

RHODE ISLAND AL-ANON AREA 49
MEETING MINUTES
March 28, 2009

Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm.

Opening:

Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer

Reading of the 12 Traditions

Reading of the 12 Concepts of Service and General Warranties of the Conference

Reading of Pages 185-189 from Service Manual (Leadership)

Introductions: Area Chair; Area Secretary; Past Delegate; Group Records Coordinator; acting Area Office Manager; Area Archives Coordinator; District 3 Rep; Area Treasurer/Alateen Process Person; Area Alateen Coordinator, District 4 Rep/Area AA Liaison, District 2 Rep/Workshop Committee Chair, Area Delegate, Al-Anon Member; Al-Anon Member; Al-Anon Member, Al-Anon Member, Forever Hope Group Representative, Al-Anon Member.

Action Items:

Secretary's Report:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the February minutes as corrected. Passed unanimously.

Area Chair talked about a past Area decision that the Area minutes be summarized and published in Lifelines. Since there is no Lifelines Coordinator or issues of Lifelines, the Area Committee discussed other options. A motion was made and seconded that we do all three things (putting summary minutes on website, e-list and having DR's bring them to GR's). Motion passed with 6 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention.

Treasurer's Report:

During March, the Area had \$600 in bills, \$1207 in income for the quarter. \$9351.98 is the current balance, including the prudent reserve.

There was discussion about how the Area Assembly voted during the last assembly concerning the 2009 Area Budget. Area Treasurer shared the figures she got from the former Area Treasurer as follows:

\$9220 was the figure of the actual Area expenses.

\$11500 was the figure the Area Assembly adopted, which breaks down to \$209 per year per group with 55 groups.

Area Treasurer would like to gather more information for next month's meeting and come back to report before any vote from the Area Committee. She will work with the former Area Treasurer to determine the breakdown of the \$11500 figure.

There was more discussion on action that the Area Committee needs to take today, since the Area Delegate is going to Conference in 3 weeks and needs to be reimbursed for her expenses.

A motion made and seconded to reimburse Delegate \$26.80 for her participation at NERD, which includes mileage and \$10 extra. Motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to give an advance of \$200 to the Area Delegate for use at World Service Conference, providing she provide receipts for her expenses. Passed unanimously.

Delegate's Report:

Area Delegate attended the Northeast Regional Delegate's Convention (NERD). All New England states were represented except New Hampshire. WSO will no longer be holding Regional Service Seminars. Instead, Areas or multiple Areas will divide the activities among themselves to get more WSO people out to smaller areas more often.

A memo was read about limited edition postcards that are now available for 15-20¢ per card.

Area Delegate received an email about the chosen agenda items, the subjects for two 80 minute presentations that will be given at the WSC. She would like feedback from the Area regarding these items. They are under the topic "Barriers to Progress" and are as follows:

1. Al-Anon's Public Relations Policy - Is it Becoming More Like Promotion than Attraction? Are We Embracing Traditions Six and Eleven in All Al-Anon's Affairs? Is It Our Responsibility to Promote Sponsorship? and,
2. How Can Areas, Districts, and Groups Approach Unhealthy Meetings in a Positive and Productive Way? How Do We Discern the Difference Between Autonomy and Adherence to Al-Anon Traditions? (Tradition Four) How Can We Protect Al-Anon as a Whole? How Do Groups Practice Strong, Healthy, Spiritual Principles in the Midst of These Ever Increasing Challenges?

Chairman's Report:

Area Chair indicated that scheduling Area meetings a month in advance doesn't give members enough time to plan. After hearing everyone, Area Chair suggested setting the dates of the AWSC meeting for the next two months, and then set the dates for the rest of the year at the April Area meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to set next Area meeting on Thursday, April 16th so the Delegate can get input from the Area to prepare for the WSC. Motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by and seconded to set the May Area meeting for Saturday, May 16th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Motion was passed with 8 in favor and 2 opposed.

District 3 Representative Report:

District 3 consists of the East Bay area from Jamestown to Barrington. The next District meeting is April 19th before the Sunday Night Step meeting in Bristol and DR is asking the GR's from the particular meeting they are at that night to give reports.

AA Liaison:

Area Liaison will be passing around a sheet asking for committee members. R.I. AA is reaching out for more Al-Anon participation and she has contacted them but hasn't yet spoken to them.

Workshop Committee Chair:

Workshop Chair passed around a R.I. Al-Anon Conference flyer. Workshop Chair gave her email address and asked the Committee to go back to their groups and ask for participation. The Workshop Committee meeting date was set for April 29th at 7:00 pm at the Area Office.

The Committee was asked to refrain from circulating flyers. The Service Manual pages 81-82 were read about conventions. It was suggested that using the word "Conference" to describe the workshop could be confusing because it is used when referring to the World Service Conference.

Action Item:

Because the AWSC ran overtime, the Area Chair asked if anyone present would be standing for a service position. A member indicated she would stand for Literature Coordinator and another member for Alternate Literature Coordinator. A motion was made and seconded to accept the members as Literature and Alternate Literature Coordinators. The Delegate and Past Delegate indicated that the WSO is transitioning out of the literature business and prefers the Areas to handle it instead. Motion was passed unanimously.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm and closed with the serenity prayer and Al-Anon declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz P.
Area 49 Secretary