

Rhode Island Al-Anon Family Groups (RIAFG)

AWSC Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2017

106 Rolfe St., Cranston, RI 02910

Present:

David G, Area Chair; Phyllis H, Area Delegate; Jane A, Office Coordinator; Jackie G, 2018 AA Liaison; Barbara H, Literature Coordinator; Meegan, District 2 member; Dennis S, Al-Anon Email Coordinator; Tami K, Treasurer; Charles W, District 2 Representative; Megan B, Alateen Coordinator; Holly R, 2018 Fall Workshop Chair; Elaine H, Lifelines Editor

Opening:

--Moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer
--Welcome; Our 3 Legacies read Traditions/Concepts/Warranties; Introductions: Name
--Motion for acceptance of Sept 16, 2017 minutes; seconded, so moved.

AWSC MATTERS

- **David G. FALL WORKSHOP Report: 10/7/17** Registration was up. We received 23 raffle baskets; thank you notes were sent to the groups. Marcia made the banners and has given her creativity for MANY of our attraction-not-promotion marketing artwork! We now have her "3 C's" image on our website. The positives about this year's Workshop: the theme was established early, the program was printed and distributed early, the AA participation was great! The variety of topics for the sessions was positive. The AA Chair picked chairs for their meetings, successfully. We work more fluidly with AA; they shared the same topics as ours'. Working with the AA Chair and AA Delegate helped to make AA participation stronger this year.
--Welcome Holly R., Workshop Chair 2018! Holly was lent the binder from the office.
- **David G. FALL ASSEMBLY Report: 11/4/17** There is joy and fun as different Districts host. 18 groups were represented. The facility, Kingston Congregational Church hall, was excellent; District 2 and committee was welcoming; supplies from the office a positive; interactive component of the day: Service Manual game was well received; elections were positive!
- **Communication Task Force 1 (Area Website), Phyllis H.**
RI Survey closes today; results will go out to Committee: Tami, Phyllis, Barbara. They'll review ideas and start creating a new website; goal is April 2018. It would be helpful if we had a Website Coordinator!! Website is important. Is there a budget for website? Yes, for vendor (host and site builder) and domain.
Communication Task Force 2 (Other means of communication; replace existing lists), Megan B.
Regarding the Service List: It is recommended that the Yahoo group be switched to SLACK group, a chat platform. Megan will stay on for a year with this change. It is private and you log in. There are "channels" that isolate conversations by heading.
- **AWSC Organization, David G.**
Spoke of staggered terms, Phyllis will update your info and new position with WSO. Emails come from WSO for a lot of Area positions.
--Phyllis: the NEW address list was emailed to us; it will be updated further with Joe and Ashley's contact info.

--David handed Orientation folders to Charles, Holly, Jackie---to assist as they begin their service positions. He will get the folders to Ann Marie (Literature Coordinator) and Ashley and Joe (Alateen Coordinators).

- **Proposal: Do we want to give a one-time donation to WSO? David G.**

After discussion, the consensus was that no action would be taken on this proposal at this time.

REPORTS

- **Treasurer, Tami K.**

--Overall, we are fine. Summary for October was presented.

--Back in 2015 I started a process of sending receipts via email to groups' CMA, acknowledging donations. Due to time constraints, this is currently not performed. Hopefully this will be able to be resumed in the future if possible.

--WSO Quarterly Appeals: February, May, August, November. RI Annual Appeal for 2017 was presented in November this year. There was no specific time limit specified this year to return donations for the RI Area Annual Appeal. Suggestion made to not have our annual appeal during same month as WSO appeal. Next year's appeal may be presented sooner in the year.

--RI Area income stream is positive: proceeds from the Fall Workshop, Assemblies, and Literature ordered from the RI Area Literature Distribution Center.

--RIAFG reimburses for expenses and for mileage for AWSC panel members if you wish.

--A question was asked why we have an Annual Appeal. Per the current chair, David G.: 3-4 years ago RIAFG had a fiscal deficit and reinstated the tradition of having a RI Annual Appeal.

