

New Jersey ASSEMBLY AREA 36  
MEETING MINUTES – ASSEMBLY

June 7, 2025

**FINAL**

**HYBRID ASSEMBLY**

Katie O. called the Zoom meeting to order at 10:00 AM and opened with the Serenity Prayer.

The Twelve Traditions by Jesse A. (GR 6), and Sue H. (GR7), Twelve Concepts by Denise S. (GR 8), and John S. (GR 9), and Warranties were read by Jean H. (GR 10).

Cathy B. (Alternate Delegate) read Page 86 of the Service Manual regarding service participation by dual members.

Ken S. (Treasurer) Etiquette “Adherence to our Assembly etiquette helps us follow our spiritual principles. Start and stop on time, stick to the agenda, two minutes on your microphone, and stay on topic. If someone who spoke before you says what you were going to say please do not repeat it and lower your hand. Please do not clap, cheer, or boo when opinions are shared. Please do not hold side conversations. Please keep your cell phones on silent and your microphone on mute when you’re not sharing. If you are a voting member and have to leave Assembly, notify our Group Records Coordinator, Carrie H. via chat.

Katie O. (Chairperson) Once logged into the meeting, rename yourself to, your service voting position, your district number, your first name and the initial of your last name, and any additional service positions that you hold. Non-voting members, please put NV before your name.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**Delegate’s Report** Peter M. presented his report, available in the packet (pg. 6-14) and on groups.io. Highlights:

Peter attended the World Service Conference (WSC) from April 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> in Windsor,

Connecticut. The theme was *Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy*. Conference members included Delegates from all 68 Areas, At-Large Members of the Executive Committee, members of the Board of Trustees, and World Service Office (WSO) Staff Conference members. Agenda items were discussion and vote on a range of topics impacting all of Al-Anon, updates and reports from the Board of Trustees and World Service Office staff on projects, initiatives, and events.

Peter provided:

- A financial report with group contribution totals,
- Excess Funds report that lists approved proposals, and three special projects (WSO Core Systems Overhaul, Professional Outreach – Young People and Passing It On - support for Areas in growing future volunteer leaders).
- He also reported upcoming events such as;
  - the International AA Convention with Al-Anon Participation is July 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver, Canada;
  - Road Trip, You and Your Board Connect meeting scheduled for October 25, 2025, will be held in Omaha, Nebraska;
  - the April 2026 World Service Conference at the World Service Office;
  - the 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Al-Anon scheduled for April 25, 2026, in Newport News, VA; and
  - The next International Al-Anon Convention is scheduled for July 20-22, 2028, in Minneapolis, MN.

Peter’s report also includes:

- **“Choosing a Group Name”** policy discussion (should all groups immediately or new groups only exclude focus descriptions (men, women, parents) in their names?); process revisions to the *“Local Services”* Section of the *“Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies”*; Stepping Stones encourages customized tours for groups, districts, and Areas – see visit [steppingstones.org](http://steppingstones.org) for more information.
- **Conference Approved Literature (CAL):** the (WSO) is working to make all Conference Approved Literature (CAL) available as e-books. The first book in the 6-month trial, starting at the end of May, is *“Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships”*. The WSO is accepting writing submissions for the two approved publications on the topics of finances and recovery or personal and service sponsorship. *Remember Al-Anon in your Will (S-38)* has been updated and translated into Spanish and French. The most purchased CAL is *How Al-Anon Works, A Little Time for Myself, and Healing Within Our Alcoholic Relationships*. WSO is working to make all CAL available as e-books. The first book, *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*, will be launched in a six-month trial starting at the end of May. At the end of a successful trial period, the rest of the CAL library will be launched three per month. An updated Al-Anon/Alateen service manual will be published next year.
- **WSO Electronic Alateen Service Behavioral Requirements** are finalized. Areas are asked to decide whether they will register electronic only Alateen meetings or not. This is something that we need to bring to our Alateen Coordinator and AAPP as we revamp our Alateen behavioral requirements. We have to decide whether we want to add that to our requirements. This is something that will be coming up for us in the future for a vote. Please bring this back to your groups.
- **Public Outreach:** The WSO was invited to attend a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Family Education and Care Navigation meeting in February. This two-day event brought together leaders from national family-focused organizations to discuss the toolkit supporting families affected by mental health and substance abuse. This was a good thing.
- **2024 Membership Survey Results:** membership survey results. 49% of the respondents came to Al-Anon because of a partner-spouse's drinking, 20% came due to a child's drinking, and 14% due to a parent's drinking. 80% of the respondents reported an improvement in their mental health within a year of attending Alateen. The full survey results go to this website: <https://al-anon.org/resources-for-professionals/membership-survey/>
- **Board of Trustee Applications.** There was a large discussion on this. The WSO Board of Trustees consists of two types of trustees: regional trustees and at-large trustees. Our regional trustee position has been vacant for a while, and they are concerned about the vacancies of regional trustees. Because the application processes are different, but the role is the same, once they are selected, they are thinking of streamlining the application process. There was a discussion about that. Applications for trustee service positions are due each August 15<sup>th</sup>. So, if anyone is interested, contact Katie O. or Peter so they can get the application going. Any Al-Anon member with 10 or more continuous years of membership and service beyond the group level is eligible. Applications, description, roles and qualifications can be found at this website: <https://al-anon.org/formembers/board-of-trustees/wso-volunteers/board-of-trustees/>
- **Chosen Agenda Items:** Each delegate is invited to submit up to two chosen agenda items for consideration. From the suggestions

submitted, two are ultimately chosen, and those final two topics are given 45 minutes each on the WSC agenda.

The Two Chosen Agenda Items were:

- *Service participation in the electronic age*, and that's a big topic
- *Attracting and retaining Al-Anon members in the 20- to 40-year-old range*.
- **International Coordination Committee:** The International Coordination Committee presented various service structures, global service offices from around the world. The International Global Services meeting met last year in September, as it does every two years. For its 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, 18 GSO delegates from 12 offices met in Virginia Beach to discuss a variety of topics. A picture showing literature in many different languages. There is Russian, and other languages, not just English, Spanish and French. The International Coordinator Committee's report included an inspiring report of the trip to Asia last year by Tracey S., the International Services Manager and Sarah S. the Director of Programs. They visited service offices in South Korea, Mongolia, and India in person and visited China electronically. There is a beautiful account of the trip in the May 2025 issue of the *Forum*. Peter's slide presentation included pictures from the visit with Tracey S. and Sarah S. wearing the costumes, one was Mongolian and one was Indian, that they were given for their visit. Peter notes
- that it was very cool to hear their report.
- **Annual Report:** Members of the 2025 WSC received the draft of the 2024 Annual Report, which includes the financial information summarized previously in this report, as well as much more information including the Board of Trustees and WSO operations and projects. The report will be published and available this summer.

- **Motions passed by the World Service Conference:** At the Conference, members approved the following motions:
  - To approve the financial report and to approve the annual report. Other motions included allow group names to continue to include identifiers, such as those currently listed on page 28, including men, women, adult children, young adults, other gender identifications, orientation, etc., with the understanding, in keeping with Traditions 3 and 5, the groups will welcome anyone affected by someone else's drinking until the 2025 World Service Conference will allow the WSO structure areas to discuss the implementation of the April 2024 World Service Conference Approved Choosing a Group Names Policy.
  - A motion was made to change the policies of the local services section of the Policy Digest to "Move the updated "Autonomy of Groups" subsection to the "Membership and Group Meetings/Convention" section and rename the subsection as "Who Can Disband a Group.", and, establish the "Meeting List Publishing" subsection in the "Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions section.
  - Another motion was passed to allow the following non-voting roles to be seated at the World Service Conference: 1) WSO Staff who have voice and are critical to the Conference Agenda (i.e., Senior Director of Finance & Operations 2) The Executive Committee for Real Property Management 3) Chairperson with voice limited to ECRPM business 4) International Representative from the General Service Office with voice. 5) WSO Staff members are seated to observe a

session, or a day of sessions with no voice.

Peter concluded his report with a picture of Sue P. who is retiring, Vali F., WSO Executive Director, and Chair of the Conference. Peter thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as Delegate.

### **Questions or comments for Peter M.**

*Tina B. GR 8:* Do the young people have to show id to participate?

*Peter M. Delegate:* That is correct. They want to make sure that the age requirements are 13-19. They want to make sure they are children and within the age requirements. And there will be parental requirements.

*David A. Alateen Coordinator:* And so, this vote that will come up is about whether Areas such as New Jersey can run their own Alateen electronic meetings instead of just the WSO's that what its about?

