

**Minutes of the Nov. 5, 2011 Assembly held at Maryknoll Center
55 Ryder Road, Ossining, N.Y.**

OPENING: Fran M. opened the meeting at 12:15 pm with the Serenity Prayer.
Cathy read the Twelve Traditions.
Millie M. read the page of the day (Nov. 5) from *The Courage to Change*.

INTRODUCTION OF THOSE PRESENT: Almost all the districts were represented

SECRETARY: Fred G. snya_secretary@al-anonny.com

Please email me your reports as soon as possible. A suggestion is to email them to me the night before if possible.

The AWSC recommends to the Assembly the appointment of Peggy C. for Treasurer.

Vote: Yes - 59, No - 0, Abs - 1. **Passed.**

TREASURER: Peggy C. snya_treasurer@al-anonny.com

Checkbook balance as of October 31, 2011: \$7,697.23. Operating balance as of October 31, 2011: \$6,197.23.

Motion 51A/11/01 - Diane made a Motion, seconded by Marlene, to accept Treasury report.

Vote: Yes - 65, No - 0, Abs - 2. **Motion passes.**

AREA CHAIRPERSON: Fran M. snya_chairperson@al-anonny.com

Good morning! Thanks for coming out an hour earlier. We have a lot to accomplish, and I'm confident we can get everything done today.

Thanks to District 29 for Hosting today's meeting. Your efforts are much appreciated.

You won't be seeing that many copies of minutes, agenda, motions, etc. on the side tables. In an effort to save money, we need to cut down on that expense. Please check the website prior to the Assembly or AWSC as everything you need for the meeting will be posted. There will, however, be copies for those who do not have a computer.

As you'll notice on the agenda, I've interspersed the Coordinator's reports throughout the day as was suggested, and I've even reversed the alphabetical order as well. I know many of you were concerned about the meetings lasting so long, and possibly not being able to hear these valuable reports.

Something that has concerned me greatly is that we do not have a newsletter coordinator. Without this position being filled, we are all missing out on valuable information shared by our District Reps, coordinators, liaisons and officers, with each other and especially with our Al-Anon Family Groups. I have Trusted Servant Profiles up here at the desk. Please feel free to fill one out.

One more thing – In the box in the lower right hand corner of the agenda you'll see that I have reserved December 3rd for a Special Assembly to discuss Discovery 2012. I'm hoping that we will have enough time to do this today so that we do not have to hold that special assembly. All I ask is that you please work with me today so that we can move through the agenda as expeditiously as possible.

DELEGATE: Petra L. snya_delegate@al-anonny.com

Handed out Conference Summaries.

Welcome Committee Members, DR's and GR's and all visitors.

- The time has come and WSO has begun posting information about Al-Anon on **Twitter.com and Facebook.com**. On **Twitter**, look for us as "AlAnon WSO". Please note that there is no hyphen in Al-Anon (this omission is due to Twitter's requirements) also, there is an underscore (space) before WSO. Our Twitter page clearly states that anyone, member and non-member alike, is welcome to the information provided there and that following Al-Anon on Twitter should not be interpreted as a statement of Al-Anon membership. Although most Twitter accounts also publish comments by "followers", ours does not-because we would not want to see Al-Anon members make statements there that could break their anonymity. It is a public Website, not a meeting place where Al-Anon members can share with each other in anonymity.

On **Facebook**, look for us as "Al-Anon WSO." We are not accepting any "friends" on Facebook-even though we understand that building up a large bank of friends is a big part of how Facebook usually works. Again, we're sharing information that we hope you will pass on to others, but ask that you not identify yourself as an Al-Anon member on a public website, such as your Facebook page. Also, we would not want someone to look at the WSO's list of friends,

assume that the WSO's friends are Al-Anon members, and then market products or services to this list of Al-Anon "friends".

Instead of becoming a "friend" to follow us, we encourage you to subscribe to updates to the Al-Anon Facebook page via RSS feed. Here's how you do that: After you log in to Facebook, search for "Al-Anon WSO. After you have landed on our Facebook page, please note that the left-hand navigation bar includes an option, "Subscribe via RSS". Once you have done that, look to the RSS feed on your Internet browser; that's where you will be able to find a listing of all the new posts to the Al-Anon WSO Facebook page.

