

AWSC Meeting Sept. 8, 2012, 10-12 at Rolfe Street Office, Cranston

In Attendance:

Barbara M- Area Chair
Barbara H- AA Liaison
Deb E- Literature Coordinator
Rose B- Alateen Coordinator
Phyllis H- District 4 Representative
Linda F- Lifelines Editor
Nancy S- Area Treasurer
Denise C- Group Records
Ashley B- Website Coordinator
Karen M- District 3 Representative
Robin D- District 1 Representative
David G- Area Delegate
Maura D- Workshop Coordinator and Public Outreach
Yael B-S- Area Secretary

Opening

Barbara opened the meeting at 10 AM with the Serenity Prayer. The Preamble was read, followed by the 12 Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and the Warranties.

Introductions

All present introduced themselves by full name, position, and home group.

Minutes

Barbara M entertained a motion to accept the minutes without reports attached after discussion on whether or not to include reports in the minutes revealed a strong feeling amongst members that reports were not written to be public in the way that minutes are. Barbara H made the motion and Ashley seconded it. Ten people voted for and four abstained.

Update on Open House

Barbara M reported that a new flyer was made. Volunteers will come early. David suggested taking the flyer to meetings and announcing the Open House as well as having DRs send the flyer out to their mailing lists. He also reminded everyone that the purpose of the Open House is to educate members about literature and about the existence of the office—where it is and what happens there. Linda proposed that new DRs introduce themselves to the groups in their districts and personally invite them to the Open House.

Workshop and Public Outreach Reports

Maura reported that the Workshop will take place at Butler again this year, since St. Mary's would cost \$400. The workshop date is Saturday, Nov. 17th and the theme is "Lois and Laughter." Co-leaders for some of the meetings are still needed and meeting topics are posted on the website. Volunteers for meeting co-leadership should contact Maura directly. There are also several tasks that still need to be claimed by a group or member. Maura will try to ramp up the sale of literature through Alateen's café/bookstore. Barbara H mentioned that Butler needs an address to send the bill to.

She also expressed her desire that, because of changes to Ray Hall, we all be very careful and conscious in our use of the hall, particularly of the new, expensive equipment in the former food room, so that we might continue to be welcome there.

Barbara M raised questions about the plan to give \$2 of every \$12 to Alateen since the primary purpose of the Workshop is to raise money to send the delegate to the WSO Conference. She wondered whether it would be more prudent to meet that expense and pay Workshop-related bills before promising Alateen any certain amount. Barbara M also reported that the coffeepots have died and need to be replaced before the Assembly and Workshop. Karen reported that a Warren group will make crafts for the Alateens to sell. David mentioned that the Workshop raises 20% of the Area budget, so members should be encouraged to participate, even if only for part of the day. Barbara H will reach out to AA to invite their outreach folks to come to the Workshop with pamphlets and literature. Ashley reported that Alateen raised \$175 from the Tag Sale last year. Maura asked whether the location of next year's Workshop should be announced at this year's Workshop. That would mean deciding whether or not to spend \$400 to rent St. Mary's. Barbara M suggested presenting her rationale and thoughts about this in her report at the Assembly.

Assembly Planning

Barbara M reminded everyone that every coordinator presents a report at the Assembly. The Fall Assembly is also the time for budget approval. Each officer and coordinator comes up with his/her own budget to present to the AWSC to create the Area budget. In the past, the non-profit schedule for mileage reimbursement has been used, but this will be revisited. District 3 will host the Assembly Nov. 3rd at St. Mary's in Portsmouth. Feedback from last Assembly was generally positive. Barbara M suggested that GRs be divided into the 4 Thought Forces for an hour as a breakout session. There was a discussion about other possible breakout sessions, with thoughts about ways to plant seeds for public service projects being the primary one. Maura expressed concern that a focus on public service projects so close to the Workshop would take energy away from the Workshop and that energy should stay focused on the Workshop. Next Assembly can then be a time to regroup. Instead, a breakout session can/will be centered on the Workshop, participation, unity and service. Thought Forces will move to Task Forces in the Spring Assembly.

Area Chair Report

Barbara M reported that the CT Area is looking to be good neighbors and would like to know whether we want to collaborate with them on something. The MA AA Convention is Nov. 9-11.

Treasurer's Report

David said he appreciated Nancy's labeling the donations by group and district and thought this was valuable information for DRs to show to GRs. Barbara M pointed out that the budget item under NERD Conference should go under Past Delegate.

Delegate's Report

David reported that the Vancouver convention information should be posted within the next month. He also pointed out that the WSO is actually quite small (50-60 people), so members should feel free to write them directly about any issues of concern. He met the other New England delegates at the WSO Conference and has their contact information, so each of us can contact our counterparts in other states in the region for feedback, ideas,

etc. ASWC members can also join the WSO e-community. David passed out the WSO Conference Summary.

District 1

Robin is still making the rounds to meetings in her district, meeting the GRs.

District 3

Karen reported that a Warren group is having a craft afternoon. She also asked for suggestions for getting GRs in new groups. David replied that groups can designate a CMA instead. Phyllis said she has an email list of all CMAs in her district and sends information to all of them, as well as to GRs. Deb said that one of her groups has no GR, but does have a person willing to receive information by email and that seems to work fine as well.

District 4

Phyllis reported that there are still some meetings without GRs. Her district has chosen not to meet in person, doing everything by email. She has also adopted a District 5 GR since there is no DR for this district.

General District Discussion

Barbara M asked whether all DR contact info can be put on the website. David said that there are only 67 groups in RI and wondered whether there is a GR or CMA for each one of them. He would like Denise's help in making contact with each group. There may be outdated information for CMAs or meetings which no longer exist.

Coordinator Reports

Public Outreach—deferred (offered as part of Workshop Report)

Alateen—Rose reported that one meeting has no sponsor and will probably close. There will be a pizza party, date TBD.

Website—Ashley reported that webmaster@riafig.org is up and running, but that there is not a lot of information coming in (about anniversaries, etc.) Phyllis suggested adding a link to the International WSO to the web site.

AA Liaison—Barbara H reported that Al-Anon has an insert in the AA Convention packet and she showed it to members for feedback/suggestions.

Literature—Deb has proposed and is implementing a trial period for mailing literature to groups. The questions to be answered by this trial are: Is it useful? Is it sustainable? She needs volunteers for this project. She also asks that it be announced in meetings 1) that this service will be available from October until the Spring Assembly and 2) that volunteers are needed as well as feedback about how the trial is working out.

Group Records—Denise reported that all changes/updates have been made to the AWSC list. Ashley asked whether she could be a temporary DR for her district just to get the information flowing. David replied that she can get information flowing as an individual rather than an official representative of some kind, so her information would not be submitted to the WSO and she can get access through him.

Lifelines—Linda reported that the next issue will come out by the end of Sept./beginning of Oct. New material should be sent to her by the third week of September.

Forum—no attendance—this issue to be addressed

Next AWSC Meeting and Meeting Frequency

The date of the next AWSC meeting will be October 13th--5, not 6, weeks away--in preparation for the upcoming Assembly. Focus of this meeting will be on the agenda for the Assembly. Each AWSC member should bring a draft of his/her report to the

Assembly and a proposed budget for his/her position. Nancy will send members a template for the layout of the budget. Barbara M invited us to “THINK ABUNDANT” in creating budgets. Since there was not enough time to discuss the frequency of AWSC meetings, that topic was moved to the December meeting.

Closing

Barbara M entertained a motion to close the meeting. Ashley made the motion to close and Karen seconded it. All were in favor. The meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Al-Anon Declaration.