*Peter M. Delegate:* I believe it is about taking on the ability to host electronic Alateen meetings in NJ. David A Alateen Coordinator: Right, because they've got that ongoing pilot at the WSO to do it at, like, the national level. The vote is to decide whether or not we can also do that at the area level or the New Jersey level, right?

*Peter M. Delegate:* It's not that simple because it is not going to be associated with the Area it is going to be Alateen members in New Jersey can attend electronic meetings. The electronic meetings will be like the pilot program is; they will be available to anyone. We have to work a lot of that out; there's a lot of information we have to organize.

*Ken K. GR, D7:* They were limiting the number of Alateen meetings on the Al-Anon/Alateen app to 5. I'm not talking about electronic meetings that we would have. Did they say anything about the app, are they going to be adding a lot more meetings? And is that starting before the Areas make their decision?

*Peter M. Delegate:* Peter doesn't know the answer to that question. They didn't mention much about the app. Peter will look into it and let him know.

*Amanda L. GR 7:* As a parent of teenagers, they do not have IDs. For them to show an ID for a meeting, they would not be able to get in.

*Peter M. Delegate:* We talked about school IDs, and they talked about parents. So, the parents are basically going to have to identify the kids. He believes this is how it's going to work out. There are still details that have to be worked out. They are going to have to have a parent or guardian identify them and say yes, this child is between 13 and 19.

*Ben N GR 8:* Has a question about the group renaming? Can you elaborate on what the objections were group names? Groups ought to remain autonomous so why not the makeup of the group so that when people are going through finding the right meeting for themselves. What are the objections to the way people are naming their groups now?

*Peter M. Delegate:* groups named now are basically each autonomous, and they can name their group how they choose. And in the 1980's, there was a push to put designations in group names so that people would have a better idea of what group that was meeting when. Nowadays, there's so many less Al-Anon groups than there once were. Peter noted when he was in Alateen there were Alateen groups, men's group, woman's group, and a beginner's Al-Anon group, etc. What's left now is a lot of men's groups or women's groups, or one of the big objections was there's a sibling's group and they want to remain a sibling's group only and they want to have and attract members that have siblings with problems with alcohol. So, it becomes very tricky. How do you maintain open meetings for all members, even newcomers, when you have a designation separating you from all the members? So, the objections come from meetings that are well established. They have their core group, and they are welcoming to other members that have similar issues there. Peter really doesn't have the best answer for that, but at the same time, the objections have to do with; they don't want someone else telling them how they should name their group as well. Peter can see both sides.

*Carrie H Group Records Coordinator:* understands the rationale is to make it easier for a newcomer, and we've all been that newcomer, who is very stressed out, and is just trying to find out what to do next. And if that newcomer is opening a list that says, men's, women's, adult children, it's very confusing. And the vision, as she understands it, is just to welcome whoever comes to your meeting. And the meeting name as welcoming as possible in your group record where you can identify this is focused on adult children of alcoholics. But the newcomer shows up; they are welcomed, and then the people in the meeting can help guide them to find a meeting that might be a better fit for them.

*Jess GR 3:* Question about the Alateen meeting with them having to show IDs or having a parent say that yes, they are between this age. What if they are in a household that they don't want their parents knowing that they are going to Alateen, but they need the Al-Anon program and they need that help? How do we navigate that then?

*Florence Y. GR 3:* Wished that Debbie F. was there because she knows more about what is being done in District 3 because they do have a zoom Alateen meeting. She believes how they do it is they have one designated person who is in control of that meeting who you must email. That person gets all the information, verifies who that person is, and at some point, there are going to be kids that are left out, but she thinks it's about getting whatever we can get at this point and then we grow from there. She believes there are five or six regular attendees there, and the group has some personal outreach to schools, middle school, and high schools to get the word out. It is a process, but in the beginning, it must be that way for the safety of the kids. Otherwise, there's all kinds of legalities that you open yourself up to. So, at least there is one and hopefully there will be more. Hopefully as it grows, we can figure out how to make sure that they are who they say they are, because with technology today, you could be anybody or anything.

*Liz K. NV D8:* If the WSO puts these requirements into place and our area decides on the electronic requirements, so that an AMIAS who is in charge of

the meeting act as the gatekeeper and for example, does not require a picture ID?

*Peter M. Delegate:* Peter was told very clearly that these electronic behavioral requirements are set in stone, that all electronic meetings will have to use them to use the Alateen name and that there would be no modifications. So basically, accept the behavior requirement as they are because they have been vetted by attorneys and they are legally appropriate. And that is what WSO is putting forward for all Alateen groups in the WSO.

*Liz K. NV D8:* Do you know if there is a reason why the WSO is imposing the regulations for electronic meetings for minors when they allow us to have our own State or Area by Area in person safety and behavioral requirements? What makes the electronic meetings fall under the purview of the World Conference Structure instead of having our own Area requirements for in-person meetings?

*Peter M. Delegate:* The Area Alateen meeting will be attached to an Area. It's attached to NJ, for example. The electronic, just electronic, Alateen meeting is just electronic, so it is not necessarily attached to any particular area, so that is why it falls under the WSO, as Peter understands it. Peter offered to give a copy of the behavioral requirements so that they can be looked over.

*Liz K. NV D8:* Suggested that Peter give them to David so that he could bring them to the next AMIAS meeting that is scheduled periodically.

*David A. Alateen Coordinator:* David noted that when there are in person meetings, they are inside the Area and so it is easy to say that we can make our own behavior requirements. But, when you've got electronic meetings, you've got people attending across state lines. So, it becomes a different matter, right?

*Peter M. Delegate:* Indicated that David was correct.

*Angela R. AAPP:* Thanked Peter for his report and noted that it was excellent. She also commented that

she enjoys this report each year and loved what Peter learned and how he shared everything. It's exciting to learn what is going on there. Also, she is looking forward to the Alateen stuff that is coming also. She ended with thanking Peter for his service.

There were no additional questions or comments for Peter.

**Chairperson's Report:** Katie O. presented her report, available in the packet (pg. 5) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- Panel 65 needs a District Representative for District 10 (NJ Electronic District).
- Katie emailed Panel 65 members an invitation to join groups.io, the platform where Assembly members post their reports. More storage was recently purchased because they were going to start to eliminate some of our files because we had used up our allotted amount for posting.
- Attended the Audit that was conducted on March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Northeast Regional Delegates (NERD) meet to prepare Delegates for the World Service Conference (WSC). Katie attended this meeting from March 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>
- Hosted the NJ Board of Trustees meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the next BOT meeting is scheduled for September 3<sup>rd</sup>. She also attended the monthly 'AFG Connects Chairpersons' meetings and will attend their upcoming meeting in June.
- Wrote charges for 3 Thought Forces (ThF); (1) Disallow Officers and Coordinators to Sit as Voting Members on Boards of Other Service Arms, 2) Meeting Format: AWSC and Assembly, In-Person, Virtual, Hybrid, (3) Online Donations

**Questions or comments for Katie O.** No

**Alternate Delegate:** Cathy B. presented her report, available in the packet (pg. 15) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- Cathy assisted with the Audit on March 8<sup>th</sup>

- Attended a North Jersey Information Services (NJIS) meeting,
- Discussed Forum promotion at a meeting in District 6 on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- At the March 29<sup>th</sup> Forum Coordinators meeting, they discussed different ways to promote subscriptions to the "Forum".
- Cathy was also present at the Board of Trustees meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Public Outreach meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Area World Service meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Cathy completed 48 requests for insurance, and she provided a sales report for February through May. May forum subscriptions were 275 and copies sold were 290.

**Questions or comments for Cathy B.** None

**Treasurer:** Ken S. presented his report, available in the packet (pg. 17-31) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- In the report, there is a summary of groups, individual and district donations to the Area. It is work in progress to get the reports to work.
- NJ Al-Anon Assembly Profit and Loss report for Fiscal Year 2025 as of May 2025 included Total Income of \$8,659.76 (group & personal contributions), Total Expenses of \$16,339.09, for Net Loss of \$7,679.33.
- NJ Al-Anon Assembly Year to Date (YTD) Statement of Financial Position as of 5/31/25 shows a Checking Account Balance of \$2,319.31 and a Savings Account Balance of \$19,233; therefore, Total Assets equal Total Liabilities and Equity at \$21,552.31.
- The first appeal letter in 7 years went out and contributions from the Appeal letter for 2025 are starting to come in.
- There are six-line-item expenses over budget. They are mostly minor and are mostly in the officers and coordinators' positions. Those are allowed to be moved around within that position. Some adjustments to the budget will probably need to be made, and that will probably be made at the last meeting.

