

Intergroup Representatives (IR) Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom at 7:02 pm and chaired by Blake R.-President. Other Board members present were: John-Vice President, Barry R.-Treasurer, Mary Kay H.-Secretary, Linda W.-Board member and AIS Office Liaison, and board members Barbara B.S., Christine M.R. and Jan McD. Susan C.- AIS Office Staff, Lori Hassler-Missouri Area Delegate and Mary R.-Missouri Area AIS Liaison also attended.

1. & 2. Opening-Blake called the meeting to order with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer and the short reading of Tradition 12.
3. Introductions- Guests & New IR Members Only-There were 30 members present including 8 Board members, 16 IRs (1 new IR from District 2), 2 visitors and 1 unregistered electronic meeting.
 - a. Mary R.-New Missouri Area AIS Liaison-Blake introduced Mary R. and reported that she volunteered for this position and will be attending the IR meetings. Mary reported that is the outgoing District Rep. for District 15.
4. Secretary Report - QUESTIONS/APPROVAL- Minutes from October IR meeting were sent in packet. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Treasurer report-Barry provided the treasurer report and following summary:
 - Overall, the month of October produced a distorted result due to Literature Expenses, with a Net Operating Deficit of [\$2,969]. YTD was a Deficit of \$[797].
 - On a cash flow basis, Literature Sales were \$1,887 [versus budgeted average of \$1,416]. Group Contributions were about at the average at \$2,041. Miscellaneous Contributions, Fundraising Revenue and the Sustaining Support Campaign were below what has been budgeted on average.
 - Total Revenue was \$4,668 versus a budgeted average of \$5,325.
 - Monthly Expenses, at \$7,637, were \$2,140 above the budgeted average of \$5,497. Literature expenditures of \$3009 were above the budgeted average of \$917. We all know that there has been distorted supply and demand issues surrounding literature ordering and sales.
 - Total cash in checking was \$3,452. Total Cash and Reserves were \$58,083.
 - The previously approved drawdown of \$5,000 is still only half drawn.The treasurer report was unanimously approved.

Barry asked the IRs to stress the idea that as the year end approaches one way to give is a tax-deduction contribution. Contact the AIS Office with any questions about how to do that.

Blake added the guidelines are to have at least one year of expenses in reserves.

6. Public Outreach Committee Report-John reported that part of his role is to be a liaison and the positive movement is something to get excited about and the number of people joining the committee. There is another new member on the Committee and he is helping with technical matters they want to do. The big push is sending packets to treatment centers and educational facilities (colleges and high school counselors) and they are fine tuning that project. They have some activity going into correction institutions and police districts. One positive is that District 14 raised enough funds with a little help from Public Outreach to have their own billboard for a month. They are getting ideas weekly and fine tuning the public outreach suitcase that can be taken to events. They are also looking into momentum for more Alateen meetings and more outreach on the Alateen level. He finalized with a request for more volunteers who can help with face-to-face events or other opportunities.

Blake complimented the committee on their work. Heidi M. asked if outreach is being done at probation and parole meetings and John responded that they are attending at the location on Jefferson. He added that they are open to outreach at any level whether it be to drop off packets or speak at a meeting.

7. QUESTIONS-After Hours, Office & Website Written Reports –

Blake asked Linda to provide more details about the Website Design attachment. Linda reported that the AIS staff and the new Webmaster met on a Saturday and in four hours came up with a new website design; it is outlined in the attachment. She believes it is cleaner, easier to use and better organized and they are hoping to not repeat information from Missouri Area or WSO; they will simply provide links to that information.

Linda asked that if anyone sees something to add or subtract to please contact Linda or the AIS Office and they will take ideas into consideration. There is no target implementation at this time.

Susan added that on March 4th there will be an AA/Al-Anon event and they are asking for baskets. They also sell jewelry and will take any used and even broken jewelry which can be bagged together and used for crafts.

AIS Office Report

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE-Wednesday Dec. 21st 3-7 pm See Flyer in Dec. SA

HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Sunday Dec. 25th. Closing early (3 pm) on Friday the 23rd, Closed Monday December 26th

New Years Day Sunday Jan. 1st. Closing early (3 pm) on Friday the 30th, Closed Monday January 1st.