While WSO understands that Al-Anon members "like" Al-Anon, indication on your Facebook page that you "like" Al-Anon could also be understood as a public statement that you are a member. If you have clicked on the "like" options, you can retract that gesture. Please note that the left hand navigation bar, near to the RSS subscription option, includes an option to retract your "liking" Al-Anon.

Thanks to all of you as together we walk this path of network hope, while maintaining our Traditions.

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- In the past year, some Al-Anon groups were invited to share a message with their members, presenting them with an opportunity to participate in a scientific research project that would study some aspects of family recovery from the effects of alcoholism. Following this invitation, some Al-Anon members had questions about Al-Anon's policy of cooperating with—but not affiliating with—researchers.

Al-Anon has cooperated with professionals in the scientific community since it's founding, more than 60 years ago. Our basic public relations policy has always been based on the distinction between attraction and promotion, stated in Tradition Eleven. This distinction is explained at greater length in the Public Relations section of the "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies," on p. 107 in the *2010-2013 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*. Page 107 quotes (in its entirety) a statement first adopted by the sixth World Service Conference in 1966, and reaffirmed by the eleventh World Service Conference in 1971. That statement explains that in working with outside organizations, Al-Anon is better able to "reach many more of those in need." Examples of such outside organizations include alcoholism agencies at every level of local and national government, general hospitals and mental hospitals, doctors, nurses, social workers, and educators. Several years ago, the Policy Committee approved a policy, for internal use, to guide the World Service Office in its interactions with scientific researchers. Since some members have asked about how Al-Anon works with researchers, the Policy Committee voted in July to share this policy more widely, with the fellowship at large. This internal policy document is attached below, for your information.

If you have any further questions about Al-Anon's policies regarding cooperation with the scientific community, please contact the WSO at 757.563.1600 or via e-mail at wso@al-anon.org.

Cooperation with researchers

Policy

Al-Anon cooperates with researchers who are studying the effects of alcoholism as a family disease. Under no circumstances will Al-Anon's Tradition of anonymity be compromised. Outside researchers will not have direct access to Al-Anon's membership information, databases, or mailing lists. Al-Anon will present to members the opportunity to cooperate with researchers, which will be entirely voluntary, at the individual member's discretion. Researchers will never directly solicit members of Al-Anon, either as individuals or members of an Al-Anon group or service arm. While Al-Anon can cooperate with researchers, Al-Anon can never endorse or affiliate with an outside enterprise, or appear to be doing so.

Procedures

The WSO's Information Analyst will act as Al-Anon's liaison with researchers. When researchers request Al-Anon cooperation, the Information Analyst will provide background and explain Al-Anon's approval process. If the researcher decides to request Al-Anon participation in the project, the Information Analyst and other staff will evaluate whether the request is appropriate for further consideration.

If the request is deemed appropriate, it will be forwarded to a work group of two staff and two volunteers, appointed by the Policy Chair. This work group will evaluate whether cooperation with the research project would benefit Al-Anon: scientific studies that document the effectiveness of Al-Anon as a recovery program could increase the credibility and perceived relevance of Al-Anon to a wider cross-section of people in need.

After approval by the work group, the staff will negotiate an agreement with the researcher to define boundaries and determine the scope of Al-Anon's participation in the project.

While Al-Anon respects the independence of the outside researcher, Al-Anon expects researchers to check with Al-Anon on the accuracy about any statement made about the program in general, to request copyright permissions when appropriate, and to share in advance of publication the results of the study. Al-Anon will respect embargo limitations prior to publication and copyright restrictions after publication.

In exchange for participation in the project, Al-Anon expects to cooperate with the researcher to make the results of the study widely available to Al-Anon members and potential members.