- Reconciled Bank Statements were forwarded to the Assembly Chairperson.
- The Area World Service Committee (AWSC) formed a Thought Force (ThF) to explore issues related to receiving payments electronically.
- Please submit expenses with receipts, invoices, proof of payment, and the Expense Reimbursement form on Groups.io to request reimbursement. When purchasing items or services that are tax-exempt, please contact Ken directly. To qualify as a NJ tax-exempt purchase, the funds must come from the NJ Al-Anon Assembly account.
- A check was received from PayPal giving fund. Can not tell who sent it and they won't give information unless we join up and attach our bank account, which will not be done. The check is in the amount of \$31.85. More was probably sent, but PayPal giving fund may have taken some.

**Questions or comments for Ken S.** *Katie O. Chairperson* responded that the budget for the officers and coordinators does not change unless it is voted on at AWSC. So even if the Alagram Coordinator spends \$300 less on postage, but spends \$300 on travel, it doesn't change her budgeted amount as long as she doesn't go over her total budget. The transfers that were described are a different story.

*Ken K. GR 7:* Commented that there are a lot of numbers, so he wants to keep it simple and focus on page 24: The balance is the savings account of \$27,664.34. Ken K. is conveying his group's conscience: In his group, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, they asked questions about how the ample reserve works, day to day. Our ample reserve is \$15,286.50. That is what was agreed to last year. That's the cap, the max, that can be in the savings account. And the audit committee voted on that; the trustees, the AWSC and the GRs. His group does not get it. If all of you guys go to all these meetings and agree its \$15,286.50, who has the authority to put \$27,000 in the prudent reserve? We are supposed to be honoring only sufficient funds under concept 12, Warranty. He couldn't answer that question for his group.

*Ken S. Treasurer:* responded that the \$27,000 that Ken K. was looking at on the report, was the comparison from 2024. That is how much it was last year. Currently there is \$19,233.

Ken K. acknowledges that he made a mistake but that the ample reserve is still \$15,286, so the question remains the same. That is the official policy of the corporation. We have to follow it.

Ken S. Treasurer responded that he does not know what the solution to that is.

*Liz K. NVD8* isn't sure if she is able to answer Ken's question to his satisfaction, but what she recalls from being on the Audit Committee is that the ample reserve is determined once a year based on the audit and the amount of expenses. The ample reserve is basically a safety net, and that money is there in case our operating fund needs an emergency infusion of case. The reason that it is higher now is because we had a lot of money in our checking account. First, for safety reasons, we moved it out of the checking account into the savings account. It is not part of the ample reserve; it just happens to reside in the savings account. It is the excess funds that is held out of the checking account so that it can't be stolen if somebody were to get hold of our debit card.

*Ken K. GR 7* responded that everything Liz said is true, but the policy is you can't go over \$15,286.50. If you want to do all that, you have to rewrite the policy, because right now Ken is obligated to not exceed that amount. Our fundamental spiritual principle of only sufficient funds. The idea is to cap it to protect us from violating our own Al-Anon spiritual principle.

*Liz K. NVD8* notes that Ken could probably put it in another savings account so that the water is clearer and not muddy.

*Ken S. Treasurer* responded that he could just put it in the checking account, and that would alleviate that question.

*David A. Alateen Coordinator* commented on the issue of the check that was given to Ken S., and it isn't clear who the identity is. It sounds like a phishing scheme and would suggest shredding it and forgetting it. It's \$31 and they're asking you to provide bank account information to get the identity. That doesn't sound right.

*Ken S. Treasurer* was hoping that if it was from someone, they could identify themselves, tell us what group or if it is a member contribution, and he can accept it. Otherwise, it is from an outside source, and we can't accept it.

*Tina B. GR 8* comments that PayPal Giving Fund is not a scam. It's a way that individuals pay contributions online, but the only way you can receive the details of the person who made the contribution is to actually enroll in the giving fund. Tina knows this because of her outside affiliation. So, it isn't a scam, but if it is a member of our Area who initiated the transaction, who we don't have the details for, you aren't going to be able to know who the person is unless you do the enrollment.

*Ken S. Treasurer* noted that the other thing that will be talked about later will be about having a thought force for looking at electronic stuff so share with them as well.

**Corresponding Secretary/Group Records Coordinator:** Carrie H. presented her report, available in the packet (pg. 32-33) and on groups.io. Highlights include:

- As of 5/30/25, NJ has a total of 262 active Groups (252 Al-Anon including electronic and 10 Alateen). There are 271 active meetings (that includes 10 Alateen and 44 electronic meetings). There are meetings in Spanish, both Spanish and English, and some meetings in Polish.
- There are no new groups that have been registered since the last Assembly. Since the last Assembly, 2 groups have become inactive (Chatham Township Wednesday and New Beginnings Howel Wednesday). 15 groups do not have a CMA or group email address on record. The link for group record changes is <https://al-anon.org/for-members/group-resources/group-records/>
- There are two groups with bounced emails. There is a lot of interest in getting an email address for each group, either as a CMA, the current mailing address, or as the group contact. Since the last report there were 16 that didn't have an email address, and now there are 15. The second page of the report, listed in order by district, is a list of meetings

with no email address. If anyone recognizes those groups and knows of someone who's willing to be the CMA and provide an email address, reach out to Carrie.

- Since the last Assembly in March, Carrie attended the Board of Trustees 'Officers' meeting on 4/2//25, the AWSC meeting on 5/3/25, and sent the CMA mailing and return address labels for the Alagram and Treasurer's appeal. She also sent email files for the Alagram, and packets for dark districts and worked with District Representatives (DRs) and Group Representatives (GRs) to resolve queries.
- To wrap up, in the June 2025 *Forum*, there is an article "Understanding the Reported Not Meeting Process". Everyone is encouraged to read it.

**Questions or comments for Carrie H. Peter M. Delegate** requested clarification: Carrie said 10 Al-Anon meetings. It should have been 10 Alateen meetings.

**Recording Secretary:** Kasey M. presented her report, available on groups.io. Highlights include:

- Kasey transcribed, edited, and posted minutes from the March Assembly meeting to groups.io. All the other minutes are a work in progress.
- She also attended the Audit Committee meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Trustees meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the AWSC meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The BOT and AWSC minutes are in the editing process.

**Questions or comments for Kasey:** None

## **COORDINATOR REPORTS**

**Alagram:** AnnaMarie T. presented her report, available in the packet (pg. 27) and on groups.io. Highlights include:

- AnnaMarie T. reviewed November 2, 2024, Assembly packets and draft minutes for key items to include in the Alagram, submitted a

draft approved by the Chairperson and Delegate to publish,

- Received CMA address labels and emails for distribution of the Spring 2025 edition.
- She also purchased envelopes, labels, stamps, and prints for the Winter 2025 Alagram and submitted an expense report to the Treasurer in the amount of \$272.13.
- The Alagram was mailed to 262 CMAs, emailed to 233 CMAs, and forwarded to the Website Coordinator and Chairperson to post on the Area website.

#### **Questions or comments for AnnaMarie T. No**

**Alateen Coordinator:** David A. presented his report, available in the packet (pg. 28) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- In an effort to have good communication among the AMIAS, the next quarterly meeting is on June 23 from 6 to 7:30 pm
- Plans to focus on resources for starting meetings and then also propose changes to the AMIAS training since all the recertified AMIAS have just been through that.
- 62 people completed training, and 56 applications were submitted. All 56 were approved.
- Nine of the ten active Alateen meetings have been recertified. The one difficulty is with the electronic meeting. Angela, the AAPP, recently went to an AMIAS meeting with the WSO. Up to that point we were of the understanding that the electronic meeting had been grandfathered in since they had started that during COVID. However, she was informed that there was a lot of discussion about it and was informed that meetings had to be either in person or hybrid. There was discussion with the AMIAS for that meeting, and he is looking into continuing the electronic meeting by making it hybrid. A decision needs to be made on this so that the certification process can be completed and tell the WSO we are ready for them. That is the only thing holding us up with that

process. David isn't happy about it, but that's where we are.

- In the coming month David hopes to finalize the members of the committee who will be updating the AMIAS training. If anyone is interested in being a part of that, notify David via email.

#### **Questions or comments for David: No**

**Archives:** Jennifer F. presented her report, available in the packet (pg. 37) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- Attended Area 45 Convention in March. There were three tables designated to archive which was great.
- Plan to attend the Area 44 Convention in September.
- Attended the Archives Coordinator quarterly meeting last week, which was informative. They showed us some ways to display archives at conventions. Jennifer is hoping that before September she can revamp some of what we have, go through it, and make it look great for the next convention.
- Started scanning and digitally archiving everything we have.
- Working on moving everything over to a new storage unit that is closer to her house so that she can dive in and organize everything and get situated.

