordinator; District 1 Rep; Webmaster/Forever Hope GR.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary did not compile the minutes from February's Inventory Meeting, since she was not present at that meeting. A motion was made by seconded to accept the January 7, 2010 meeting minutes, as corrected. Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was later made and seconded to accept the February 13 Inventory meeting minutes. Motion was passed with 7 in favor and 3 abstentions.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasury had a balance of \$11,777.08. An Area (State) appeal letter was sent and \$56 was received as a result. The letter indicated that going forward, the Area could be facing financial hardship, which was clarified to members who didn't receive the letter, which will be re-sent.

The Treasurer researched why the Area does not pay taxes. R.I. Al-Anon is a non-profit organization and does not have a savings account, therefore there is no collection of any interest.

The Treasurer spoke with the new owner of the building that houses the Area Office, who will be moving her business to the building and will be renovating the entire first floor. The owner is appreciative that Area Al-Anon continues to rent the space and plans to renovate the second floor in the fall, but didn't say what she would do. She had no idea that our organization even pays rent. The Treasurer had paid the February rent to the previous owner, who shredded it, so a replacement check will be sent to the new owner.

The moderator for the February Inventory meeting needs reimbursement for travel expenses. There was discussion on the rate that will be provided and the AWSC lacked information as to how many miles he was asking for. Discussion on this item was tabled until the next meeting when that information will be available.

Chairman's Report:

The Area Chair was absent and the Alternate Area Chair filled in. She announced the resignation of the District 3 Rep. The Alternate District 3 Rep was present and reported that the GRs in District 3 will caucus and attempt to appoint a replacement.

AA Liaison:

AA Liaison reported that there is an Al-Anon speaker for the AA convention. Templates for sign up times for Al-anon meetings were sent through the announcement email list. She will not be able to have flyers printed and coordinate times for the meeting schedule. Literature and Public Outreach will attend. Others volunteered to help the AA Liaison coordinate.

February 13th Inventory Meeting:

Members had received the "wall" of comments and the minutes from the meeting. The topics were Confidence, Collaboration and Clarity. The Alternate Chair asked if there was any action that the AWSC needs to take.

Discussion: put aside some educational time at AWSC meetings for perhaps a workshop or something informative from World Service for 15 minutes; implement Area subcommittees and have the subcommittees report to the Area; AWSC needs to sit down as a group and figure out what subcommittees are needed; it was good to get a lot out; feeling a lot better, appreciating everyone being there and making it a safe place to do that; the 2009 Conference Summary had some good ideas, particularly Chosen Agenda Item #2 on pages 41-45. "How can Areas, districts and groups look at unhealthy groups in a positive way?" There are suggestions as to what to do and places in the service manual to find answers. As part of the AWSC meeting, we could read the recommendations and apply that to our group

A motion was made and seconded that the AWSC put aside 15 minutes to discuss the Area Inventory by using the 2009 Conference Summary, pages 41-45. Motion was carried unanimously.

Discussion of Who Votes at AWSC Meetings:

A member on the Policy Committee suggested tabling this item until next month because the Policy Committee wants to pull together all the references on this topic from the Service Manual. This was tabled until the Policy Committee Chair can be present.

Policy Committee Report:

The Policy Committee Chair was not present and this item was tabled.

Approval of New Area Website:

The new website design had been sent electronically to the AWSC for review. A motion was made and seconded to approve the new website design by the Webmaster. Motion carried with 9 in favor and 1 abstention.

Moderation of E-lists (Service & Announcement):

Who can post on both of these lists? It was clarified that the Announcement list was made to announce Area Al-Anon meetings, anniversaries and functions and sends emails to all Al-Anon members who wish to receive such. Only members on the AWSC can post on this list. The Service List was made for announcements as well as for discussion or clarification between AWSC members and sends emails only to the AWSC members.

Two problems: 1) stirring up of controversy where there need not be. There can be unhealthy, overkill discussion where members want to delete everything, to the point where we have lost people on the AWSC. She would like to see some way to moderate that unhealthy, stirring up of controversy that goes on. 2) the secondary problem is that members may get viruses on their computer; ensure that no viruses go out.

