

**Rhode Island Al-anon Family Groups (RIAFG)**  
**AWSC Meeting Minutes**  
**January 20, 2018**  
**106 Rolfe St., Cranston, RI 02910**

**Present:**

Phyllis H., Area Chair; Barbara H., Area Delegate; Jane A., Office Coordinator; Jackie G., AA Liaison; Charles W. District 2 Representative; Holly R. Workshop Chair; Shawn J., District 1 Representative; Joe G., Alateen Co-Coordinator; Elaine H., Lifelines Editor; Tami K. Area Treasurer; Dennis S., Email Coordinator; Ann-Marie C., Literature Coordinator

**Call to Order 10 AM**

**Opening:**

- Moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer
- Read: Traditions/ Concepts/ Warranties
- Introductions: Name, AWSC position, and home group (previous Delegates were invited but were unable to attend)
- Motion/Second/Voted to accept the minutes of the December 2, 2017 meeting
- Definition: purpose of AWSC meetings: to plan assembly agenda and conduct Area business between Assemblies.
- New Service Manual for 2018 will no longer be available for free. It is available on-line for free. Once printed (Feb) hard copy purchase information will be available.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Phyllis H. Communication Task Force 1-Website update**
  - 1 year hosting plan purchased. Free transfer of domain name. Launch expected February 2018. Please check the link to the new website.

- **Phyllis H. Communication Task Force 2  
Communications Update**

It was recommended that we replace the use of **Yahoo Groups Service List** with a new program: SLACK. Charles W. opened discussion with a brief review of features:

- Filtering, Anonymous presence, learning tools & instruction available
- Adherence to the recommendation will keep us technology current
- Motivation will increase participation

There was further discussion regarding improving our literacy & organization. Does not have to be a permanent decision but we should be open to change. Several members have tried to use it and agree that training will be needed. In addition, Shawn says Slack will streamline Service Committees.

- Megan has agreed to provide assistance for the first year.

**Yahoo Groups Announcements list.**

Task force considers this adequate for information to pass from Area to DR to GR to Group communication. And CMAs if groups have both.

- Now that we have DRs for all 3 Districts, the Links of Service are used to share information with the Groups and Membership. However, there are groups that do not receive the information for a variety of reasons. The past Delegate used the Announcement list to share

information from WSO. The current Delegate would like to be able to share information with the Fellowship in a similar manner.

- Elaine described Lifelines distribution via email as BCC. An email chain works, but more individuals may want to participate. Charles reminded us that managing lists should meet standard rules; unsubscribe options are the person's choice, not the creator.
- Goal is to provide info to as many people as possible. More individuals involved leads to more people inspired to Al-Anon service opportunities.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- AWSC member list with terms of service was provided.
- 2018 Calendar provided. Exceptions to attendance by individuals will occur.
  - Workshop dates discussed: Three dates for preference, Barbara can contact Butler to see if any of the dates are available. May need another venue if Butler Hospital management changes.
- **Spring Assembly District 1.** Shawn reported that the first District meeting was 1/11. GRs leaning toward 6/9, 6/22, 6/29. June 9th preference. Venue options: #1=Park Place Church – good accessibility & parking. #2=Chapel Four Corners - less parking & less accessibility. District 1 GRs think Sponsorship should be a topic at the Assembly.
- **Survey results:** AWSC Priorities
  1. Priority 1-Stepping up to Service. Training replacements is key to continuity. People in service positions can recruit their replacements.
  2. Priority 2-Sponsorship! Unique but linked. Unity triangle of AA as a model. Dennis spoke of practical ways AA has around sponsorship and service.
  3. Priority 3-Keeping Newcomers: Personal connection, Personal contact
  4. Email communications. Guidelines for keeping email communications as people replace others.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **Area Chair**

Phyllis passed out the 2018 Budget Proposal, Income & Expenses overview 2011-2017, Primary Income Sources 2011-2017. Policy for Prudent Reserve is 6 months of expenses.

She considers her role as Area Chair to be the facilitator for all AWSC members.

##### **Delegate report**

Barbara preparing to go to NERD. Barbara has put the WSO survey (done once every 3 years) out to membership. Consider putting link on group e-mail. Barbara will also provide a link to the Online Service Manual.

##### **Treasurer's report**

Tami reported \$6,600.67 in our bank account. AWSC members should submit their requests for reimbursement for AWSC related expenses to Tami. 2017 Donations by Group & District were provided. Shawn had questions about group contributions/donations missing from the report.

##### **Literature Coordinator**

Literature 2017 sales report provided. Ann-Marie about to do first orders and will coordinate with Phyllis to set up the Literature bank account. There was a question about the Newcomer Packet not including the Steps & Traditions. Phyllis indicated that the Board of Trustees determines what is included in the Newcomer Packet. Groups may find it necessary to include separately with packet &/or welcome letter.

##### **Office Coordinator**

Jane provided the newest copy of the meeting lists for distribution to our groups as of Jan 14, 2018.

**Email Coordinator**

Dennis is currently battling recovery from a concussion. His term was verified as ending December 2018.

**District 1:**

Shawn reported a time frame of 6-8 weeks between meetings. Holding Spring Area Assembly. District held a fellowship event this summer at Slater Park for family & friends. Considering another fellowship event for the District (and perhaps the entire state).

**District 2:**

Charles reported that the last meeting was a lunch time event with few GRs participating due to conflicts. Considering an evening meeting in conjunction with a group meeting. Next meeting to be planned after Spring assembly. Fellowship event proposal for a walk/hike.

**AA liaison**

Jackie provided a written report. She attended the area 61 AA meeting, and 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual AA Convention plans are on track. More information on the Convention regarding registration, parking , & directions are available @ aainri.com.

**Alateen**

Joe reported only 1 Open meeting in the state. It coordinates with an Al-Anon and AA meeting to help with attendance. URI & other facilities being explored for Closed meetings.

**Lifelines**

Elaine has been promoting participation from members. Deadline for the February edition is 1/26/18.

**Workshop Committee Chair**

Holly has nothing to report at this time. She is planning on attending the AA Convention in March.

Motion to adjourn 12:14 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Holly R.

Reports and other attachments are available at the office.