#### **Questions or comments for Jennifer F. No**

**Literature Coordinator:** Peter D. presented his report, available in the packet (pg. 38-51) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- Update on e—books that Al-Anon is planning: The rollout of the pilot program for *'Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships'* has been delayed. The new rollout will commence in July of this year. It will be a six-month process and will go through extensive validation to make sure it works ok. Only after that will the rest of the publications be made available as e-books.
- Literature distribution centers will likely be unaffected by this because e-book sales don't

seem to impact in any significant way, print copy.

- Attend literature coordinator meetings on a quarterly basis and one of the things that is getting a lot of attention now is workshops around the country. A flyer about a workshop about healing within our alcoholic relationships has been posted and information about that workshop can be found in Peter's report.
- If there are any questions about literature, Peter can get them answered by bringing them to the coordinator's meeting if he doesn't know the answer.
- Asking for photos for the 2026 Area calendar. The report contains conference approved literature quotations that will appear in the calendar.

**Questions or comments for Peter D.** *David L. GR* asked how involved Peter is with the information service office for literature coordination. How is that involved or is that irrelevant?

*Peter D.* responded that the Literature Coordinator does not interface with information services a whole lot. He personally happens to be an ISR also (an information services representative) but there's no strong connection there other than we cooperate.

**Public Outreach Coordinator:** Mike L. presented his report, available in the packet (pg. 52-56) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- Attended the Integrated Mental Health Conference in Asbury Park on 5/27 and 5/28 with Karen P. There were mental health professionals, and we had a table set up with literature, and it was amazing how many people know nothing about Al-Anon. We gave out a lot of literature to take back to their profession and hopefully they can spread the word to their clients.
- There was a table at the Social Worker Conference in Atlantic City on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mike could not attend, but Karen P. and Carole M. attended, and they reported it was very successful.
- Received a number of emails forward by Katie O. from around the State, from

different SACs for high school mental health fairs. Have been able to reach out to the districts representatives where these schools are located and happy to say that the districts have followed up and had someone attend the fairs.

- The business cards that were discussed at the last Assembly meeting continue to be a work in progress.
- Hosted a zoom meeting on 4.17 to discuss public outreach. Nine members attended and a lot of valuable information was shared. There was discussion about YouTube and the WSO has a lot of PSAs on YouTube. Discussed going to police stations. Mike was in touch with three different social workers at three different hospitals and was able to distribute 25 copies of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* to them. Another 25 will be passed out to one other hospital, thanks to Dave.
- There are some good guidelines on the WSO website, and it is all in his report.

**Questions or comments for Mike L.** No

**Tech coordinator:** Cliff R. gave a brief report, not available in the packet or on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- No real changes since the last meeting.
- For those having trouble renaming themselves, 2 videos were created: one for laptops and one for mobile devices. Encourages members to go back and review them. They are pretty straight forward.
- Short term goal is getting hardware in the hands of the people who need it.
- Long term goal is to move everything over to cloud storage, so we don't have to worry about swapping drives and things like that.

**Questions or comments for Cliff R.** None

**Website:** Jennifer B. not present. Report is in the packet (pg.57-58) and on groups.io

Highlights include:

**Questions or comments for Jennifer B.** No

**District 1 Hunterdon/Warren Counties:** Mickey S. presented his report, available in the packet (pg. 59-60) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- On 5/6/25 received district funds of \$283.13 from Katie O. who was the prior DR.
- Will purchase a yearly Zoom subscription for \$170.49 which will pick up the communication and outreach.
- Have been sending out information and tutorials from YouTube on how to use Zoom.
- The goal is to have the first zoom meeting and begin getting reports from GRs, GRs, which is in overall report.
- A pamphlet was put together outlining the AFG's times etc.

**Questions or comments for Mickey S. No**

**District 2 Morris/Sussex County:** Lynne M. presented her report, available in the packet (pg. 60-61) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- The first district meeting was held on May 6. Treasury has \$1,407.73. Still processing reimbursements from the Day of Sharing so that will change.
- District 2 has 22 active meetings. 1 need CMA. 5 are inactive. Elections earlier this year and Lynn was elected DR. No alternate DR at the moment. Charlotte was elected the new district treasurer elected.
- Held a Day of Sharing on April 5<sup>th</sup> in Randolph. It was a very successful day. There were 87 attendees and 63 were from District 2. There were 25 people from Morris County, 8 from Sussex County and a couple of people from out of State. Thank you to all who attended.
- We have two new group representatives in the district.
- The district completed the Public Outreach last year. At the end of the year, 100 packets were sent to high schools, college guidance departments, and rehab facilities.
- We are down to one Alateen meeting. Two went inactive in the past month. Hopefully the district can get more Alateen meetings.

The inactive Alateen meeting is donating supplies to the one in Morristown, plus giving them a \$50 donation.

**Questions or comments for Lynne M. No**

**District 3 Bergen and Passaic Counties:** Debbie F. was not present. Jess, GR 3 was asked to present the report, available in the packet (pg. 63) and on groups.io

Highlights include:

- There are 25 in person meetings, 5 hybrid and 3 electronic only and two Alateen meetings.
- Treasury reported as of May 18, 2025, was \$816
- The Alateen outreach program has been completed. Four schools have reached out to the district about doing wellness events at their schools. Will reach out to the rest of the schools to follow up.
- First District Fellowship Day was held May 3, 2025, in Ramsey. Over 40 people attended. We had good feedback and plan to hold another one next year.
- Four new GRs in the past month.
- The district participated in two school wellness fairs, one during the school day which was very successful and one in the evening which was not as successful. However, they were able to connect with multiple organizations, hospitals, counseling centers, and schools for students with addiction issues that can get the work out about Al-Anon.

**Questions or comments for Jess. No**

**District 4 Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties:**

Patty V. presented her report, available in the packet (pg. 64) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- First district meeting on April 16, 2025, via Zoom, with only three attendees.
- Focus on goals and activities to visit face-to-face and service. Visiting local groups to introduce herself and let the groups know that the district exists and is involved.
- There was a public outreach wellness fair on April 14<sup>th</sup> attended by Angela O., Debbie W.

and Jessica Q. Attendees included a middle school wellness fair with 750 children, and there was a table available for the kids to gather around. Stress balls and bookmarks were given out. There was a YouTube video for Alateen, and literature was also distributed.

- Debbie F. D3 reached out to let us know that there was a request for a public outreach event in Secaucus on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is anticipated that there will be 500 attendees. Patty V. will follow up regarding this event.
- Patty V. will reach out to Carrie regarding the number of active meetings in the district. Still learning the ropes.

**Questions or comments for Patty V.** *Carrie H. Corresponding Secretary* asked if Patty has been in touch with anyone at the WSO to get access to the database. Carrie noted that most of the DRs are hooked up to be able to check the data for their district directly.

*Patty V. DR 4* responded that she had not but that Angela O. had mentioned that.

*Carrie H. Group Records Coordinator* offered her help if Patty had any issues.

*Liz K. NV D8* noted that she was really proud of the folks in North Jersey who have managed to build support in their districts and step up as district representatives. Liz has talked with many one on one, and the Area went from having about three district representatives and 20 unrepresented districts. Now we have a district representative in every district except our electronic district, and she is really pleased to see it. Offered a thank you to everyone who is doing service.

**District 5 Mercer, Middlesex, and Somerset Counties:** Anne P. presented her report, available in the packet (pg.65) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- Next District 5 meeting is on Monday at 6:30. Via Zoom.
- The Sunday Path to Recovery, AA's Mixed Nuts and Hamilton Alateen invite all to their third annual family event on Sunday June 8 in Hamilton at St. Gregs Church on Nottingham Way. There will be food and fellowship at 6:30, speakers at 7:30.

- District 5 has 47 meetings. The breakdown of the meetings is in the report.
- Treasury balance is \$819.37.
- Distributed the District newsletter to groups in the district.
- Updated the district meeting list
- Attended AMIAS training in March and has been notified that she has been approved.
- In August during the National Night Out, the District will have literature tables in various towns
- The district made Love Gift for the Delegate to bring to WSC.
- There are anniversary meetings listed in the report
- On Saturday, October 25th, District 5 will hold Unity Day at the Stone Hill Church in Princeton. It is a wonderful day of fellowship and Anne hopes all can attend.

**Questions or comments for Anne P.** No

**District 6 Monmouth County:** Jess A. presented his report, not available in the packet or on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- The district met in March and also in the beginning of May.
- A member hosted a writing workshop this month.
- There is a district picnic coming up in August
- The district is looking for a secretary, which is part of the problem they are having.
- The next meeting will be held after the AWSC meeting in October.

