

Rhode Island Al-Anon Family Groups (RIAFG)

Area Meeting (AWSC) – April 15, 2017 -- Minutes

Area Officer / Coordinator Attendees

- Phyllis H, Delegate
- Barbara H, Literature Coordinator
- Ann Marie C, AA Liaison
- Terry L, District 3 Representative
- Jane A, Office Coordinator
- Chris L, Group Records Coordinator

Opening ✓ Moment of Silence, Serenity Prayer; Traditions/Concepts/Warranties read; Introductions and Home Groups

Minutes ✓ Upon motion duly made, the minutes for the March 4, 2017 AWSC meeting were approved

AWSC Matters: [Note: No reports from Chairperson, Secretary, DR 1, DR 2, Alateen Coordinator, AAPP, Archives, Forum, Lifelines, Public Outreach, Website coordinators or Workshop 2017 chair]

- AA Liaison Report (Ann Marie C) The Mar. 24-26, 2017 Convention was amazing! At the Wrap-Up, all *Comment Cards* were read. Relating to Al-Anon:
 - ☺ They want more Al-Anon meetings (More seats in rooms, too.) (Kleenex too!)
 - ☺ They want Al-Anon to be more a part of the weekend
 - ☺ They love that there's more Al-Anon presence
 - ☺ Rave reviews for speaker Bud S. (VT) – may be possible to move the Al-Anon speaker back to the afternoon
 - ~Needed better signage for location of Al-Anon meetings (There was a change of companies for the hotel (now called Guerneys) and there were name changes...)
 - ☺ INPUT needed for March 2018 Convention theme. Date is March 23-25, 2018.*
 - ☺ Al-Anon speakers needed (ideally get a woman for 2018?)
 - ☺ More Al-Anon members attended this year
 - ☺ Volunteers –Thank you for all your service!
 - ☺ On-line registration is hoped for in 2018

 - ☺☺☺ Ann Marie C says she loves doing this service.

*Note: We would like to get the AA Convention “Save the Date” up on our website on the Announcements (and later: on the Calendar after 1/1/18.)

- NERD Report (Delegate Phyllis H) There are Notes from Phyllis (See our Yahoo groups NERD 2017 report.pdf)
NERD provides an accurate representation of what the World Service Conference (April 24-28, 2017) will be like.
Bud did a great job Chairing NERD and with his Tech presentations.
- Communication Thought Force Report (Terry L)
--Meetings were held in January and April 2017. There is a possibility of meeting once more before Spring Area Assembly on 6/3/17.
--There are Notes available from these meetings.
--The CTF will present at the Spring Area Assembly. There will be Breakout sessions to address the ideas presented.
--Phyllis explained that Al-Anon has both "Thought Forces" and "Task Forces." Thought Forces can be seen as think tanks and Task Forces can be seen as do tanks.
- Treasurer's Report (Tami K. submitted via Phyllis H.) We were provided spreadsheets for both income and expense and for donations received.
- Alateen (Megan B. via Phyllis H.) Revised Alateen Guideline will be taken by Delegate to WSC.
- Literature Coordinator (Barbara H.) We were provided a Literature year-to-date report.
☺ AA Convention proceeds were approximately \$348.

☺ Public outreach at the AA Convention was excellent. We are now located next to the Registration table and it's an ideal spot. We have really good very positive relationship with the Convention Committee.

☺ A request was made for the pamphlet "Al-Anon is for Gays and Lesbians" for public outreach.
- Group Records Report (Chris L) Chris is getting acclimated to the position.
- Vacant RIAFG Positions Report (Phyllis H.)

--We discussed service, sponsorship, ideas on how to fill positions, how to develop an urgency for service. Vacant POSITIONS: Area Alternate Delegate, Secretary, Public Outreach Coordinator, Forum Coordinator, Lifelines Coordinator, Archives Coordinator, District 2 Rep, Workshop Coordinator 2017. In addition, approximately one-third of our service positions will end their term on December 31, 2017: Staggered terms were established a few years ago.

--We discussed that structured Group Representative training has existed in the past. It is invaluable. Shall we reignite this practice? Deb (former Literature Coordinator and Secretary) made a manual. The Committee members in attendance thought it would be useful to have GR Training as a breakout session at the Fall 2017 Assembly.

- Spring Assembly Agenda and Planning

--We thoroughly reviewed and edited the Draft Agenda for 6/3/17, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM @ Franklin Court Community Room, Bristol, RI.

Phyllis is now compiling the edited version and will email it to the AWSC.

--Terry got ideas of the inventory of supplies that District 3 may use. Phyllis will send Terry a list of supplies stored in the office.

--We spoke of including a handout at the Spring Assembly asking for written ideas (experience, strength, and hope ideas) from Assembly attendees on this topic:

“What is service to me? / Define or describe service in your own words”

We will collect these. Idea: to create a mural-of-sorts with the written sharings to display at the Fall Workshop / to have a focus on Al-Anon service at the Fall Workshop.

Points that came of our SERVICE discussion today:

--I become accountable in service.

--Service brings my character defects to the forefront (Service is Miracle Grow on character defects) but we have a safe place and supports in recovery to address them!

--I am a different person with service responsibilities.

--There is no program without service.

--Service makes chair available for the person behind you.

--Sponsorship is critical.

--‘Old timers’ often chaired on sponsorship, on service.

--Growth is huge in service.

--Do you need growth?

--Commitments were a wonderful part of recovery in Al-Anon. Groups would travel to other groups and bring new faces and voices to meetings. There were ‘meetings on route’ too!

Next AWSC meeting is Saturday 6/17/17 at 106 Rolfe Street. It is a post-Assembly meeting before we break for the Summer 2017. 9:45 AM to 10:15 is an Al-Anon meeting, 10:15 – 12:00 is the AWSC meeting.

✓ Motion to adjourn duly made. So carried.

✓ Closing prayer and Al-Anon Declaration

Respectfully submitted

Jane A.

Reports and other attachments are available at the office.