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- The revised *Taking a Group Inventory* Guideline has been posted on the Members' Web site. The Guideline was expanded and is now available in parts—G-8a and G-8b. G-8a includes additional questions for all Al-Anon and Alateen groups as well as special sections for Alateens and Alateen Group Sponsors. G-8b includes methods for taking an inventory and a section for reflections as well as a list of additional resources for groups.

- In your handout I attached a sharing sheet for the new working title:
Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships
Please make copies and distribute in your meetings

Thank you for listening and another day of service

ALTERNATE DELEGATE: Michele R. snya_alt_delegate@al-anonny.com

I have started my journey as Alternate Delegate with the following:

(Area Treasury/Budget)

- Added my name to our bank account as an additional 2nd signature
- Arranged for Bank Statements to be sent to my attention for review prior to forwarding to Area Treasurer
- Met with prospective candidate for Area Treasurer to review job responsibilities and accounting procedures. Also established a system to document individual line account expenditures to assist with Treasurer's reports and prepare for budget preparation
- Worked with prospective Area Treasurer to prepare procedure for developing 2012 Proposed Budget
- Arranged for Budget Committee meeting prior to AWSC meeting on 9/18/11
- Drafted 2012 Proposed Budget form for distribution and use at Budget Committee/ AWSC meeting on 9/18/11

(Steering Committee) Met with members of the Steering Committee on 9/3/11 to identify and address issues to be presented and discussed at upcoming AWSC meeting on 9/18/11

(District Meetings)

- Attended District 25/26 GR meeting on 8/8/11 to discuss district challenges and issues. Discussion and brainstorming ways to expand district, encourage members to become GRs in each group, consider possibility of splitting the districts again; involving Dual Members in service; etc
- Discussion with DR from District 10 to plan a Group Inventory for the District with GRs – planning for October/November

(NY Intergroup)

- Met with members of NY Intergroup Board in August. Board is planning a Group Inventory for its members to be facilitated in November/December
- Discussed Intergroup goals and their role in the "Service Arm Structure"

(Group Inventories)

- Dialogues with several different groups about group inventory process and planning
- Scheduled for Group Inventories in Valley Stream in November and in Park Slope in December

(Alternate Delegate Responsibilities and GR Concept Meetings)

- Working on goals for Alternate Delegate position to include outreach to “dark districts” to get them up and running
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AREA ISSUES:

TEAM Event Presentation was given by Delegate, Petra L.

2012 Budget

Michelle proposed the following budget:

Area expenses: \$16,770.00 +Position expenses: \$7,400.00 total expenses = \$24,170.00

Allocations: \$1500.00

After a lengthy discussion, a Motion was made by John M. & seconded by Justin K.:

Motion 51A/11/02: To create an emergency budget through February 2012 based on the actual money that we have on hand & may minimally expect between now and the end of February.

Vote: Yes - 40, No - 19, Abs - 9. **Motion passed**

Temporary Budget

Motion 51A/11/03 - Michelle made a motion, seconded by Veronica, to accept a temporary budget of \$4,000.

Vote: Yes - 51, No - 12, Abs - 2. **Motion passed**

Annual Appeal Letter: John M. proposed new wording for appeal letter.

Motion 51A/11/04 – Michelle R. made a motion, seconded by Petra L., to accept the wording proposed by John M, for the appeal letter.

Vote: Yes - 59, No - 1, Abs - 0. **Motion passes.**

Assembly Dates:

Saturday Feb. 11, 2012; Saturday Mar. 24, 2012; Sunday June 12, 2012; Sunday Oct. 28, 2012.

Motion 51A/11/05: Motion made by Marlene and seconded by Diane to recommend these dates to the Assembly.

Vote: Yes - 69, No - 0, Abs - 1. **Motion passed.**

Steering committee motion: To plan a TEAM event for our Area in November 2012 consisting of a one day service workshop. **This was tabled.**

Centralized Assemblies:

Motion 51A/11/06: Michele made a motion, seconded by Marlene, to continue holding Area Assemblies at a centralized location, namely Maryknoll.

Vote: Yes – 57, No – 6, Abs – 2. **Motion passed.**

Website Coordinator:

AWSC recommends Ann D. for the position of Website Coordinator. Her trusted servant profile was read by Fred. G.

