

Minutes for AWSC Meeting on July 21, 2012, 12-2 PM

In Attendance:

Phyllis H-District 4 Representative
Barbara H- AA Liaison
Barbara M- Area Chairperson
Denise- Group Records
David G- Delegate
Yael- Area Secretary
Bonnie- Office Manager
Ashley B- Web Coordinator
Maura D- Workshop Coordinator & Public Outreach Coordinator
Alexia- Web Co-Coordinator (visitor)

Opening

Barbara opened the meeting at noon with the Serenity Prayer. The Preamble was read, followed by the 12 Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and the Warranties. Mailing addresses were added to the contact list, and contact information for those in attendance was updated.

Introductions

All present introduced themselves by full name, position, and home group.

Motion on Voice for Visitor

A motion was entertained by Barbara M. to allow visitor Alexia a voice for this meeting. A vote was taken, 8 in favor, with Barbara M. abstaining, per her custom.

New Officer Introductions and Reports

Yael, Bonnie, and Maura introduced themselves as the new Area Secretary, Office Manager, and Workshop Coordinator & Public Outreach Coordinator respectively. Bonnie and Maura also gave reports.

Office Manager's Report

Bonnie reported that she needs volunteers to work in the office. She also offered two new ideas: having people pick up messages from home (as had been done previously) and compiling a list of members who speak other languages. Ashley volunteered to post a notice for office volunteers on the website and wondered whether there were specific days for which volunteers were needed. She expressed her desire to have specific, consistent days and hours during which the office will be open. Alexia offered the possibility of building into the new website a mechanism for volunteers to add/change their hours at the office so that the office hours listed on the site will automatically reflect the actual hours volunteers are working. The outgoing message on the office phone would still need to be updated accordingly. Also, there is currently no internet access at the office.

Workshop Coordinator's Report

Maura has set two tentative dates for the Workshop—Oct. 27th and Nov. 17th and two possible locations—Butler Hospital and St. Mary's in Portsmouth. By Aug. 1st, the place and date will be confirmed. The theme of the Workshop will be "Lois and Laughter." Since the tag sale has not been particularly successful and most of the merchandise is left over with no place to go, she has moved it to the spring. There will, however, be a book and crafts sale, which will be run by Alateen like their own bookstore. Maura has also decided to invite different groups to take on different tasks towards making

the Workshop happen. This is intended to increase the sense of member “ownership” of the event. She will send an email out to the listserv describing these tasks so that we can take them back to our groups.

Open Positions

District Representatives are still needed for Districts 2 and 5. Volunteers are needed in the office. Members are needed for the Diversity Thought Force and the Non-Performing Members Thought Force.

New Thought Forces

David proposed two new Thought Forces: one on area structure changes and one on developing area policy on individual donations to the state. Barbara H. wondered whether the Area Structure Thought Force, if formed, could also address the qualifications for and duties of the Delegate.

Motion on New Thought Forces

Barbara M. entertained a motion to accept these two new thought forces: Area Structure Changes and Area Policy on Individual Donations. A vote was taken, with 8 in favor and 1 abstention. David volunteered to lead the Area Policy on Individual Donations to the State Thought Force, joined by Ashley, and Phyllis volunteered to lead the Area Structure Change Thought Force, joined by Barbara H.

Chairperson’s Report

Barbara M. is planning the Open House at the Rolfe Street office for Sunday, September 30th in the afternoon. She requested and received several volunteers to help out. Maura suggested that the invitation to group members specifically recommend that all group literature coordinators attend. David stated that the main purpose of the Open House is to make the office more known to members.

Treasurer’s Report (absent)

Donations and literature sales are down significantly. Ashley recommended having a projected cash flow graph to help budget more accurately. David asked that information on group donations be passed on to each group and that groups be reminded to put their group numbers on all checks.

RIAFG Listservs

Discussion ensued around the existence of two separate riafg listservs and who moderates each (i.e., who can invite and add people). The listserv for the general membership is called riafg “announcements” and the one restricted to ASWC members is called riafg “service.”

Literature Coordinator Report (absent)

Barbara M. suggested that the Literature report be posted on the web site, as it contains interesting information on new pieces of literature as well as requests for submissions to literature-in-progress.

AA Liaison Report

Barbara H. spoke about her experience at the OSYPC. The next AA Convention with Al-Anon participation is March 22-24, 2013 and the theme will be “Rhode to Happy Destiny.” The Al-Anon speaker will be Mary from NY and FL. Barbara H. said that AA is enthusiastic about Al-Anon participation and has been very welcoming of her.

