

Minutes for AWSC Meeting

Location: 106 Rolfe St., Cranston, RI

Date: January 16, 2013

Time: 10am-12pm

In Attendance:

Barbara M – Area Chair

David – Area Delegate

Nancy – Treasurer

Robin – District 1 Rep

Wendy – in for Karen/ District 3 Rep *

Maura – Public Outreach Coordinator

Linda S – Lifelines Coordinator

Denise C – Group Records Coordinator

Deb E – Literature/LDC Coordinator

Barbara H – AA Liaison

Maryanne – Possible 2013 Workshop Committee Chairperson

*Panel voted unanimously to allow Wendy to vote in Karen's place

Opening:

- Moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer
- Welcome:
 - The Preamble to the Twelve Steps (service manual)
 - Our 3 Legacies: Read Steps/Traditions/Concepts
- Introductions
- Motion passed with one abstention for acceptance of December 2012 minutes.

AWSC Related Discussions

- AWSC Service Events
 - AA Convention
 - There are going to be 4 Al-Anon meetings this year in accordance with the (Al-Anon/Alateen Participation in an AA Area Convention guidelines) “Schedule Al-Anon/Alateen participation in the convention using AA’s schedule of activities as a guide in planning the program.”
 - There will be 4 sessions
 - Letting go *
 - Denial
 - Detachment *
 - Expectations *
 - * Need chairpersons

- Play this year is a musical
 - Guest speaker is Mary Gregory
 - Deb will have literature table set up Friday, 2:00-8:00 pm and Saturday, 9:00 am – 8:00 pm. Need someone to man literature table at 10:15 Saturday morning while Deb chairs a meeting
 - Maura will have a public outreach table
 - Barbara will check into getting 2 tables – 1 for literature and 1 for public outreach
- Thought Force Updates
 - Non performing service arms
 - Discussion
 - Reasons someone might not perform their job well
 - May be a lack of knowledge or resources. The issue should be addressed, not ignored, otherwise resentment grows. Should educate the person as to expectations or guidelines, but in a compassionate way and in good will, not punitively.
 - Prior panel members are not always available to provide knowledge and support to incoming panel members.
 - We want people to succeed in their positions. What we propose are guidelines and do not have to be enforced. If someone has an issue with another panel member, they can go to Barbara (Area Chair) or to David (Area Delegate)
 - Suggestion made to change title from “Possible Removal” to “Ensuring Support and Success” of Non-Performing Officers.
 - Our priority should not be in what other states do or in being cutting edge in policy making. Our area is not self-supporting and we are unable to fill all of our positions.
 - Different states have different levels of organization. We need to accept and work with what we have.
 - There is some concern about people’s distrust of the AWSC and that by voting people out of a position will further that distrust.
 - There is a need for these guidelines because there are no expectations communicated for incoming panel members. The panel’s progress is sometimes stalled because people don’t do their job.
 - Assembly should decide if someone should be removed.
 - David feels we have an obligation to do better and to enable our area to function better and that we have the right to use our best judgment to make facilitate that.
 - David will make adjustments to the guidelines and present them at the next meeting.

- Diversity –Maura would like to speak with people who attended the assembly and workshop to get their input. Diversity goes beyond skin color and race – it is also diversity of opinion. She will continue to gather information.
- Area policies on individual donations
 - David read highlights of his report
 - How much reserve should we have?
 - Should we give our money away?
 - Should we allow individual donations?
- Should we buy a space heater for the office?
 - Nancy – there is a surplus in the budget and there is a budget for office supplies
 - Wendy will buy one
 - David will get it to the office
- Task force update – Barbara will talk to Phyllis to get update before moving forward

Reports

- Area Chairperson
 - Email sent to Bonnie from a disgruntled member because the phones were out and she could not get a message out on the announcements list.
 - Discussion
 - Respond to the facts
 - This person has attacked others before; is a negative person; cannot be changed.
 - Maura will handle with a tactful response.
- Treasurer
 - The last area appeal was in Fall 2011. Nancy will review the former treasurer's notes on it and will work on an appeal for Fall 2013.
 - Current reserve is at 6 months of rent only, and does not include all expenses. WSO guidelines recommend a reserve for 6 months of all expenses. Nancy would like to work on getting the reserve to that.
 - We are okay right now, but we need to do a better job in handling our expenses.
 - Discussion – People still giving \$1.00 at meetings. Something should go into the appeal letter addressing the need to give more.
 - No vote on the year-end budget report because it is a preliminary budget. The panel will vote on the final budget at the next meeting.
 - Nancy will send flowers to Bonnie and Phyllis.
- Delegate
 - David does not need anything for the conference. Please use the money budgeted for that for something else.
 - Please get any suggestions about the strengths and weaknesses in our area to him by the next meeting for him to take to the Delegate Convention.
- District Reps
 - District 1 - Some GRs find the assembly too long to be doable for them
 - District 3 – Has heard similar comments. Perhaps go to smaller meetings?

- David will ask at Delegate Conference how other areas handle it
- Coordinators
 - Public Outreach – Maura will meet with David after the meeting to discuss.
 - AA Liaison – Brought flyer for Ocean State Young People’s Conference – Serenity Buy The Sea
 - Group Records – David will meet with Denise after the meeting to discuss removing inactive groups from donation reports.
 - Lifelines – No report.

Other AWSC Related Items

- Open Service Positions
 - Forum Coordinator
 - Archives
 - Discussion – Do a workshop with Alateens to work with the archives. Make travelling display boards for assemblies, workshops, etc...
 - Website
 - Dean Hudek has volunteered. Panel voted to accept him as interim Website Coordinator until he can be voted in at the next assembly.
 - Office Manger

Additional Business

- David would like to send coordinators to Mass or CT conventions in March and April to meet other people in their same position and to get information on how other coordinators do their job in other areas.
 - Discussion
 - If coordinators attend, write something for Lifelines on your experience.
 - E-communities provides a similar experience and is beneficial.
 - Registration forms for the Mass and Ct conferences are in Lifelines.
 - David will forgo his \$175.00 nerd fee to offset fees for coordinators to attend conventions.

Closing

- Spring Assembly – Saturday, June 15, 2013; 9:00 am - 3:30 pm (registration @ 8:30 am)
- Next AWSC Meeting March 2, 2013 10:00 - 12:00.
- Adjournment
- Closing Prayer and Al-Anon Declaration.