Vote: Yes 57, No 0, Abs 1. **Passed.**

Request for Hosting: There were no volunteers for hosting. We still need hosting for March 24th and Oct. 28th.

Steering Committee Motion from 2006-2007, 2010 and 2011 will be presented at the February 2012 Assembly due to time constraints.

Cancel 2012 Assembly

Motion 51A/11/07: Michelle made a motion seconded by Virginia to cancel the 2012 discovery Convention

Vote: Yes 32, No 12, Abs. 6. **Motion Passed.**

Motion by Steering committee to invite a speaker to talk about service at the beginning of each Assembly will be discussed at February 11th Assembly since we ran out of time.

Coordinator Reports are in alphabetic order in these minutes, even though these reports were dispersed throughout the Assembly and not left to the end as in the past.

COORDINATORS:

ALATEEN COORDINATOR: Sue P. snya_alateen@al-anonny.com

I am pleased to report that we have completed eight AMIAS trainings in 2011! We also have close to 200 certified AMIAS' in Southern New York. I expect to do one or two more trainings before the end of the year. I have reached out to NYC Intergroup to complete a training in NYC but am waiting on a date. New Alateen meetings have opened in District 30 and in Manhattan. Please visit our website and check on the calendar of events for upcoming trainings.

I continue to participate in WSO Alateen Coordinator Conference calls that discuss issues regarding Alateen throughout the country. We are not unique in our challenges in Southern New York. On-line Alateen meetings and are being explored. As an area we can request an online chat meeting for Alateen but I would like to see more physical meetings be established first.

Please remember that where there is no Alateen meeting, the young person is to be welcomed into your Al-Anon meeting. Alateen is Al-Anon is Alateen!

If you need to get in touch with me please email me at: snyalateen@gmail.com

ARCHIVES COORDINATOR: Donna D. snya_archivist@al-anonny.com

DISCOVERY 2011 COORDINATOR: Judy H. snya_discovery@al-anonny.com

Gave report from the minutes of the special Oct. 23 AWSC.

See minutes:

DISCOVERY 2012 COORDINATOR: Jaime H. [no report]

FORUM/LITERATURE COORDINATOR: Veronica E. snya_literature@al-anonny.com

The sample chapter of Al-Anon literature on the member's website (al-anon.org/members) is *In All Our Affairs: Making Crisis Work For You*. It is a great book with sharings on awareness, acceptance, and action.

Since "Healing is in the Sharing" I would like to encourage everyone to submit a personal sharing online at the member's website. Once on the site go to the category "Submit a Personal Sharing" there you can choose to submit a sharing to the Forum or be a part of a new piece of literature. 2011 World Service Conference approved a new piece of literature on intimacy in alcoholic relationships. If you are not sure if you have anything to contribute go in and read the questions they pose. You just might read something that inspires you to submit a sharing.

In case you need a little push to get you to those questions here is an excerpt from the sharing page. "Alcoholism is an illness that warps and seriously damages our ability to form and maintain intimate relationships. In recovery, we find many ways to connect to others, and learn to replace fear of intimacy with a healthy set of boundaries. We hope this piece can reflect the wide variety of experiences our members have faced regarding intimacy, in many different types of relationships. Intimacy takes many forms, including emotional, physical, and spiritual. Sharings do not need to be limited to sexual intimacy. However, we do want this piece to cover issues around sexual intimacy more thoroughly than any other previous Al-Anon literature, without being either too vague or too explicit and offensive."

Also, while you are in the member's website check out the category named "blogs." This is where you can submit a sharing for the Legacy Workbook currently in development. Go into blogs then click on a topic: Using Al-Anon's Steps in our Personal Lives, Traditions Blog, or Concepts Blog. Scroll all the way down to the end of all the comments. You will see a space titled "Leave a Comment" here you will find the writers guidelines and a space for your sharing.

Come on and be a part of the literature! Think of all the times you are reading a piece of literature and you can really identify with the sharing you are reading. Remember how that sharing comforts you. Then give back and submit a sharing so that someone else can be comforted by your words.