Group Records Report

Denise stated that she now knows how to add and invite people to both listservs (for which she is a moderator) and will be doing so as soon as possible.

Lifelines Editor’s Report (absent)

Barbara M. said that Linda occasionally asks for area officer reports to “feature” in Lifelines.

Website Coordinators’ Report

Ashley and Alexia have been working hard on the new web site. Alexia showed the committee the new layout and some of the proposed and in-progress features. Two of the new features she is working on are a “find a meeting” search and a place for members to sign up for a weekly e-newsletter which could include Lifelines as well as upcoming events, updates, and whatever else we want. Phyllis H. expressed concern about the ability of future web coordinators to maintain/update the site once Alexia is no longer

available. Others expressed concern that a lot of energy is going into the new web site at the expense of updating information (such as the meeting list) on the current site. Still others expressed their excitement about the makeover. Ashley reassured members that she herself is not a programmer and that she will test all changes made to the site for maintainability by non-programmers. All corrections to the current site can be sent to Ashley at webmaster@riafig.org and Ashley will make sure that they are implemented. When the new web site is in a more finished state, a link will be made available to all ASWC members so that we can view it and make suggestions before it goes live. Barbara M. cautioned that, in her experience, members of Al-Anon need time to process change and she suggested that anyone who would like to continue talking to Alexia about the new site do so after the meeting.

Next ASWC Meeting

Barbara M. announced the agenda items for the next meeting as follows:

Review frequency of ASWC meetings

Update on Open House

Review feedback from Assembly

The date of the next meeting was set for Saturday, September 8th, 10-12 back at the Rolfe Street office. Barbara encouraged everyone to send reports at least one week ahead of the meeting so that we can all read them in preparation.

Motion to Adjourn

Barbara M. entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2 PM. All present voted in favor.

Closing

The meeting ended with the Serenity Prayer and the Al-Anon Declaration.

AA Liaison July Report

Ocean State Young Peoples Conference (OSYP) Serenity by the Sea (June 22-24, 2012):

I attended the OSYP conference “Serenity by the Sea” at Salve Regina University.

I was a little nervous attending without a predetermined Al-Anon support system and I really didn't know very many people other than to say hi. I just prayed to be okay being out of my “Comfort Zone” so when I got to my room and noticed the things that were provided, a cup for water, a wash cloth and towels, and then there was a small bar of soap. I can't describe the warm feeling inside or the peace that overwhelmed me, I knew at that moment, I was going to be okay.

That is because, a few years ago, I went with my sponsor and some others to The Wilson House. We visited the graves of Lois and Bill. On Lois's grave stone was a bar of soap or that is what I saw. I asked my sponsor, “Why would someone leave soap?” She directed me to look closure, it wasn't the soap it was the message (DIAL). So when I saw “DIAL” soap on the desk, with the other “necessities” I knew everything was good – and I was where I was supposed to be for that moment. The weekend was a wonderful experience for me with people who want to recover from this disease - no matter what side we are coming from. I will admit, its different and I don't feel the same level of security as I do when I'm surrounded by Al-Anon fellowship but its as close as you can get.

I was asked to share at the Saturday night meeting (my name was pulled from the hat). I was scared and then just realized, share from the heart – experience, strength, and hope. I took some time for

prayer and asked God to hold me in his hands and guide my words to “MY” truth and be with me in the room. One thing I realized is my own growth through Service, “I can be in a room full of Alcoholics and not want to either Kill them or Fix them”, which before “taking service” is what would go through my mind as my only choices – that is progress. I’m not vested in anyone reaction, I go to Al-Anon for me, so I can get better, not for anyone else. You don’t have to like me, I have to like ME.

It was an experience I will not soon forget and if you get the chance to attend this conference next year or another, take the opportunity. Go **outside your comfort zone**, for me that is the place I grow. Do something you have never done before, it has its own rewards. For when they say “with Al-Anon Participation” we are both “invited” and “made welcome”

(2013) RI AA Convention update:

The RI AA Convention with Al-Anon participation will be March 22, 23, 24, 2013 (mark your calendars). The theme for the 2013 Convention will be “Rhode to Happy Destiny”. It is still in the planning stages, with more information to follow. I have confirmed our Al-Anon speaker – Mary, from NY and FL, with 30+ years in Al-Anon.

Literature Coordinator Report AWSC Meeting—July 21, 2012

New LDC “Departments”: The Literature Catalog and the literature itself were rearranged in May to reflect more specific, user-friendly categories.

