

Intergroup Representatives (IR) Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom commencing at approximately 7:00 PM and chaired by Blake R., President., Other Board members present were: Barry R., Treasurer , Barb BS, Secretary and Linda W, Board Member and Office Liaison. Susan C., AIS office staff, was also in attendance.

- 1) **Opening:** Blake opened the meeting with a cleansing breath/moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer and a short reading of Tradition 7.
- 2) **Attendance:** There were 27 members present including 4 board members, one AIS staff member, and 22 IR's, including 2 new IR's and 2 alternate IR's.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report** - The following treasurer's report was provided to the IR's in an email sent before the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT – AFG OF STL

As of May 31, 2023

Submitted by Barry Russell, Treasurer

For July 6, 2023 IR Council Meeting

Month of May 2023

1. Overall, the month of May 2023 produced **Total Revenue** of \$7,629 versus the 2023 budgeted average of \$5,693. **Net Operating Surplus** was \$1,651, and the YTD result was a \$6,760 Surplus.
2. On a cash flow basis, Literature Sales were \$3,329 [versus 2023 budgeted average of \$1,833].
3. Group Contributions were \$1,775 [versus the 2023 budgeted average at \$2,108]. Miscellaneous Contributions of \$2,091 were above our average 2023 monthly expectations of \$1,108.
4. **Monthly Expenses**, at \$5,978, were just above the 2023 budgeted average of \$5,688.
5. Literature expenditures of \$1,469 were slightly above the 2023 budgeted monthly average of \$1,417.

6. Higher Miscellaneous Contributions and Literature Sales made the difference in May. Our YTD Surplus of \$6,760 compared to 2022 YTD of (\$1,999) is a good place to be. That is a \$8,759 Variance in favor of 2023.
7. **Total cash in checking** was \$7,673. Total Cash and Reserves were \$62,026. Note the value of the reserves has declined due to interest rate market reactions.
8. A word of caution, preliminary results for June 2023 show a less favorable result.
9. The previously approved drawdown of \$5,000 has \$2,000 left undrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Barry Russell, Treasurer

Blake commented that we were looking pretty good to date, but we may have to see how we do in the upcoming months. If we are doing well at the end of the year we may be able to put all or some of the money we took out of our reserve back in.

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

4) **June IR Meeting Minutes -**

The minutes from the June, 2023 IR Meeting were unanimously approved.

5) **Public Outreach** - In John Y's absence, Barb shared the information John provided at the July board meeting last week:

John reported that the last PO meeting had light attendance. There's been a redistricting combining districts 9 & 10. There has been some follow up with some of the outreach projects including the crime victims center. They are going to skip the July meeting because it falls on July 3rd. They will reconvene August 7th. There is a lot of activity going on and they are doing better tracking it. Joy spoke at the last IR meeting. Cathy W and Blake discussed how more tracking could take place of activity at all levels so we can keep track of what's going on. John said that most districts as far as he is aware don't have specific outreach committees, but that there is a lot of activity going on.

Susan C reported that she emailed all the DR's offering them 100 free business cards - some have come in and picked them up. We've received a few "cold calls" for cards which we have accommodated.

Blake added that Cathy W who leads our public outreach has been trying to determine how we can track everything that is going on from a Public Outreach perspective at all levels (group/district/AIS). Plan is to have an event log so we can keep track and make sure activities aren't overlapping/scheduled at the same date and to share information.

Debbie mentioned that she heard that five STL County Library branches in low income areas are going to employ full time social workers to help people with housing and other issues. This may be an outreach opportunity for Al-Anon. She didn't know which specific libraries were involved. Discussion took place regarding what Al-Anon could provide. Susan C said that information/pamphlets could be sent out if she is provided with contact information (name and number) after asking individual districts first if they'd like to provide the information.

6) After Hours and Office Reports -

The following report was sent to the IR's prior to the meeting via email:

AIS IR Office Report JULY 2023*

Central Services Ted Drew's Ice Cream Social

Sunday August 20th 2023

14 Sunnen Dr. Suite 144 Maplewood, MO.

1-4 pm.