GROUP RECORDS COORDINATOR: Sarah L. snya_grouprecords@alanonny.com

72 voting members & 12 visitors

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR: vacant. snya_newsletter@alanonny.com

PO BOX COORDINATOR: Beatriz G. snya_pobox@al-anonny.com [no report]

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Marcia B. snya_public_outreach@al-anonny.com

We were invited to exhibit at the inaugural Behavioral Health Recognition Month Celebration at the Intrepid Sea Air & Space Museum on Sunday, October 9, 2011. We had a booth with a rack of literature and gave out “2011 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism” booklets in English and Spanish. I made many connections to various organizations, hospitals and agencies. Two members from District 29 gave a day of service.

September was Recovery Month. There were several county Rallies going on in New York South:

- Rockland Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse had a Recovery Rally Sept. 17th. District 29 participated at that Rally by having an Al-Anon table. The table included Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism, meeting lists and pamphlets.
- I was able to connect with the Westchester Council who was also planning a Rally that also occurred on Sept 17th. It was Westchester’s first Rally and I was able to get Al-anon members to man a table for that day.
- I also made a connection with the Council in Putnam County. We also had a table with AFA’s and meeting lists there too. A member from Dutchess County is doing that service. Members in Putnam County also helped do this service on Sunday, September 25th.
- I did speak to the Council in Long Island but they said they were not having a Rally. I hope to get members in the Long Island Area to encourage them to consider having a Rally next year.
- The National Recovery Rally was in Philadelphia on Sept. 25th. It was nationally televised. There was a Rally in Albany which I believe New York North participated in.

I want to thank everyone who made a commitment to do service.

There is a women’s prison in Bedford New York. There was a request from an Al-Anon member who wanted to do service at this location. I was able to make the connection and hopefully we will be having an Introductory Meeting, regular meetings and speakers on a continuous basis. My thanks to this Al-Anon member for their idea and their service.

I am planning to make a connection with SENY - AA to have them consider including an Al-Anon Speaker/Alateen Speaker(s) at their group anniversaries. I feel that it is important to educate the AA members about Al-Anon and this is one way we can do it.

I recently met with New York Intergroup in August. We spoke about:

- Planning an outreach meeting with rehabs in NYC
- AA Intergroup: How to work together better: Alateen: 12 step outreach (include Al-Anon members)
- Discussion regarding Spanish AA groups and establishing a outreach to these groups about Spanish Al-Anon Meetings in NYC

During this Assembly I will be handing out 2012 AFAs (Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism). Please distribute them to different locations where you believe prospective members might access them, i.e. therapist’s office, libraries, doctor’s office, laundromats, local jails, rehabs, etc. If you have a local Al-Anon outreach number or card, please put it on the back of the AFA.

I want to establish a Public Outreach Coordinator in each district in our Area. If you feel that you would like to carry the message of Al-Anon in any way, I certainly would love to hear from you. Please carry this message to you GR’s and other members whom you feel might be interested in Public Outreach.

For your information, the following is a memo from the WSO regarding the new web site:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the World Service Office, to inform Past and Current WSC Members of the new look of Al-Anon Family Groups’ Public Outreach Web site. The Web site went live when it was introduced at the 2011 Conference on April 12, 2011.

Visitors to the Public Outreach site can quickly access audio, video, and text. The user-friendly Web site also allows for easy access to meeting locations throughout the U.S. and Canada, which is the main focus of the site—getting newcomers to their first meeting.

A bonus for our members is that they can access the Members’ Web site from the Public Outreach Web site.

<http://www.al-anon.org>

The WSO arranged for a Canadian Al-Anon member to be interviewed by Dr. Gordon Atherley, a retired physician who is the moderator of the talk show "Family Caregivers Unite," a weekly VoiceAmerica Internet radio show.