**Questions or comments for Jess A.** No

**District 7 Ocean County:** Eileen R. presented her report, available in the packet (pg. 66) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- District 7 has twenty-eight active Al-Anon groups. One is an Alateen group. Of those 28, 18 have GRs, nine have a person to contact, and one has no representation or reliable contact person.
- As of the last meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>, the treasury was \$1,669.08

- Public Outreach is the current focus. Business cards for public distribution by police departments is currently underway and has been met with enthusiasm from the many communities that have been contact so far in Ocean County.
- The new Alateen meeting in Island Heights is off to a great start.
- As district representative, Eileen has reached ot to groups with bounced emails and have, corrected them.
- Two members have stepped up to be GRS in ocean county, which we are extremely grateful for.
- Karen P. and Eileen went to the Youth Wellness Fair held in May at Bright Harbor Healthcare in Toms River. It was wonderful to see beautiful young faces and inform them about Alateen and Al-Anon and gave them many handouts.
- Efforts are underway to post a second edition of the district newsletter this summer with the help of Ken K.

#### Questions or comments for Eileen R. No

#### District 8, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester:

Tina H. presented her report, available in the packet (pg. 67) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- District 8 has twenty-seven groups, 24 are Al-Anon and 3 are Alateen.
- Strong treasury balance of \$2,904.99 as of May. Pretty much everything has been paid
- Liz K and Michelle V. are active in public outreach and will be hosting an event in Burlington County on 6/14. They are looking for volunteers. This information is in the report.
- Joy is doing a fabulous job with David, our Alateen Coordinator. The Alateen group in Clarksboro will have their second anniversary. A flyer will be forthcoming, but the date is July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a vote on doing a district workshop sometime in the fall of 2026. Looking for some feedback from District 5 workshop this fall.

- Mary T. announced the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Area 45 AA Convention. That information will be presented in her report.

**Questions or comments for Tina H.** *Liz K. NV D8* noted that no one volunteered for the event, so there will not be a table.

*Katie O. Chairperson:* What's the balance in the district account and does it have an ample reserve?

Tina H. responded that the ample reserve is \$200 and the balance in the account is \$2,904.99.

*Katie Chairperson:* noted that they were 10-fold over their ample reserve.

*Tina H. DR 8* responded that she can address that. They are looking at a task force or a thought force about their workshop and deciding what the budget needs to be for the coming year, as well as for contributions also. The district does send contributions on a quarterly basis.

#### District 9 Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem Counties:

Kathy I. presented her report, available in the packet (pg. 68) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- The last meeting was on June 4, 2025. There were 11 attendees. There is a new district secretary, but still needs an Alternate DR.
- The treasury report was \$2,248, and there is an adequate prudent reserve.
- There was a vote at the last meeting to make some distributions.
- Still working on trying to get an Alateen meeting started.
- There are 16 total meetings, three seasonal summer meetings, three hybrid and one electronic, just found out yesterday that one of the seasonal meetings will be inactive.

**Questions or comments for Kathy I.** *Tina H. DR 8* asked which seasonal meeting was going inactive.

*Kathy I. DR 9* noted it was the Stone Harbor Tuesday beginners meeting which met at 7:15. There was low attendance and in the last few weeks there was no one. They will try to restart a beginner meeting before another meeting on Fridays, but that hasn't happened yet.

**District 10 (Electronic Groups):** Vacant. Mark McP. noted that he is a part of D10, and they do

continue to communicate, but there still is no District Representative. They are, however, planning an online day of sharing in the fall and there will be a meeting in July to work with.

**Questions or comments for Mark McP.** No

## LIAISON REPORTS

**North Jersey Information Services:** Mark McP. presented his report, available in the packet (pg.69-70) and on groups.io.

Highlights include:

- There was a meeting of the ISRs in February to consider opening up the entity to serve the entire state. There were a lot of questions about the level of support for such a move in South Jersey, so we deferred that until later this summer for the next ISR meeting.
- The Steering Committee has been making the rounds in SJ to take the temperature of SJ groups about whether they would be in support of them opening it up. Feedback has been positive, and there will continue to be work on that.
- There are a lot of people in attendance who Mark could do a better job of coordinating with, including the public outreach and literature coordinators.
- Continue to participate in the AFG Connects for literature distribution centers and AISs. It's good to see the perspectives and to know that the struggles are the same.
- An appeal letter went out in June. Funding is still an issue, but work continues on the website and the meeting list. It has taken more time than was expected to get the information accurate and current.
- The WSO pushes out monthly materials, such as short sharing's from members to be used at meetings, for the groups each month. The DRs have access to that; NJAIS could also provide that information to the groups.

**Questions or comments for Mark McP.**

*Peter M. Delegate* asked when the next ISR meeting would be.

*Mark McP NJAIS* responded that it would probably be July but had not been scheduled yet. There will

be at least three weeks' notice to the ISRs when the date is set.

*David I GR 6* asked when the appeal letter went out *Mark McP* responded that he believes it went out in early June.

**Spanish Intergroup:** Aura not present and no report was included in the packet.

*Katie O. Chairperson* asked if there was any one from Spanish Intergroup present to give a report? *Patty V. DR 4* noted that she does attend Spanish Intergroup and spoke with Aura 2 months ago and she said she would be here. *Patty V* does not want to interfere with her service.

*Katie O. Chairperson* noted that she will reach out to her again.

**Al-Anon Chairperson to AA Area 44 Convention:**

*Katie O. Chairperson:* There is a vacancy for the Al-Anon Representative to the AA Area 44 Convention. At the last meeting, Donna said traditionally NJIS selects the Al-Anon representative to the AA convention in Area 44. Has anyone from NJIS expressed interest in doing that?

*Mark McP NJAIS* Noted that no one had been selected for that but that they arranged for literature table sales at the convention in September.

*Katie O. Chairperson* noted that the Al-Anon representative sets up the meetings and topics at the convention, so planning is needed. *Katie* trusts someone will step up.

**Al-Anon Chairperson to AA Area 45 Convention:**

*MaryTeresa* noted that the report (pg. 71) in the packet is the wrong report the updated report is on groups.io

- *Mary T* is chairing, and *Brenda* is the co-chair. The Al-Anon portion of the 2026 Area 45 AA Convention.
- Attended the planning committee meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Both the Chair and Co-Chair will attend convention planning meetings together on the second Sunday of every month. The meetings are hybrid, and the link and password are in the report.

- The Convention will be held March 20 to 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bally's Atlantic City.
- Hopes to have more districts from NJ involved this year.
- The meeting chair has been selected, and the committee is looking for an Al-Anon speaker. Pass along any suggestions to Mary-T.
- If anyone is interested in participating in the planning, reach to to Mary-T. Email is in the report.

### Questions or comments for Mary-T:

*Mike L. Public Outreach Coordinator* noted if Mary-T is looking for skit information, reach out to Jennifer F., the Archives Coordinator because there were a lot of printed out skits in one of the binders in the archive materials.

*Angela R. AAPP* asked for general clarification about the connection to the AA Convention. Is the Area no longer the connection to the AA convention since we did take on that role when North Jersey hadn't been involved for a while, and nobody was doing it? Is it transferring back or not?

*Katie O. Chairperson* responded that the current position for the Area 44 Convention is vacant but at the last AWSC meeting Donna noted that traditionally NJIS asked one of their members to be the Al-Anon chairperson for the convention. So, Mark was asked about that, and he said they are working on it but there isn't anyone yet.

*Karen P. NV Past Delegate* noted that since NJIS is just starting to get back on their feet, and we are throwing a lot of things at them, she would just ask Mark to also coordinator with the Assembly in reference to a chairperson for the committee. Kate is 100% correct that they are already working on the committee, and historically it would come from the information service. Usually, the steering committee has someone on their committee; that is the convention liaison. Since they are pretty new at this, maybe one of the ISRs would be willing to step up. If not, we can reach out because AA really wants us there.

**Lunch Break from 12:27 PM to 1 PM**

Meeting resumed at 1:00 with the Serentiy Prayer

### 1 PM ROLL CALL – 47 VOTING GRs

#### OLD BUSINESS:

**Discussion:** On page 3 of the combined reports.

Continuation of discussion of the 6/2007 motion to examine the disallowance of NJ Al-Anon Assembly Officers and Coordinators to Sit as Voting Members on Other NJ Service Arm Boards. It was decided to leave the policy in place as it is now, which just prevents DRs from serving on other NJ service arm boards. There was a lot of discussion that should be extended to officers and coordinators on the NJ Assembly.

The Charge: Conduct a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) process among the members of the Thought Force (ThF) to determine what is currently known about this topic and what remains unknown. Make recommendations on whether the resolution should not just be limited to District Representatives but extended to NJ Assembly Officers and Coordinator as well.