Newest Volunteer to AIS

On behalf of the St. Louis AIS Office and AFG-STL Board of Directors, I am pleased to inform you that Mary R., the Panel 60 District 15 DR, has volunteered to be the Missouri Area AIS Liaison-St. Louis effective immediately. Welcome Mary!

Meeting Updates for the Holidays

The Sunday Serenity meeting, which normally meets at 6:30 PM on Sundays at Kirkwood United Methodist Church, will be Zoom only on Christmas (12/25/2022) and New Year's Day (1/1/2023). The Church is closed in the afternoon and evening both of those days due to the holidays.

Dreams Become Reality at Kirkwood United Methodist Church Sunday at 6:30pm is not meeting on Christmas and New Year's Eve.

My Journey Journals

Journals are \$12.00 each. These make great presents and are easy to mail.

Meeting Updates

Please let the office know of any change to your meetings by emailing the new information to asioffice@stl-AI-Anon.org

Sincerely AI-Anon

If members would like to write an article or include an event in the Sincerely AI-Anon please send to the AIS Office by the 15th of each month. Please ask your group members to sign-up for our newsletter at www.stl-al-anon.org.

Newcomer Packets

The AIS Office has given out 4 newcomer packets for the month of November. Included in the regular NC packets were 1 Parent Newcomer packet and 1 Alateen Packet. With each phone call or walk in we have wonderful chats about the AI-Anon program. Thank you to our many volunteers who when needed call the newcomers.

Website

The office staff, Linda W. Board Liaison and our new webmaster Stephanie U. meet for four hours and discussed the change we wanted for the website. Attached is the suggested we discussed.

In Service, Susan C.

AIS Office November Sales and Website Report.

Website

1. AIS Office Staff continues to make updates to events, flyers, and web store.
2. All literature currently in stock except for B-7 Lois Remembers and P-72 Alateen Talks Back on Detachment
3. **AIS Staff met with new webmaster Stephanie U.**

Web Activity

4. 3016 views from 1338 people
5. 237.95 sales from 10 orders

Total AIS Sales

1. 81 Total Orders and contributions \$4,541.65
2. Top Book Sales: 25 How Al-Anon Works, 82 Newcomers Packets, 66 Just For Today, 62 Detachment

Joe O., Office Staff

After Hours Answering Service-There was no report provided.

8. Old Business:
 - a. Outreach-Police Precinct-Blake reported that he is on a holding pattern until the business cards are printed. **Topic tabled.**
 - b. Unregistered Online Meeting Groups-Blake welcomed Lori Hassler, Missouri Area Delegate who provided an update following the recent Missouri Assembly. She reported that she was chairperson for a 5-person task force to come up with a procedure for how the Missouri Area is going to accept Permanent Electronic Groups (PEGs) so they have access to Missouri's service structure. She provided several difference scenarios and will write up an article for the Sincerely Al-Anon to further explain.
 - If a group is registered as a face-to-face meeting prior to the pandemic, and the group met electronically during that time, and now returned to face-to-face, there is nothing they need to do. The group will continue to be registered in Missouri.
 - The group is registered as a face-to-face group, the pandemic occurred and decided to meet electronically, but now the group is choosing to meet face-to-face and electronically at the time, the group still does not need to do anything. Missouri Area is asking that the group contact the AIS Office to be sure the dual information is listed.
 - If the group registered with WSO as a face-to-face group but during the pandemic decided to meet electronically. Then the electronic group decided to remain electronic, with no face-to-face component, make sure to notify the WSO of intention to remain as a electronic group and the group will remain in the Missouri Area.
 - The group is registered as face-to-face but during the pandemic the group met electronically and, after a group conscience, the group returned face-to-face and electronically. But the electronic portion now meets at a different time as a separate meeting; the face-to-face portion will remain with WSO. The group that split into the electronic portion will need to register as a separate WSO PEG group. The PEG will also need to notify WSO that it wishes to remain in the Missouri Area. If a Group Rep (GR) is elected and if the district the group is put in does not have electronic access for the district meeting, the GR will need to attend in-person. The Missouri Assembly will have an electronic access so the GR can attend Assembly.

