**PO Minutes for ZOOM Meeting of October 2, 2023 @ 5pm**

**Attendees:** John, Joy, Nell, Margaret, Susan B, Janet O, Jennifer, Laura, Linda, Marian, Jan, and Cathy

**Opening**: Serenity prayer led by Jenny.

**Minutes:** Cathy submitted the minutes from the September meeting; no changes.

**Treatment Centers** **and Event Happenings**

* Joy – no new treatment center info has been shared with her. Joy met with Nell in Troy and heard someone speak of the DART organization. DART will be part of the Teen Summitt soon; this would be a great organization to follow-up with on their activities.
* Margaret – continues with PO at Bridgeway (Women’s Facility in St. Charles) as well as Harris House via ZOOM; most volunteer hours are filled. Plans to reach out to Carly at HH to see how the Keeley presentation went. Attendance is low at Bridgeway. Janet shared a D13 meeting had a newcomer who was referred to them from a first time meeting at Harris House. Yay!
* Linda - October 14 -there is a health fair at College United Methodist Church.

**Budget:**

* Balance: only spent $159 total to date. October expenses unknown at this time

**Digital:**

* John – AIS office is trying to get technology updates done at the office. Shared that several Board members will be cycling off the Board in November and he welcomes anyone to be a part of the Board. John will be leaving his VP position in November. Jan recommended to all of the need to consider a Board position; it’s a very worthwhile experience.

. **Old Business:**

* Library project -Cathy has heard from several members regarding the library inventory but more input is still needed. Discussion on what to donate or what the committee could suggest to libraries for purchase; most common book recommended for donation is *How Al-Anon Works.* Another possibility is to donate books to social workers or counselors at high schools.
* Discussion raised by Janet that some libraries do not take donations of books; Margaret has had the same experience at a St. Charles County library. Suggestion made to contact social work schools (Washington U and UMSL) to see if they would accept donated Al-Anon info.
* Nell shared that many library search systems (including Evergreen Library System) are interconnected. The requested book might not be at a particular library but can be requested to be delivered to an individual at a different. Cathy suggested that we continue with the inventory but also ask the library how we would be able to get info to the library either by PO request or donation.
* Nell shared one of the libraries has a” book box “ where donated books can be placed; she will research this more and report back to the group. Linda shared that her district continues to give Forum subscriptions to particular libraries as part of her district outreach.
* Sue shared the need to establish a relationship at a library to get more information and this might be the key to getting books in the library.
* Jenny has started research with D15 libraries and Cathy clarified what type of books to look for at the libraries; may enter the general word Al-Anon as a search when working on the inventory.

**New Business and Updates**

* Jenny shared on the RecoveryFest StL (at Kirkwood Park). Very thankful for volunteers but may only need two workers per shift rather than three for next year. Distributed $54 worth of literature. Suggestion made to not schedule the festival on Al-Anon Convention day. Jenny questioned the possible need to cover the cost of the space at the Festival. Although there was no charge to participate in the Festival , Sue B mentioned that some events do charge an entry as recently her district paid $75 to rent space at a health fair as well as paying for an ad in the advertising paper for the event which is the *Leader.*
* Nell reminded the group that according to the Traditions, Al-Anon is providing free literature and this is what brings people to the tables.
* Always good to have business cards at any outreach event. There are extra business cards at the AIS office for members to use.
* Margaret had a PO event at YMCA for seniors which was a good turnout; approx. 50 people in attendance. She was very busy as this was the same day of the Fall Classic. She reports once the FC was setup, all went well. The trifold literature holder as well as ink pens were in demand.
* Faith Church sponsored a “Stomp Out Addiction” walk. Sue B made her own trifold of Al-Anon literature and was able to use the suitcase w/tablecloth; event went well.
* Joy recommends finding “provider” meetings such as the ones in Nell and Linda’s District where providers (schools, police, ambulance companies) come together and share info about their organization. There is a providers meeting in Franklin County. Joy recommended checking with your local health department for their meetings; perhaps you could provide information. Every county usually has provider meetings so check it out; lots of good connections.
* John shared the new informational Al-Anon trifold is coming out soon and hopefully QR code will be listed on the back side.
* Regarding the Library Inventory: continue with research and hopefully in early 2024 the group will have a better idea of the needs at local libraries.
* Cathy questions: If PO has an excess $$ balance at the end of the year, what could be purchased or distributed by PO? Suggestions? Please share your ideas with Cathy or the AIS office.
* Cathy will check poster/flyers inventory also business cards. Is there a foldable table for use at PO events as well as a canopy?
* Joy has a new PO committee representing D28. It will hopefully be led by two individuals, Lisa and another individual unnamed at this point. Joy will continue to work with these individuals.
* Jan will be the contact person for PO while Cathy is out with surgery. Thanks Jan!

**Upcoming Events:**

* Margaret: Domestic Violence Awareness Rally on October 21st. She made a connection with this group and is awaiting info as this will be in D14. Permission was given for an Al-Anon PO table.
* CRUSH event is in Franklin County on October 17th.
* Health Fair: At a school in D10 sponsored by Shalom. Cathy was made aware of this by a Board member and will forward the info to Marian for a possible PO literature table.
* Linda suggested placing posters/flyers/pens at your local UPS store or similar shops. Linda does this at a local GO postal office.

**Closing:** Nell led all in the Serenity prayer.

Next meeting is November 6, 2023 at 5pm.