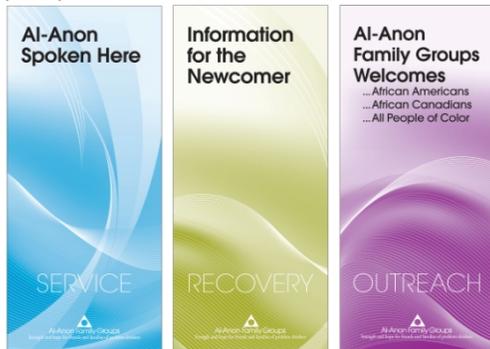
- o The new catalog is up on www.riafg.org, and printed copies are available at the office. Hopefully, this new format will make the shopping experience easier.

- **Area Contributions:** I’ve calculated that the LDC makes about 8% “profit” from literature sales, so I plan to contribute 8% of monthly sales (minus any expenses) to the Area Treasury each month.
- **Assembly:** Only a few groups pre-ordered literature for the Assembly, but they really appreciated the service, so I consider it a success. I plan to offer the same service at the next Assembly and the Workshop.
- **Pamphlet Racks:** The WSO has discontinued the sale of pamphlet racks, with no plans to sell them in the future. They recommend that groups search online for vendors that sell them. I found a few candidates here:
 - o <http://www.brochureholdersnow.com/cat5.asp?ID=20131>
 - o <http://www.displays2go.com/Category.aspx?ID=1030>
- **Having Had a Spiritual Awakening:** A member at the Assembly asked about this discontinued book. She had heard that it was being re-released this summer. I followed up with Tom C. at WSO and here was his response:
...discussions were held this year’s World Service Conference about electronic literature and the financial impact such formats could have on Literature Distribution Centers and General Service Offices. During one of these sessions, the WSO announced that it is planning a pilot program to sell The Forum and Having Had a Spiritual Awakening (B-25) in electronic formats. Because The Forum is only available through the WSO and Having Had a Spiritual Awakening is currently out of print, the sale of electronic versions of these items, on a trial basis, would have no financial impact on the AISs, LDCs, and GSOs.

Many details are still being worked out, and no date has been set. There has been no discussion of re-releasing *Having Had a Spiritual Awakening* in printed form.

News from WSO:

- **New Translations:** The Timely Reprint, *Parents of Alcoholics* (R-18), and the *Conflict Resolution* Wallet Card (S-71) are now also available in French (FR-18 and FS-71) and Spanish (SR-18 and SS-71)
- **Al-Anon Pamphlets Get a New Look:** A new design will be implemented for our pamphlets. It will appear one pamphlet at a time, as current stock is depleted. It may be several years before *all* of the pamphlets have this new look, but here is a preview:



- **Material for Parents:** To be more inclusive, the Policy Committee last year approved a title change for the pamphlet *To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic* (P-16). The new title, which appears on the latest printing, is *To Parents of Alcoholics* (P-16). The content of the pamphlet has not changed. It also remains in its 3 ½" X 8 ½" white and green pamphlet format. This pamphlet is not to be confused with the similarly-titled, black-and-white 5" X 7" new Timely Reprint, *Parents of Alcoholics* (R-18) that was introduced earlier this year.
- **How Al-Anon Works (B-32):** The Board of Trustees has **extended the trial period** for the soft cover edition of Al-Anon's basic book for another year at the \$5 US price. Please keep in mind that the intended purpose of this project is to provide an opportunity for groups and members to share this book more widely with newcomers or anyone looking for a clear and easy-to-understand introduction to the Al-Anon program.
- **Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships (working title):** Please continue to encourage members to send in sharings for this new piece in development. We currently have about 300 intimacy submissions, but need many more for this piece to become a reality. Sharings from men, parents, gays, and lesbians are especially needed if it is to express the diversity of our fellowship and its experiences. The sharing sheets are posted on the Member's Web site, and members can also submit sharings on-line on the Members' site.
- **Revised Items:** The latest printings of *How Can I Help My Children* (P-9) and *Dear Mom & Dad* (P-67) contain minor revisions recommended by the Literature Committee. These revisions do not alter the meaning or purpose of the content, but include some wording changes to update the material and make it more contemporary.
- **Discontinued Item:** Please note that *Anonymity* (P-65) has been discontinued. *Why Anonymity in Al-Anon?* (P-33), however, remains in print.
- **CAL Sample Chapter:** Each quarter we post a Sample Chapter of Conference Approved Literature on both the Public Outreach site, www.al-anon.org and the Members' site, www.al-anon.org/members. Through

July, the chapter is chapter, "Picking Up the Tools," from the book *From Survival to Recovery: Growing Up in an Alcoholic Home* (B-21). The Sample Chapter on the Members' site also includes a list of where to find this topic in other CAL, an opportunity to share on this topic, and quotations, meeting topics, and discussion questions pertaining to this book.