She then reviewed the Motion procedure that was shared in the December Sincerely Al-Anon. She added that the PEG GR can only be a GR for one group. Group Records and the AIS Office should be notified of any changes. A PEG can request a specific District to be in.

A future goal for Missouri is to set up a Permanent Electronic District, but this is too early in the process. It depends on how many PEGs register to be in the Missouri Area. Missouri Area has always been bound by a geographic area and will accept PEGs from another Area. A district is bound by a geographic area so a GR will need to attend district meetings. This is new concept and motions can be changed in the future. She added that they need questions in order to develop procedures in a way that will eventually work. The focus is that people have access to business meetings.

WSO is looking at this as a five year trial implementation and then will provide guidelines. Developing the Permanent Electronic Group Area is completed and they want to be all inclusive. Missouri is working to accept all group types: face-to-face, electronic and hybrid.

John asked how contributions for electronic groups should be handled. Lori responded that each group is autonomous to figure out how to accept contributions. Missouri is working with PayPal, checks and cash. At the WSO level, they accept contributions on their website.

- c. St. Louis Al-Anon: Goals/Objectives for 2023-Blake asked for comments on this topic. Judy from District 2 reported that their group has been successful putting Al-Anon information in the Little Free Libraries.

Keith asked about how to effectively communicate what is going on in community outreach to his group. He is looking how to be provide a more sense of engagement instead of simply reporting.

10. New Business:

- a. Alateen Update/Information-Blake read from the Board meeting minutes where Lisa G., Panel 60 Alateen AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person) and Panel 63 Alateen Coordinator provided about Alateen. Lisa stated that there are guidelines in the Missouri Procedures Digest. Lisa stated that if anyone is interested in Alateen service she can be contacted because she is the AAPP. She explained that there is an Alateen page on the Missouri website: Missouri-al-anon.org under the Member tab. Members do need to have a background screening through the Family Care Safety Registry of Missouri. There is a one-time registration fee of \$14 which can be reimbursed by the group, district or Area. This is an online only process to become an AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen Service) and information is sent via an encrypted email that only the person asking for it can open. Once the screening is received that, along with the forms, can be

sent to Lisa for processing. On January 1st, the new AAPP will be Elaine M. but Lisa could still be contacted because she will be training Elaine on the process.

Lisa explained that an AMIAS could serve in several situations: helping in an Alateen meeting, transporting a teen, 2 hours shift of serenity patrol at an overnight Area event; two AMIAS adults are always required. An AMIAS does not sponsor a teen; they sponsor each other.

It is recommended to present this information to members and ask them to consider being a certified AMIAS. There will be an article in the Sincerely AI-Anon. One of the biggest challenges is finding teens to attend a meeting so please ask members if they are aware of any teens to attend a meeting. Anyone interested should **contact Lisa at: area31aapp60@gmail.com.**

- b. FYI-Board Officer for 2023-Blake reported that he will remain as the President; John Y. will continue as Vice President; Barry R. will remain as Treasurer. Mary Kay will leave her Secretary position and Barb B.S. will be the new Secretary. Jan McD. Offered to be a back-up when Barb is unavailable. Linda W. will continue as AIS Office Liaison. Christine M.R. is another Board member.

11. Open Sharing:

- a. Paula B. from District 9 reminded members to attend the Winter Workshop “Unity Through Traditions” on January 6-7 at Arlington United Methodist Church. They will provide box lunches for those who sign up when registering. There will be a basket raffle; if groups would like to donate a basket or donate money, there is someone who will pick it up. More information is in the Sincerely AI-Anon.
- b. Heidi M. inquired about the Sustaining Campaign and asked if there was a certain time frame to announce. Barry responded that it is when a group wants and is geared more to individuals. He provided an example that if \$100 was contributed from each group attending the IR meeting the deficit for the year would be covered.
- c. Donna H. thanked the officers for returning to serve.

- 12. Meeting Close-The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm with the Serenity Prayer followed by the AI-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kay H., AFG STL Board Secretary