

Minutes of Meeting
Area World Service Committee (AWSC)
January 28, 2012

The meeting was held in the office located at 106 Rolfe Street in Cranston, RI and presided over by Area Chair Barbara M.

The meeting convened at 10 a.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Members present at the meeting were: Area Treasurer Nancy S., Area Delegate Denise G., Alateen Coordinator Rose B., Website Coordinator Ashley B., AA Liaison Barbara H., Lifelines Editor Linda F., Literature Coordinator Deb E., Group Records Coordinator Denise C., District 1 Representative David G., and District 4 Representative Phyllis H.

Area Chair Barbara M. welcomed all in attendance and noted that an Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual should be in each Committee member's possession as an important tool.

It was the general consensus that those members (especially newer members to the Committee) be provided with a Service Manual, copies of which are available in the literature section in the office, at no charge to them.

From pages in the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual, The Preamble to the Twelve Steps (pg. 12), Our Three Legacies (Twelve Steps – pgs. 13-14, Twelve Traditions – pgs. 15-16, Twelve Concepts of Service – pgs. 19-20) and General Warranties of the Conference (pg. 20) were consecutively read by the members, each member in attendance reading a section in turn.

Area Chair Barbara M. encouraged all members to introduce themselves, and following introductions they were asked to check off their names against the RIAWSC Contact List making sure their contact information was up to date.

A motion was made by Phyllis H., seconded by Barbara H., to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2011 meeting as presented. A show of hands resulted in Ten in Favor, Two Abstentions ... **Motion Carried.**

Area Treasurer Nancy S. proceeded to give her report. She presented to the Committee members copies of the **RI Area Al-Anon Budget for 2012** as well as the **End of Year 2011 Report** that had been prepared by Betsy, the former treasurer.

Nancy S. noted that a card for Anne F. (WSO Trustee) who had been a guest speaker at the Area Election Assembly held November 5, 2011 was being passed around for signatures and any gratitude comments. Nancy S. indicated that the card would be sent along with a check for the expenses submitted by Anne F. who graciously did not charge for all of her expenses.

Nancy S. informed the Committee members that her mode of operation in dealing with the budget will require receipts for any and all expenses for which reimbursement is sought. She reported that the balance as at January 27, 2012 is presently \$14,417.06.

It was the general consensus that a monthly report showing expenses and balances be prepared by Nancy S. and submitted to the Committee.

A discussion ensued regarding the posting of RIAWSC approved minutes on the website with or without editing of names. Apparently the Area Chair Barbara M. indicated that problems occurred in the past where personal information regarding members went out on the internet and anonymity was broken. Following discussion, a motion was made by Phyllis H., seconded by Deb E., to post, RIASWC approved, as presented, minutes (*no last names*) on the website. A show of hands resulted in Eleven in Favor, One Abstention ... **Motion Carried.**

Denise G., Area Delegate, proceeded to give her report. She reviewed some of the highlights of her projected attendance at the World Service Conference being held in Stamford, CT from April 14 through April 19, 2012. The conference this year is entitled "**Our Spiritual Journey – we get as we give**". Areas to be introduced to delegates will include the following:

Task Force Thought Force Committees – Opportunity to Serve

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|---|--|
| 1. Selection At Large Trustee | 2. Approve Literature (CAL) |
| 3. PO: Institutions, Inform, Professional | 4. Task: Service for Dual Members |
| 5. Task: Tool Kit for Service & Personal Growth | 6. Task: Importance of CAL in Meetings |
| 7. Thought: Strategies to Strengthen Personal Connections | |
| 8. Thought: Computers @ WSC, | |

Denise G. inquired regarding whether or not a stipend for her projected expenses would be available to her. She was informed by Area Chair Barbara M. that a \$700 line item is included in the 2012 budget for Delegate Expense and that all Denise needs to do is obtain receipts for any and all of the expenses associated with her attendance at the conference (*this would include such as registration fees, meals, gas for the trip, any out-of-pocket expenses*). Also she was informed that she is allowed to charge for her arrival at the conference one day in advance of the conference start date, and in addition she has the option to bring one guest. Barbara M. indicated she would like to attend as Denise's guest, of course paying her own way.

District Representative David G. spoke regarding the family groups in his District noting that they are basically located in the Providence area. He indicated that all but one of the groups he represents have new GRs. He noted he would like for each GR in his District to have in possession for his/her group a Service Manual to be utilized as a tool in order to properly function according to AI-Anon guidelines

He was informed that the names of the new GRs be provided to the Group Records Coordinator who will in turn register that information with the WSO. It was noted some former GRs have passed on their copies to the newly appointed GRs. Also an individual group may purchase a Service Manual from the Rolfe Street office for \$5.00.

Mention was made that of the five districts in RIAFG only four presently have representatives in place. District 5 at present has no representative.

District 4 Representative Phyllis H. noted her district is large and contains eleven communities. One of her goals is to get a Wednesday night group organized as some towns do not have available meeting access.

Alateen Coordinator Rose B. presented her report. She noted the first of her quarterly 2012 meetings with Alateen Group Sponsors was held on January 25. She noted she does not at present have a count of high school meetings. There are two active Alateen night meetings, one in Cumberland and the other in East Greenwich.