5-8 Volunteers are needed. Typically, in the first meeting, the thought force decides who they want to be the chairperson. Please put in the Chat which ThF you want to be on and include your name and contact information. Also, please email the Chairperson at njdelegate62@gmail.

*Peter M. Delegate*, what is the background for this? Is it creating a Thought Force or a Task Force?

*Katie O. Chairperson* responded that this is a separate Thought Force. There are three thought forces on the agenda. The history of this was when it was originally written into the NJ policy handbook to disallow district representatives from serving on other NJ service arm boards, it was just limited to the district representatives and they were paralleling what they claim is done at the World Service Office, where the volunteers are not allowed to sit on more than one board or committee. But it needs to be examined, and the history behind it needs to be delved into. Why wasn't it extended to other officers

and coordinators as well as the district representatives?

*Carole M Past Delegate* asked if former Delegates are allowed to be on this task force.

*Katie O. Chairperson* responded that she assumes so, because Donna is heading up the other Thought Force that is being created.

*Carole M. Past Delegate* would like to be on the task force since

*Tina B. GR 8* commented that she isn't volunteering for this thought force but wanted to note that when she was a new GR, she joined a thought force and learned a lot. It was a great experience, and she encouraged other GRS in the room. If you are looking for experience outside of the group level, to do some service and learn a lot, a thought force is a really great way to do it. Talk to your service sponsor and kick the tires with your higher power. She encourages all to think about it.

*Katie O. Chairperson* responded that this is your opportunity to volunteer. A lot of times members get upset and claim that it's the same people running everything. This is an opportunity to do service work beyond the group level and really get a little bit more involved in decision making.

*Mark McP. NJAIS* : Mark's experience in the past with thought forces is that they really are a positive experience. There is a way this might lead to better cooperation within the Area generally. It's an opportunity because one of the things he's run into is a lot of confusion as to how everything works in Al-Anon behind the scenes. This is a great way that we can take a fresh look at it.

*Katie O. Chairperson* responded that these thought forces are not limited to DRs. Normally we ask there to be at least one DR and also a GR. If any GRS that are here today think they might be interested on one of the thought forces, put your information in the chat and also send her an email.

## Roll Call 53 voting members

### Approval of Minutes from March 1, 2025, Assembly Meeting:

The minutes are in the packet (pg. 73-94). After discussion of amendments to draft minutes, a motion

was made by Katie O. to approve the minutes as amended.

**Motion:** The members recommend that the minutes be approved as amended.

**Vote:** |Yes: 53| |No: 0| |Abstention: 0|  
The motion carried with unanimity.

### Discussion: Audit Report: presented by Kasey M., Questions & Answers by Ken S.

Kasey presented the 2024 Audit Report that is in the packet (pg.95-101) and also on groups.io.

Kasey M noted that the Audit Committee determined the NJ Area Assembly 2025 ample reserve to be \$20,012.80. The attendees at the Audit included the past delegate, chairperson, treasurer, former treasurer, alternate delegate, recording secretary, a district representative and a group representative. Any questions on the audit report can be directed to Ken S. our treasurer.

*Eileen DR 7*, asked for clarification of the 2025 ample reserve figure of \$20,012.89. She notes that before we were talking about having \$19,233 as the actual current reserve. Does that number line up with the 2025 figure?

*Ken S. Treasurer* responded that earlier we were talking about the balance in our checking account being \$19,000. So, when you are saying lined up, we don't have \$20,000 in the checking account, and the ample reserve is appropriate. The ample reserve is a calculation based on the past three years, and that is what is in our policy manual. That is what we are supposed to have. If we don't have it, we don't have it. Right now, we have \$19,233 in the savings account, but our ample reserve should be \$20,012.

*Eileen DR 8*; The question was really to clarify that before it felt like somebody was saying perhaps that it was too much money in the ample reserve, but apparently it is ok.

*Ken S. Treasurer* responded that it is now. It worked itself out because we spend money and now, we don't need to move anything. So, that is correct.

*Cindy U. GR 7* raised concern that she has been in contact with another GR in her district. Her understanding is that the other GR pointed out some discrepancies and some omissions and that he asked

that you table the vote for today for this particular item. Has there been any thought given to that?

*Ken S. Treasurer* responded that he received an email yesterday from another member. That email was opened this morning. After reading the policy manual, it seems that everything is in order. If we want to change the policy, that's fine, but there's no time within one day to reconcile that. Adding additional reports and doing things like that that they were talking about. So, if we want to do that, I suggest we get a thought force together and change the policy manual.

*Cindy U. GR 7* asked if the balance sheet and the income statement should be included in the audit report?

*Ken S. Treasurer* responded that it does not appear that way in the policy manual. If that person wants those reports, he can have them. We will send them to him. And just so everyone knows, we all have lives. We deal with personal stuff and on short notice, before an assembly, we can't come up with all these things. We will address it in good time. We will bring it up at a Board meeting. We will get whatever they need. It doesn't stop why we need to vote on this or not vote on this. There are no discrepancies in any of the numbers. It has gone over. The audit committee went over all the numbers over and over again. That is their job. If we want to change procedures. . .

*Cindy U. GR 7* responded that it is certainly up to the Assembly. Isn't it true that the audit committee was not independent? It included people that have been on it for a while.

*Ken S. Treasurer* responded that the audit committee consists of specified people on it. Some have been on it to advise the new Board. He doesn't believe that anyone who was there was not supposed to be there. I heard the comment on this, and I just don't understand it. It will probably take more discussion on what the meaning is in balance.

*Cindy U. GR 7* responded that she wanted to voice her opinion, and this is a concern, and this isn't something that just popped up. This is something that has been going on for some time, and she is not the only one that is concerned about it. She can't understand why it can't be tabled and if everyone is saying that there hasn't been enough time, maybe there needs to be.

*Ken S. Treasurer* responded that one day before the meeting is not enough time to respond to everyone's email.

*Katie O. Chairperson* responded to Cindy's comments. Katie noted that she was on the audit committee. This same member a number of years ago raised the issue of how we were documenting the audit. The way we document the audit now and all the parts of the report required are all parts of the NJ policy handbook which can be found on the NJ Area website. Every page that the auditors have to complete is in that policy handbook. Before the audit report was expanded there was no specific wording that there should be a balance sheet and income statement included in the audit report. So as Ken mentioned this would need to be brought up at the BOT meeting for discussion and then it would go to AWSC and then it would probably go to assembly as a thought force to determine whether we should expand the audit report to include more documents than what we've already filled out. Every single one of those expenses and income were accounted for in the audit by the auditors. In the policy handbook, it specifically states who services on the audit committee and it includes a volunteer GR. We had a GR and a DR volunteer.

*Eileen GR 7* commented that if you have an audit committee that has been charged to do this, and this is what they did, then you trust that they did their job.

*Jean GR 10* gave her opinion that she feels a bit offended. This man is our trusted servant, and the report has been prepared. What she is hearing is very non-specific objections that impugn the process. This does not feel fair and appropriate. There are other ways to get this point across and get the information here at the last minute.

*Jess DR 6* as he is hearing this conversation, he is thinking of Concept 4. Participation is the key to harmony.

*Sue H. GR 7* notes she is a retired accountant and has been part of Assembly for a long time. She took a break for a couple of years. All you must worry about when you are doing an audit or anything with accounting is to follow the generally accepted accounting principle, otherwise you are breaking the laws. And according to everything she is hearing, NJ Assembly did exactly that. According to her education and experience with accounting and with assembly is that they've always followed generally accepted accounting principles.

*Carole M. Past Delegate* commented that she has been involved with Assembly since 1991 and has done every coordinator and officer position except secretary and treasurer. Every audit that she has attended, she has never seen any discrepancies. The books and records are kept in perfect order. And if you want a balance sheet or an income statement, it is generated through a program. It is no longer manually done. If anyone wants to check the books and records, you are able to. If you see a problem, then let's focus on the problem, but let's not make a problem if there is no problem.

*Mary K. GR 5* thanked the audit committee because many years she was on that committee and she knows how much work goes into, how much effort and time and I think we need appreciation for the people involved. And we always want to be open to comments and questions, but they have to make appropriately and at the appropriate time. Many years ago, we had a lot of chaos at assembly and am pleased with how the business and things are handled now.

*Ken S. Treasurer* noted that he heard two things he heard about were the balance sheet and the Profit and Loss and if he posts that on groups.io for this meeting maybe that will help some people if they need to look at it quickly.

*Carole M. Past Delegate* noted a point of order. If there are any changes, it needs to go back to the board and to the AWSC because it is part of the policy handbook.

