

Rhode Island Al-Anon Family Groups (RI AFG)
SUMMER ASSEMBLY ~ JUNE 6, 2015
Memorial Hospital, Pawtucket
Hosted by District 1

AREA OFFICER/COORDINATOR ATTENDEES

Ann-Marie C, AA Liaison; David G, Area Chair; Dean H, Website Coordinator; Deb E, Area Secretary; Denise C, Group Records Coordinator; Heather M, Public Outreach Coordinator; Mark C, District 1 Representative; Monique C, District 2 Representative; Phyllis H, Area Delegate; Tami K, Area Treasurer

VOTING MEMBERS (GROUP REPRESENTATIVES and PROXIES)

District 1 – Ann-Marie C, Jean T, Mark C, Denise C

District 2 – Tami K, Monique C, Heather M, Rebecca, Dean H

District 3 – Sandra M, Sheila B, Francoise D

OPENING

Moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer; reading of the Traditions and Concepts; roll call/introductions.

December 6, 2014 Assembly minutes reviewed and accepted.

OPEN AREA SERVICE POSITIONS

- Office Coordinator
- *Lifelines* (newsletter) Coordinator
- Archives Coordinator
- Alternate Delegate

Office/hotline volunteers and AMIAS (Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service) are also needed.

Job descriptions available on the website.

DISCUSSION SESSIONS

- Attendees broke out into small groups, and then came together as a larger group, to share thoughts about the characteristics of a healthy group and ways Group Representatives (and others) can encourage these characteristics. Area will compile these thoughts and distribute them to the groups.
- Tami K reported on the financial status of the Area and group contributions; expenses are down, but Area still spending more than is coming in; contributions were off to a slow start in 2015, probably due to the snow; discussion and approval of Area Annual Appeal letter, which will be posted to the Area website and e-mailed and mailed out to GRs and CMAs.
- Brief announcements, with handouts, about Alateen service, meetings that need sponsors, and how to get started as an Alateen sponsor.
- Heather M conducted an activity around public outreach—greeting newcomers, making announcements about Area news and events (eg, Workshop), “piggybacking” on the outreach efforts of the WSO—sharing your program in whatever way feels comfortable for you.

LUNCH BREAKOUT

Participants met with their districts.

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Phyllis H reported on her experience at the World Service Conference (WSC). She presented what she thought were key points, but she also plans to post a more detailed report on the website and send out periodic reports via e-mail, so that it becomes an ongoing conversation.

Phyllis talked about discussions at conference about service leadership and encouraging the next group of leaders, in support of Concept 9. Another point of discussion was what areas can do to offer comfort and support to our younger members in Alateen. And they discussed their dreams for Al-Anon and approved a (deficit) budget that would encourage and support the building of healthy groups.

There were 95 voting members at conference. Nine motions were made and, after discussion, all were passed, most unanimously.

Conference members discussed how to address a deficit budget of \$52,000. Participants talked about encouraging increased contributions (rather than drawing from reserve). If every group that contributed last year contributed just \$25 more this year, that would cover the \$52,000 deficit.

WSO is replacing eCommunities (which is used by Area service members) with AFG Connect to make it more user friendly.

WSO has purchased software that will allow Alateens to access the Alateen Chat Rooms via their cell phones. It is expected that this will be available in the summer of 2015. There are safeguards set up to protect the teens; a sponsor is always present.

WSO is creating an online directory so members can find meetings near their location.

For many years, a task force has been discussing how to address nonmembers who wish to make a contribution in memory of a deceased Al-Anon member. Currently, we do not accept any outside contributions. After further discussion, the 2015 Conference requested that the Policy Committee make changes to the current policy to allow WSO to accept one-time memorial donations, as this supports Tradition 5 which states our purpose of *giving comfort to families of alcoholics*. This will be officially approved at the next Conference and implemented in 2016.

What topic would we like to see on the 2016 Conference agenda? Please share your ideas with Phyllis.

ASSEMBLY VOTING/ACTION ITEMS

- Motion made to accept the Assembly Guidelines as amended per discussion at the previous Assembly. So carried.
- Phyllis proposed putting RI in the running to host the October 2016 Meet the Board Event. So carried.
- Motion made for RI Al-Anon Family Groups, in accordance with our Area Financial Policy to follow WSO's lead, to allow one-time memorial contributions from nonmembers in memory of a deceased Al-Anon member. If a contribution exceeds the amount allowed in the Financial Policy (10% of the previous year's revenue), the overage will be passed on to WSO. So carried.

NEXT ASSEMBLY

- Date of Next Assembly: December 5, 2015—subject to availability of District 3 location
- Assembly Planning Committee Volunteers: Sandy M will head the committee

CLOSING

Motion to adjourn. So carried.

Closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb E.