Mo. Area Al-Anon History Displays

Showing of The Story of Father Dowling and the men and women who brought A.A. to St. Louis and the Eastern Area of MO. 1:30 & 3:00 pm

We hope to meet our members at this event.

Answering Service Report

The Answering Service had 1 call in June. A counseling student given an assignment to attend Al Anon meeting.

Are you looking for a Service Commitment?

Peggy has informed the Answering Service volunteers and AIS Board that it is time for her to pass the Coordinator baton to someone else. She has been doing this for over 5 years and, as we know, it is meant to be shared not kept.

If you are looking for a service commitment, please call the AIS office for more information.

314-645-1572

Thank you, Peggy, for your service to the Office and all members of Al-Anon.

AIS Office JUNE Sales and Website Report

Web Activity

1,299 viewers. 9 web orders.

AIS Office Sales

73 Total

Joe O. AIS Staff Member

Newcomer Packets

The Office now has a Welcome to Al-Anon Email. Please let your groups (especially our Zoom meetings) know of our new guidelines. 12 emails went out to NC's for the month of June. Only one NC packets was given out in-person in June.

Meeting Updates

Please let the office know of any change to your meetings by emailing the new information to aisoffice@stl-al-anon.org

To get the meeting changes in the weekly updates it is best to get the information to the office by Monday 9am.

Sincerely Al-Anon

Please ask your group members to sign-up for our newsletter at www.stl-al-anon.org.

My Journey Journals

Journals are \$12.00 each.

Events

We love to post Al-Anon events!!

Spanish Speaking Volunteers

We are looking for Spanish speaking volunteers. We only have two: one female and one male.
In Service,
Susan C.

One IR asked a question regarding the new IR email. Susan provided information about what is included in the email including information about Al-Anon, links and free downloads. The email will be sent to a new IR unless they don't have email - then paper information can be sent out.

7) New Business:

Board Terms - all current 6 board members have agreed to stay through the end of 2024, and those holding officer positions (with the exception of John Y, VP) have agreed to maintain those positions. John Y will still serve as a board member at large. Our bylaws indicate that we can have up to nine board members so we are looking to recruit up to 3 new board members including someone who is willing to serve as VP. The VP role also includes serving as the Public Outreach Committee liaison. Blake told the IR's

if they were interested to let the AIS office know. He asked that all IR's bring this up in their groups. Time commitment is approximately four hours per month.

STL AIS Office Service Review - Blake asked if the AIS Office should be offering any services or stop offering any services or doing anything differently to better serve members and the Al-Anon community. The Board has discussed previously how many members don't understand what the AIS office does. The main services AIS provides are listed at the top of the brochure outlining the AIS Office Sustaining Support Campaign. Linda read those services as follows:

- Services provided by AIS Office include:
 - 1) Answers inquiries from those seeking help (including after hours)
 - 2) Provides public outreach
 - 3) Information exchange hub for all regional groups
 - 4) Maintains supply of Conference Approved Literature (CAL) for sale
 - 5) Publishes monthly newsletter ***Sincerely Al-Anon***
 - 6) Maintains website: www.stl-al-anon.org with updated list of meetings
 - 7) Maintains a speakers bureau
 - 8) Staffs office with regular business hours M-F

Linda W suggested that the AIS office could act as a clearinghouse for district/group activities to make sure we aren't overlapping.

Renee thanked the AIS office for their assistance with getting her group registered as an electronic only group. Susan spoke about the importance of having a place for folks to call. One IR asked about the sustaining support campaign envelopes, and discussion took place about how groups passed this around. One IR said that she only passes it around for a three week period quarterly (as voted on in her group's group conscience meeting).

Blake asked that members think about this issue before the next IR meeting and try to come up with ideas about beneficial services that the AIS office could provide apart from what is already provided or about whether we should be doing anything differently.

8) Open Sharing: One IR asked about the new reader from the WSO. It is supposed to arrive at the AIS office on 7/8. It will cost \$17 and is called "A Little Time for Myself." Susan said that members can call the office and reserve a copy.

9) **Close** - Serenity Prayer and Al-Anon Declaration.

- Next meeting is Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Respectfully submitted, Barb BS, Secretary

