

**MINUTES OF THE RIAFG SPRING ASSEMBLY
HELD JUNE 10, 2023
AT ST. LUKE'S CHURCH IN E. GREENWICH, RI**

• **In Attendance:**

- Voting Members:
 - District 1: (2) McKensie G., Barbara G.
 - District 2: (6) David G., Phyllis H., Elaine H., Claudia P., Ann H., Mary Beth C.
 - District 3: (6) Maggie W., Anna P., Jean O'D,N, Beth P., Beatrice J., Dean H.
- Non-Voting Members:
 - Edna C., Holly R., Sarah W., Beth D., Sandra F.
- AWSC Members (non-voting)
 - Cindy B., Terry L., Martha R., Chris E., Beth P., Anna P., Sarah W., Maggie, Eden C., Wendy H., Elaine H.

OPENING/WELCOME

Cindy B. called the Assembly to order at 9:15 AM. The co-chairs were Cindy B., Eden C., and Terry L. The Serenity Prayer was recited after a moment of silence. Volunteers read the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, and the General Warranties. Roll call and introductions followed. Cindy went over the definitions of an assembly and assembly etiquette.

AREA BUSINESS:

The minutes of the December 3, 2022 assembly were voted on and accepted as submitted. November 4, 2023 was selected as the date of the fall assembly and District 3 will be the host.

GROUP REPRESENTATIVE ORIENTATION:

Cindy discussed the World Service Conference Structure Graphic. She explained that Al-Anon is a unique organization because the ultimate authority resides in the members. Group Representatives represent the decisions made by the members of their group. A suggestion to have the GR's rolls and responsibilities on our website was made and Claudia volunteered to do this. Cindy talked about the links of service and the concern that many service positions still need to have members to step up to serve in these positions..

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Cindy discussed key items from the World Service Conference held from April 20 to April 23, 2023. The theme of this conference was Love, Laugh, and Grow Together. There were 91 voting members in attendance.

- Financials: WSO is audited each year for its financials. 2022 ranked as the highest in contributions. The biggest expense is support services for the groups
- WSO Budget: The 2023 budget was approved at the WSC. It is a balanced budget of about 6 million dollars. For 2023 there will be the quarterly appeals but no special appeals. It was noted that these quarterly appeals give individual members the opportunity to contribute as an individual to WSO.
- Self supporting: The group contributions to WSO are not “donations.” They are “support” for the services that WSO provides to the groups. For a group to be fully “self supporting” the contribution amount per group is \$321.25 per year. In addition the Area, Districts and the Literature Distribution Center need group financial support. To put this in individual member’s terms, each member would need to contribute \$1.35 per week.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity: There was much discussion and emotions about this issue were very strong. Essentially, anyone is welcome at any Al-Anon meeting.
- Sponsorship: A motion was made, seconded and approved for the creation of an Al-Anon Book on Sponsorship.
- Electronic Meetings: Global: There are over 900 Global Electronic Groups currently. These meetings are supported directly by WSO in an “Area” created for that purpose. In 2022 the Global Electronic Groups were the highest contributors financially to the WSO. These meetings are listed on the Al-Anon.org website.
- In person meetings who became virtual due the pandemic: These groups need to decide if they will remain electronic or if they will go back to in person meetings. It was noted that in person meetings can have a virtual component if they meet at a physical location and the virtual component happens on the same day and time as the in person meeting.
- Electronic Meetings: Geographic: Electronic Groups can request to join a geographic area. In RI these meetings will fall under the district they were associated with when they were in person meetings. These meetings will be listed on riafg.org website and on al-anon.org as well. These groups need to be registered for the RIAFG and a form will be available on the riafg.org website to do this.
- Electronic Alateen Meetings: Currently Alateen meetings must be in person. There are now 5 electronic Alateen meetings on the Al-Anon Mobile APP. WSO is developing guidelines for the creation of electronic meetings for Alateen. Areas will have the ability to choose if they want to allow electronic Alateen meetings.
- Twelve Steps: The Twelve Steps of Al-Anon are copyrighted. When the Twelve Steps are read at meetings, the wording cannot be changed. They are to be read as they are printed in our conference approved literature. The Al-Anon logo is a Trademark and should only be used for Al-Anon sponsored events.
- WSO visit: The WSO will participate in a virtual town hall for our RIAFG. RI has too many open service positions and this will be the focus of this meeting. There is the possibility that someone from the WSO will attend our November Assembly.

OPEN AREA SERVICE POSITIONS AND VOTING:

Each of the open area service positions was described briefly. The following positions were filled by members volunteering and the GR's unanimous vote: Group Records: Maggie; Workshop Coordinator: McKensie, who will work with her home group members to host a fall workshop.

DISTRICT CAUCUS TO ELECT DR'S:

Each district met with their members. Only one district has a District Representative and that is District 2. Districts 1 and 3 did not elect a DR.

AL-ANON TRIVIA:

Throughout the Assembly, Trivia questions were asked and at the end a trivia game was played by all.

QUESTION AND ANSWER:

Cindy opened up the floor for questions. Terry was asked about the RI budget. She stated our budget is on track, however financial support from the individual groups was under budget. There is no date yet for the virtual meeting with WSO. Attendees were encouraged to talk about the service structure and opportunities at their meetings. More members should be encouraged to participate at Assembly.

CLOSING: The Serenity Prayer was recited and the meeting was adjourned at 1:03PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elaine H.