- **"CAL Corner":** Each month, the "CAL Corner" feature in *The Forum* includes members' sharings on how a particular piece of our literature has enhanced their recovery. April's article featured *Hope for Today* (B-27, B-28). In May, the book discussed was *Alateen—Hope for Children of Alcoholics* (B-3), and in June it was *Paths to Recovery* (B-24).
- **Building a Workshop & Skit Collection:** Please encourage Area members to develop and write workshops and skits on a variety of CAL books and pamphlets. Please share them with us too. Then we can share them with other Coordinators in the "Workshops" and "Skits" folders on e- Communities!

Treasurer's Report-July 2012

RI Area Al-Anon Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Q
1	CATEGORY	Budget	Expended	Available	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	
2	Rent	\$4,970.18	\$ 2,370.00	\$2,600.18	\$ 395.00	\$ 395.00	\$ 395.00	\$ 395.00	\$ 395.00	\$ 395.00			
3	Telephone	\$561.00	\$ 273.92	\$287.08	\$ 45.21	\$ 44.29	\$ 45.19	\$ 48.56	\$ 48.10	\$ 42.57			
4	Electric	\$168.00	\$ 91.87	\$76.13	\$ 12.87	\$ 12.43	\$ 16.12	\$ 27.03	\$ 12.50	\$ 10.92			
5	Office Supplies	\$155.00	\$ -	\$155.00									
6	Area Secretary	\$75.00	\$ -	\$75.00									
7	Office Postage	\$90.00	\$ -	\$90.00									
8	Hotline Expenses	\$51.00	\$ -	\$51.00									
9	Webmaster	\$56.10	\$ 68.64	\$12.54						\$ 68.64			
10	Equalizer Fund	\$1,664.00	\$ -	\$1,664.00									
11	WSO Qrtly Donation	\$654.00	\$ 654.00	\$0.00		\$ 163.50			\$ 163.50			\$ 163.50	
12	NERD Conf.	\$175.00	\$ 303.60	\$128.60				\$ 303.60					
13	Delegate Expense	\$728.00	\$ -	\$728.00									
14	Past Delegate	\$500.00	\$ -	\$500.00									
15	Insurance	\$714.00	\$ -	\$714.00									
16	Miscellaneous	\$300.00	\$ 20.00	\$280.00		\$ 20.00							
17	Chairperson	\$100.00	\$ -	\$100.00									
18	Public Outreach	\$0.00	\$ -	\$0.00									
19	Alateen	\$3,174.21	\$ 106.00	\$3,068.21		\$ 35.00		\$ 35.00	\$ 36.00				
20	Assembly	\$642.00	\$ 136.58	\$505.42		\$ 101.58				\$ 35.00			
21	Newsletter - Lifelines	\$300.00	\$ 64.70	\$235.30		\$ 64.70							
22	Workshop	\$250.00	\$ -	\$250.00									
23	AA Liaison	\$500.00	\$ 531.85	\$31.85				\$ 531.85					
24	Bank Service Chg.	\$0.00	\$ 51.70	\$51.70		\$ 27.70	\$ 24.00						
25	TOTALS	\$15,827.49	4672.86	\$8,086.42	453.08	864.2	480.31	1341.04	655.1	552.13	0	163.5	
26													
27	INCOME												ENDING BALANCE
28	Public Outreach	\$ -											\$0.00
29	Al-ateen				\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 25.00		\$ 20.00			\$ 220.00
30	RI Area	\$ -			\$ 70.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 407.50	\$ 515.00	\$ 405.00			\$ 2,037.50
31	From Wkshops	\$ -											\$ -
32	From Literature	\$ -				\$ 400.00		\$ 72.79	\$ 56.22	\$ 83.30			\$ 612.31
33	Area Assembly	\$ -											\$ -
34	Mid-Winter Appeal	\$ -											\$ -
35	TOTALS	\$ -	0	0	120	930	235	505.29	\$ 571.22	508.3	0	0	\$ 2,869.81
36													
37	Cash Flow												
38	Checking Acct	beginning bal			14870.14	14537.06	14602.86	14357.55	13521.8	13437.92			
39	plus income				120	930	235	505.29	571.22	508.3			
40	minus expenses				453.08	864.2	480.31	1341.04	655.1	552.13			
41	account balance				14537.06	14602.86	14357.55	13521.8	13437.92	13394.09	0	0	