*Katie O. Chairperson* responded that after she got the lengthy email, she went into the March combined report, and there is a page in there that lists exactly what is listing what would be on the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement. In response to that email asking us at the last minute to table the audit report *Katie* noted that she was offended by some of the allegations that were made in that email, and this person was informed that the Board of Trustees will discuss this at the next Board meeting at length to determine where we are going to go forward from here and whether it is going to be a creation of a task or thought force to incorporate a balance sheet and an income statement into the audit report.

### **Roll Call: 56**

**Motion:** The AWSC recommends that the 2024 Audit Report be approved, and the ample reserve for

the new year (2025) be set at \$20,012.80. Tina B 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

**Vote:** |Yes: 52 | |No: 1 | |Abstention: 2 |  
The motion passes with substantial unanimity.

**Discussion:** Thought Force: Meeting Format AWSC and Assembly; In-Person, Virtual or Hybrid. The Charge: Conduct a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) process among the members of the Thought Force (ThF) to determine what is currently known about this topic and what remains unknown. Make recommendations on the format of future AWSC and Assembly meetings whether that be hybrid, just in-person or just virtual or whether some meetings be one or the other. More elaboration in the charge. *Katie O.* read the entire charge.

*Peter D. Literature Coordinator* noted that he is on this Thought Force along with Donna S, our former chairperson. Donna could not make the meeting today but asked Peter to put the word out that we are really interested in having a GR participate on this thought force so that we have a cross section of positions within the fellowship. When she gets back, the first meeting will be scheduled. No meeting has been scheduled yet.

*Katie O. Chairperson* noted that the meetings would be virtual through the Assembly Zoom account.

*Peter D.; Literature Coordinator* noted that if anyone is interested, they can send an email to *Katie* as she mentioned earlier but also to Donna's email which is in the agenda.

*Ben GR 8* asked for clarification on whether this is a discussion as to whether four times a year we should all drive to one location and have this meeting in person, or four times a year to have this meeting at the convenience of our own house.

*Peter D. Literature Coordinator* was invited to answer the question. He responded that one of the questions that came up at AWSC was how we should go about dealing with this question about AWSC and Assembly meetings Should they be virtual only? Should they be hybrid? Or should they be in person only. And there's a wide variety of questions about that and we would be using the knowledge based decision-making process to do that so that we have an open minded going into this. But ultimately what we want to do is figure out what our membership

wants and what they value. So that is our starting point.

*Katie O. Chairperson* noted that Assembly only meets three times a year, not four. So, this thought force is going to be looking at that and what the best options are. Does our membership want to have hybrid for every one of these meetings? Do we want to go back to just in-person, whereas you said, people would have to drive to attend? Or do we want to have hybrid meetings, which would be a combination of both? But the Thought Force is going to look at all the options before recommending to AWSC and Assembly what exactly they feel the entire membership of NJ Al-Anon wants.

*David A. Alateen Coordinator* noted that he appreciated what Katie was saying, but the person with the question was just talking about the two extremes of coming in person or doing it on Zoom. Hybrid is another alternative, and there might be others that we haven't thought about here. So, it isn't just considering those two extremes but considering other possibilities.

*Mickey S. DR 1* indicated that he wanted to volunteer for the Thought Force.

*Katie O. Chairperson* noted that she asked Donna S. what she was going to do if she had more than one GR volunteer, and she said that that would be discussed at the first meeting how they want to handle it.

*Eileen R. DR 7* is curious if we should at this point go to our groups and get some feedback now, so that when we go to the Thought Force meeting, will we have some information?

*Katie O. Chairperson* thinks you could probably start the conversation in your local groups.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Thought Force was asked to put their name and contact information in the chat.

**Discussion:** Thought Force: Online Donations through New Jersey's Website and Online Individual Member Donations. The Charge: It is threefold. Conduct a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) process among the members of the Thought Force (ThF) to determine what is currently known about this topic and what remains unknown. Make recommendations on whether or not to accept online contributions from members. If so, which online platform should be for virtual attendees to

make a 7th Tradition donation at Assemblies and make recommendations on which online platform to use for members and groups to make donations through Assembly's website, nj-al-anon.org. 5-8 Volunteers Needed: Please put in the Chat which ThF you want to be on and include your name and contact information. Also, please separately email the Chairperson at

*Tina B. GR 8:* Has already sent an email to Katie and a chat to Kasey to be part of this thought force. Thank you for bringing this up. It is very timely, especially considering what we heard in our Delegate's report about WSO putting resources into recruitment for Al-Anon membership in the younger demographic. We are in a hybrid Assembly. Technology is part of our lives. This is a really timely process for us to go through, and she is grateful that this is happening. Thank you.

*Ken S. Treasurer* was asked to fill everyone in on the preliminary research and how we got to the point of where we decided to have a thought force. Ken noted that there have many requests to have a way to make contributions electronically, and the only one he knew of was through bill pay with checking accounts. Looked into a bunch of platforms that people kept asking about. Most of them were social platforms that want to tell the world how much you gave so you can invite them in to give and that doesn't work for us. We need to have something confidential. Of all the ones that were looked into and there could be more, Zelle was the one that might work. The only way you can get through Zelle is through an app for your bank. It used to be a separate app. That has been eliminated. It doesn't cost anything on either side. We would have to have policies and procedures. You would have to say if it's an individual or group contribution, or Assembly so we have that information, so we don't run into the same problem that he has with a PayPal check that came in. He is unsure if there are other things. And then as part of the discussion at AWSC, putting it on the website requires a major step up of security. Ken is not very familiar with having any kind of platform where you can donate online, but that is where the website coordinator had communicated and it became obvious that we probably need a thought force to think this all out. What is the best way to do it? Does it meet our traditions and concepts? Does it use this inner process? As much as Ken likes the

Zelle platform, because it's free, it may not be the best one and every one of them has security issues and that needs to be discussed as well. If you are interested in serving, that would be great. Ken has already expressed his interest in serving but does not have the time to Chair.

*Mickey S. DR 1* commented that one of the platforms that seems to be used today, and the district treasurer uses it, is Venmo. Is there a downside to Venmo?

*Ken S. Treasurer* believes there is a cost for Venmo, but he is not sure.

*Cliff R. Technology Coordinator* noted that he would also be on this Thought Force and rather than passing ideas now, we are just looking for people to volunteer. If you have something to bring or you want to learn, come on board. We will probably address a lot of thoughts. Cliff has a lot of experience using Venmo, PayPal, and Zelle with a lot of international payment systems, and he will talk about the security levels for those as well.

*Sue H. GR 7* commented that her daughter works for a charitable organization in Washington DC, and she can find out how they get donations because they don't make money, they get donations. It is a worldwide organization. Sue volunteered for the other thought force. If she isn't on that, she will volunteer for this thought force.

*Karen P. NV Past Delegate* asked Peter M., our Delegate, if he could reach out to the other delegates and areas and see if they have any electronic programs that they use to get funds and donations.

*Amanda L. GR 7* noted that she does not want to be on the thought force but does know that WSO accepts PayPal from individuals for what it's worth.

**Discussion:** *Peter M. Delegate:* Should there be a policy for posting events, workshops and other activities (including Alateen functions) from other than New Jersey on our website, nj-al-anon.org? Is there a reason for restricting outside Area Al-Anon events from being announced on our website? Historically, only outside Area flyers about their conventions were allowed to be posted on NJ's website. Other Area's meetings were not permitted to be posted on NJ's website.

Peter M. noted that he posed a question to the past delegates several months ago concerning the policy for posting flyers to our website. We have a policy for our website to post our area anniversary meetings, workshops and things like that. And we

have historically not posted anything outside our area. For example, if Pennsylvania is having their annual convention this weekend, we don't necessarily post that on our website. something that came up is there was an event that was happening virtually, and we were wondering if we should be able to post it on our website so that members from New Jersey could attend that virtual event. So, he is reaching out to members about this idea. Do we need to do a thought force or a task force? What are your ideas about putting information on our website that will help Al-Anon members in New Jersey in their recovery? Peter's thought process is, if he can get to a convention that's happening in another area, that would help his recovery. But it isn't necessarily a NJ thing. He is looking for some ideas on what people think about this. Also, some policy in the past of anyone has any history about why we don't put anything on our website from other areas, he would like to know that too and then we will take it from there.

*Karen P. NV Past Delegate* commented that it was her understanding that if another area sends us a posting only about conventions, we have it posted on our website and we have announced it. If you are a delegate or past delegate, it is always on groups.io, but we have never said no to a different or another area as long as we get the information. She is not sure and would not comment on all the other things like workshops, anniversaries, and other things outside our area. She would like to hear the discussions and would be more than willing to be on the thought force.