-- A question was asked to explain what Memorial Contributions are. Phyllis H explained that donations in memory of a member for example may be given on a one-time basis from a non Al Anon member or from individual members or from Al Anon groups. This is a separate line item in RIAFG's budget. Outside contributions from non-Al-Anon members, i.e. family or friends are allowed one time in a memorial capacity. A note is sent from the Area Chairperson acknowledging the memorial contribution. There is no prohibition for groups to make a memorial donation.

-- The nature of our checking account and reserve therein was discussed. It is long-standing, part of our checking account, and not in a separate account. Literature Coordinator has a bank account as well. All Bank accounts have two authorized signatories.

--Jane A said our Al-Anon Break-the-Buck campaign is a good way to get the income message out. The RI Area office has multiple copies of the table tents for use at RI AFG meetings.

- **Alateen Coordinator, Megan B.**

Closing her 3 years' service as Alateen Coordinator THANK YOU MEGAN! Joy remains the Alateen Process person.

--There is a separate Alateen website. [<http://www.alateenri.org/>] --We now have Providence Sunday Night Alateen, and 5 school groups. 4 of the 5 Groups are listed there. School groups are listed if the school allows.

--There are 2 new Alateen co-coordinators: Joe and Ashley. Megan will provide their contact info. The sharing of duties and official email access will be discussed with them prior to Jan. 1, 2018

--One Alateen group, West Warwick, has closed. The webmaster will change the meeting list. WSO knows the meeting has closed. One is opening in South County—URI! Details on this new meeting need to be provided to the Office, and the webmaster.

--Megan will help Ashley with the Alateen website.

--There will be no Alateen sponsor meetings until after the holidays. Joe and Ashley will arrange the next meetings. If anyone is interested in Alateen sponsorship, please contact Ashley or Joe. May teens go to an open Al-Anon meeting? Yes: they are Al-Anon members.

- **Lifelines Editor, Elaine H.**

Would like more submissions from the membership on experience, strength and hope. Perhaps a profile of your group so others can get a 'glimpse!' *What does your home group mean to you?* lifelines.riafg@gmail.com offers members an opportunity to have each issue emailed. You will get "BCC'd" for your privacy. There is also a link on the RIAFG website for the same service.

- **Website Coordinator:** Phyllis reported that closed or open notices for the holidays are now being posted on the website.

- **Office Coordinator, Jane A.**

Reports smooth operations at office; new volunteer Clara R. Our HOURS: Mon: 12-2 PM/Wed: 12:30-2:30PM/Th: 6-7:30PM/Sat: 12-2. More At-Home volunteers are about to be trained. David discussed all the services our AIS/LDC allows us to provide our members. Offers Literature, workshops, storage, phone service, a meeting on Thursdays, a quiet place to sit or read or meet! We are not handicapped accessible.

- **Group Records, Chris L.**

David reported that Chris is maintaining things quite well!

- **Public Outreach**

2018 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is available to order for your groups!

- **Email Coordinator, Dennis S.**

He is doing a committed, consistent job! Thank you! He relays email info to the appropriate person.

- **Literature Coordinator, Barbara H.**

She provided a summary of book sales for the year. Explained operation of literature position.
THANK YOU BARBARA FOR YOUR 3 YEARS OF SERVICE!!!!

- **THANK YOU DAVID FOR YOUR 3 YEARS OF SERVICE AS AREA CHAIR!!!!**

- **THANK YOU PHYLLIS FOR YOUR 3 YEARS OF SERVICE AS AREA DELEGATE!!!!**

- **THANK YOU ANN MARIE FOR 3 YEARS OF SERVICE AS AA LIAISON!!!!**

- **District Representatives**

David stated that the DRs are creating a wonderful link of service to all groups! Thank you Terry, Shawn, Charles.

Next AWSC Meeting: New Chair, Phyllis H., wishes to provide a calendar for the whole year.

Reports and other attachments are available at the office.