Dr Atherley's interview of a Canadian Al-Anon member was broadcast on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 10 A.M. ET or PT on the "VoiceAmerica Variety Channel Web site. To listen to this interview,

- 1) Visit <http://www.voiceamerica.com/show/1669/family-caregivers-unite>
- 2) It is necessary to create an account to listen to the radio show. Click on the link marked "register" in the upper right hand corner of the Web site page.
- 3) After registering, click on the link to the "Family Caregiver Unite" radio show. Then, click on the link for July 5, 2011 radio show.
- 4) The radio interview will be archived as a podcast on the VoiceAmerica Web site after it is broadcast.

The Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. (World Service Office) neither endorses, opposes, nor is affiliated with any outside entity. Whenever possible, the WSO cooperates with professionals, organizations and the media on a national level. This greatly increases the ability of Al-Anon's message of hope to reach many more families of alcoholics, the professionals who provide services to them, and educates the general public.

The above information is being distributed by the WSO to the fellowship in keeping with the World Service Conference Approved policy appearing in the 2010-2013 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual in the Policy Digest section under the 'National Publicity' heading on page 108:

"Whenever national publicity on Al-Anon/Alateen may be of interest to local groups, they are, if possible, notified in advance by the WSO."

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Ann D. snya_website@al-anonny.com [No report]

LIAISONS:

SENY/AA- AL-ANON - Carmen I. – snya_SENYliaison@al-anonny.com I started attending the planning committee meetings for the 2011 New York State AA convention on Jan. 15, 2001 at the SENY Headquarters in the Bronx. I attended 8 monthly meetings plus two more at the Marriot.

The English meetings were well attended. Thanks to all who spoke at the Al-Anon meetings. Thanks to the groups that donated literature. thanks to Donna D. who brought our Archives and spoke at the opening meeting. Thanks to Ellen for setting up the Alateen Literature.

I have suggestions for the next SENY Liason.

The alanonny.org website home page was printed & put on the literature table.

GREATER NY INTERGROUP: John M. snya_NYintergroup@al-anonny.com

HISPANIC/SPANISH INTERGROUP - Margarita H.

ROCKLAND AIS- [not present] snya_rocklandAIS@al-anonny.com

WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM AL-ANON – Cathy M snya_West.PutnAIS@al-anonny.com

AIS met on 9/26/11; the Treasury and Secretary positions were filled. Currently still looking to fill Chairperson position. The committee is considering a Spring 2012 workshop. The plan will be discussed at the December meeting. The committee agreed to a new recording on the phone system which will better service newcomers. It is currently up and running.

The next Westchester/Putnam AIS meeting is 12/19/11 at 7:30pm at the First Baptist Church, 456 North St. (at Bryant Ave.) Wilson Hall, White Plains, NY 10605. All are welcome! Come join us for fellowship and service!

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy M. cathymulv@aol.com

Al-Anon Information Service of Westchester/Putnam County
P.O. Box 868, White Plains, NY 10602-0868
www.hudsonestuarvalanon.org
Phone 914-946-1748

ALISON - Marlene L – snya_alison@al-anonny.com

Speakers Exchange

Wednesday, December 7, 2011: 8:15 PM

Church of the Advent
Winthrop Hall – Advent Avenue
Westbury, NY 11590

ALISON Board 2012 - Positions Vacant

Vice Chair

(Without a Vice Chairperson, Alison will not have their annual workshop in the fall.)

Treasurer

Corresponding Secretary

ALISON Quarterly Meeting - First Quarter 2012

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 Sign In: 7:45 PM - Meeting: 8:00 PM

Church of the Advent
Winthrop Hall – Advent Avenue
Westbury, Long Island, NY 11590

All Alternate Group Representatives are expected to attend.

It is important that all Groups be represented.

Please be sure your Group sends someone to represent you !

A New Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

"How Al-Anon Works"

Sundays 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Syosset Community Church

35 Church Street

Syosset NY 11791

(Corner of Church Street, between Berry Hill Road and Split Rock Road)

Meetings held at the Atrium Community Building, Lower Level

Come and Join Us For Great Meetings!

ADJOURNEMENT: Closed with the Al-Anon Declaration at 5:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Fred G.

Secretary