Discussion as follows: the lists are not a chat room or a blog, they should be about principles. Should we just get rid of it? Keep it factual to just announcements and see if things calm down. The moderator can add and remove people.

A motion was made and seconded to limit the people that can communicate on the Service list to only the Area Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Discussion as follows: Are we getting into censorship; not sure why we're going down the road of worrying about who has power - the issue is that it's a Service announcement list; these are the positions that have information pertinent to service, so restrict it to those three people; don't feel comfortable with one person filtering; perhaps have three or four; since the Area doesn't have a current Delegate, should we include the Delegate as an officer who can post; not comfortable with censorship; the Service list was made for discussion among the AWSC committee and members have a choice right now as to what is relevant or not; what gives someone else the right to decide what is pertinent or not; the Service list was set up for the members on the AWSC for discussion and it probably worked at the time but right now it's not working

After discussion, the motion and second were rescinded. The moderator will find out if you can limit how many characters are within the emails, to ensure that members keep their statements to a minimum.

Assembly Task Force for June Assembly:

The Task Force Chair indicated that the Task Force met and compiled information and decided to hold the next Area Assembly at United Methodist Church in North Kingstown. The date will

be Saturday, June 5th from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The space is handicapped accessible with breakout rooms and full kitchen. The cost is \$50. The Task Force also decided on the food. They looked at what was spent in the past three years which was \$325. Pot luck was very successful in the past, so they decided to do that for the Area Assembly, breaking down items by District. A summary will be sent to the Service list to clarify.

There was discussion about the Assembly price. The Area Assembly has a \$600 budget. Might want to bring down the price per Group since the food will not be purchased. A motion was made to charge \$10 for a Representative from each Group to attend the Area Assembly. There was no second. The item will be tabled till next meeting when there is more information.

Clarification of Past Delegate:

Is the former Delegate considered a past Delegate, having served for only 9 months? the existence of an email from World Service was clarified indicating that she is. It was decided by the past AWSC to include past Delegates on the Service list. Discussion as follows: that past Delegates should not be included on the Service list because it complicates things; the current AWSC can ask past Delegates for help, but not on the Service list, since that list should only be those that are paneled; this would allow this AWSC to grow, allowing members the dignity to ask for help; Concept 10 is being tread upon (double headed management). A motion was made and seconded that the members that can post on the Service list be limited to paneled Committee members. Motion was passed with 9 in favor and 1 opposed.

A motion was made and seconded that all messages are moderated not for content but for viruses. Motion was not carried with 3 in favor, 1 opposed and 6 abstentions.

Date for 2010 RI Al-Anon/Alateen Workshop:

The Workshop Coordinator was not present and this item was tabled.

Discussion of Mileage Reimbursement for AWSC/Assembly members:

There are different mileage rates resulting in confusion of amounts for reimbursement. The previous Area Committee had differing rates since this was a new practice and the AWSC was not aware of differing rates. This AWSC needs to set a rate to which all can adhere. This item was tabled for further information on differing mileage rates.

Al-Anon Versus Alcoholism 2011:

The Literature Coordinator was not present and this item was tabled.

Other Business:

The Alternate District 3 Rep indicated that the GRs from District 3 feel strongly that they need the agenda items for the next Area Assembly well ahead of time to digest and discuss issues before decision making. Alternate District 4 Rep and District 5 Rep indicated the same. District

3 would prefer 3 months notice, but that is not possible now. The Alternate District 3 Rep requested that this item be put on the agenda early for the next AWSC meeting to make sure it does not get tabled. The Alternate Chair will ask the Chair to set the agenda as follows: opening, 15 minutes to discuss Area Inventory, setting the Area Assembly agenda, then the tabled items from tonight's meeting.

Date of Next Meeting:

AWSC Meeting, Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 7:00 pm

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion was carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm and closed with the Serenity Prayer and Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz P., Area 49 Secretary