Rose B. noted one of her goals is to have necessary BCIs (background checks) completed. She indicated she would like all on the AWSC list to have BCIs performed in order for them to be available should the need arise for their services for Alateen group functions. She noted the cost for the BCI is reimbursable by providing Nancy S. with a receipt.

In conjunction with the BCI forms, Rose mentioned she is in need of a Process Person - Records Keeper whose responsibility is to process the BCI form(s) once received, sign and mail copy(ies) to WSO office, and set up a confidential file for the original processed form(s) in the Rolfe Street office. She stressed that due to the confidential information contained in the BCI, the form(s) must be placed in the mail. She mentioned recertification of BCIs is done every 3 years. At present, she is acting as the Process Person but is placing her trust in HP that one will be provided.

Rose B. noted another of her goals is to try to get more night meeting groups organized. She is looking at South County – South Kingston. She recommends to the Committee members asking their family groups if they would be willing to be a mother group. She stated that Al-Anon/Alateen is a compilation of ALL Family Groups and the kids are wonderful. She indicated we should keep in mind that these Alateens will one day be Al-Anon. She concluded her report by stating her next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Literature Coordinator Deb E. offered the members a list of items that would perhaps be needed.

Website Coordinator Ashley B. informed the members she is in the process of updating the website.

AA Liaison Barbara H. reported she is looking to bridge differences and support AA recovery as well as Al-Anon recovery processes as part of her service function. She distributed copies of the upcoming "36th RI Convention – March 23, 24, 25, 2012 – *soaring in sobriety*". The AA sponsored convention includes Al-Anon participation.

Barbara H. indicated she would like to present to the members her idea to include Alateen participation at the next year's AA sponsored convention as a further tool in bridging the gap between AA and Al-Anon. She indicated she wants to project UNITY.

The idea of including Alateen participation in AA sponsored events precipitated concern on the part of some members with Area Chair Barbara M. noting safety issues as well as liability issues would come into play. The general consensus regarding this idea resulted in organizing and starting a "thought force" to determine the feasibility of such a future plan.

Lifelines Editor Linda F. reported she is at present struggling with a template problem. She noted she will be seeking lifeline articles for publication from AWSC members, family group members as well as from someone from AA able to express in writing how Al-Anon is viewed by AA.

Linda F. expressed her excitement in taking on this service position and noted she would be appreciative of any suggestions aimed at helping her in her editing role.

Area Chair Barbara M. brought up the topic of the timeline Linda F. would require for the approval/editing process in order to publish in a timely manner.

Linda F. noted the next publication would be Feb./March edition (mid-month), the 3rd week of the month.

Discussion ensued and resulted in determining a timeline that would afford Linda F. ample time to organize, review and edit prior to finalization. A motion was made by David G., seconded by Ashley B., that all articles intended for publication in Al-Anon Lifelines be submitted via the internet to lin2169@cox.net (*Lifelines Editor Linda F's email address*) **no later than the 2nd Saturday of each month**; thereafter, the Lifelines Editor will review, comment and make necessary edits which will next be emailed to AWSC members; an AWSC member wishing to make change(s) must forward change(s) to the Lifelines Editor **no later than the 3rd Saturday of the month** (*no response received by Lifelines Editor from AWSC members, other than member(s) requesting change(s) will indicate approval of format as presented to them*); lastly, the Lifelines Editor will then process the final draft to be **electronically published on the 4th Saturday of each month**. A show of hands resulted in Nine in Favor, three abstentions . . . **Motion Carried**.

Literature Coordinator Deb E. reported that at this time banking transfer listing her as the responsible person for funds remains to be pursued. Carol is handling literature orders for now. She indicated an inventory will be done and she will be updating the literature form. She plans on placing either a box or an envelope in the literary section of the office for placement of questions/suggestions. She noted she will access lifelines and email lists should there be delays in completing orders. Of importance is a reminder that orders for literature be submitted through the Rolfe Street office and not from WSO.

A question was posed by Phyllis H. regarding what hours the office is open?

Response to the question as to office hours is to call the office number as hours change from week to week. It was noted that the Interim Office Manager appointed is Rebecca; however, information on her is needed and will be sought.

Group Records Coordinator Denise C. reported she is up and running, however, she is seeking information on any changes for Group Representatives.

Area Chair Barbara M. placed on the table the subject of *Frequency of Area Committee Meetings*. She noted she is suggesting AWSC meet every other month on Saturday morning stating this could be revisited at every meeting.

Discussion ensued where concerns and opinions were expressed. Members were individually polled as to their thoughts on the matter of monthly versus every other monthly meeting. Concerns expressed revolved around meeting timelines and deadlines in covering all matters the Committee is responsible to address should every other month meetings exist. One suggestion made was to send all members' reports electronically prior to the meeting date thereby affording the reading of reports prior to meeting date. In this way, report presentation would be out of the way and discussion of the reports' contents could take place if needed.

It was determined to hold the next meeting on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Rolfe Street office from 10 AM – 12 NOON.

Area Chair Barbara M. noted she would like to see Family Groups take over the Assembly Planning. She suggested getting it out to the District Representatives. David G. and Phyllis H. are to research Assembly Planning as it will need to be addressed by a family group in RI, and are to get back to the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m. with a closing prayer and the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne H.

Area Secretary