*Angela R. AAPP* noted that when she was website coordinator, we did post some things for a convention in Connecticut. She doesn't recall a policy where we weren't posting. As long as they ask, we usually approve everything that went onto the website.

*Peter M. Delegate* noted that the Delegate and Area Chairperson review each flyer and each piece that is going to go on the website, and they have to approve it. If it isn't approved, it doesn't get posted. For example, there was something that had a misspelling that we asked to be re-done. If it has personal information on it, it doesn't get posted.

*Mark McP NJAIS* noted that New York City has a very active information service. There are things continually going on. And there is that aspect that they could potentially conflict with what we are

doing in New Jersey. Even within NJ, sometimes we have events on the same dates. So that is a potential concern that you give first priority to anything that might be going on within the area

*Peter D. Literature Coordinator* commented that as the area literature coordinator, and this is probably the same for all coordinators, we participate in quarterly virtual meetings with all the other coordinators in the country. And we get a lot of information out of that platform. He shared in his report for the assembly, a workshop in Washington. He would love to have that posted to the website. There is interest in that particular subject when he looks at our area website. The calendar is kind of sparse. There are a few things on it, but it isn't loaded. The other concern might be we get too much information on it. But it is a website, isn't that what it's there for. And if some workshop somewhere else in the country helps someone else recover, isn't it worth it?

*Kasey M. Recording Secretary* commented that she loves the idea. She's always floating around the NYC website, and it is annoying to flip-flop.

*Jane B., GR 1* suggested linking to another state's calendar. Can we do that? Can we link to NY or PA?

*Peter M. Delegate* commented that this is something that would need to be brought up in the policy. We are already linking to WSO, but again that was something we might have to bring up to the policy committee or perhaps this thought force.

*Tina B. GR 8* commented that this is perhaps one of those all or none conversations. If you do one, how do you close the gate? Is it just PA? Is it just the other states around NJ? Or is it all 50 states? People travel right. We have an electronic district in our area. A lot of people go to electronic meetings. Then there's the conversation like WSO is WSO. What's the purpose of WSO versus the purpose of our area? So there's a lot of things to consider when we look at the links in the chain and the purpose of each level of service. What role do we play as the area versus what role does WSO play? She would like us to consider that as part of the conversation. Also, with regard to Alateen, there are no teenagers coming to the NJ Al-Anon.org website to find information. Their moms and their dads and their teachers are, but the teenagers are not. They are going to be looking on TikTok or SnapChat for information, if they are looking for any information. So, we can post Alateen stuff, but it isn't going to actually get to young people

unless adults are giving it to them. If we wanted to get Alateen information adults who could then pass it on to young people, that would be something that we could consider.

*Jean GR 10* commented that this might already be assumed, but when you say workshops, most things that were referred to are conference approved type of things, conventions, and so when you get into workshops that sometime it can be sort of appropriate and is how much do the workshops cost and is it promoting somebody else's business and sensitivity to pricing. Where do you cut that line? How it fits in with our policies and can see that being an issue that would have to be decided.

*Peter M. Delegate* commented that when he is talking about workshops that are put together by a specific district or a specific Al-Anon Group. It would only be an Al-Anon activity. It would not be anything other than Al-Anon. So for example, let's say District 5 in NY put together a workshop that was easily accessible to North Jersey attendees. Would we be able to put that onto our website or not? That would be the question. Right now, we really don't have a policy in place, do we? And we tend not to, but that's kind of the question that is being brought up to the group members to see what you think. And do we want to make any decisions? Do we want to change the policy?

*Florence GR 3* commented that it would be great if all the ones that are virtual could be included because some people can't get out and then that's another option. If we aren't doing anything in NJ, it would be nice if there are ones especially in neighboring areas, because maybe there is a chance to actually make a connection with another Al-Anon person that maybe you would be able to connect with them in person. The other point is as long as it isn't conflicting with an event that we are putting on. Our members put a lot of effort to put on an event and then we are competing with other groups. That is part of the problem. It makes sense if it isn't something that is 3,000 miles away. We aren't here to do a national site. We want it to be NJ but at least something that is an hour away, if someone felt motivated they could go. That is a nice option. She might bring in a couple of people from my meeting and say let's make a road trip and go to this. Especially if our calendar is sparse.

*Carol M. Past Delegate* commented that she doesn't know why this came up, because she thought we

were already doing it. She doesn't know why we are making this bigger than it is. If it's an Al-Anon family group event and it is recognized by the state they are doing it in, it is an Al-Anon Family Group, then she doesn't know why we just don't advertise it. Put it in our newsletter if they want us to and if it does not conflict with some things well then it does. Some people will do it virtually rather than one on one. She thinks we should just open it up and give our people choices. We have two and three meetings at the same time near the same location. So, let's just do it. If it doesn't work out, let's try on a trial basis if we want to. We are supposed to be inclusive, not exclusive.

*Katie O. Chairperson* commented that we've always posted other areas or outside of NJ Al-Anon conventions. So that is one thing that has been decided on. It was just decided that we would not post meetings outside NJ that are taking place in NYC or PA or whatever. The other thing is our website coordinator is here today and this is going to be more work for her, and it is going to be more work for Peter and herself because they are going to have to approve those flyers from outside our areas of NJ. Before Katie approves a flyer, she always looks to see if it answers the W questions. Who is having the event? What is the event? When is the event? And where is the event? Katie hopes people aren't offended when she emails them back and tells them that she needs that information on the flyer. This is a bit of insurance that the event is an Al-Anon event, and it is sponsored by Al-Anon.

*Peter M. Delegate* asked Katie for some clarification on what she meant by 'meeting'. For example, did she mean a workshop from another area or did she mean a meeting from another area? Peter commented that we would never post a meeting from another area on our website, but perhaps a workshop that is put together by a district from PA or NY.

*Katie O. Chairperson* responded that we received a flyer from a meeting that was having a workshop, and she did not approve it because in the past when it came up, the area was only posting convention flyers from other areas.

*Ken S. Treasurer* noted for clarity that the only place in the policy manual that he can find is in the website coordinator section, and they describe the website coordinator's duties. Ken read 'they make updates to the content, change the website, this includes events, flyers, forum articles and documents, ID

Alagram, agendas, meeting minutes, etc., content changes. All flyers and most events require the approval of chairperson and delegate prior to posting to the website.' So, both the Delegate and the Chair must say yes to it. That's the only policy we have in the manual. If one of you says no, that it's no. Both have to say yes to get it on the calendar.

*Mary T. GR8* commented that she lives about 12 miles from Philadelphia and if they are having a regional meeting that is convenient for her and it is in person, she might not think to check PA's website to get all that information. The same holds true for the people in North Jersey close to NY.

*Katie O. Chairperson* asked Peter if he wanted to continue the discussion and noted that a thought force may need to be created. She doesn't feel comfortable going against what was voted on previously, even though it was never written into the policy manual, that we are only going to post conventions that are outside our area. She would feel more comfortable if there was a thought force, and we looked into this. And like was said previously, this will be more work for Jennifer.

*Peter M. Delegate* noted that there are three thought forces going already, that Jennifer is not here, and that perhaps Peter, Jennifer and Katie can talk about it at the officer's meeting and maybe set up thought force for the next AWSC and Assembly.

*Florence Y.* asked if GRs should go back to their groups and see how they feel about it?

*Peter M. Delegate* noted that was a great idea. Bring it back to your District Representatives and the AWSC when we meet again and we will further the discussion.

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### **Ask It Basket:**

*Eileen M.* had a question about filing tax returns. Eileen noted that they have a checking account and an EIN number, and nobody seems to know whether a tax return needs to be done. Can not do a non-profit status and have been told that we do not need to worry about it. It is a very small amount, but was wondering if anyone in any of the districts also had a checking account and whether or not they ever did a tax return.

*John S. GR 9* noted that he just became district treasurer and they filed and got an EIN number, but he doesn't believe there is a tax return required

because they are only receiving two cents interest a month, so never going over that \$10.

*David L GR 2* noted that he became treasurer about a year ago and there were some issues with the IRS. They couldn't get an EIN number. There is a certain cutoff. If your group had a meeting before a certain date, you were able to get it, but now with security you need an officer and all that other stuff to generate a real account. He ran into a lot of issues.

*Sue H. GR 7* noted that you do not need to fill out a tax form, but you will have difficulties like David said it is difficult to get the EIN number, so most of the groups just use their own banking account.

**NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING** – Hybrid  
Saturday, November 1, 2025, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.  
Stone Hill Church Princeton

Motion to close Anne P. D5 and Tina H. GR 8 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration at 3 PM.**

Minutes Submitted by  
Donna S., for  
Kasey M. - Recording Secretary