

Intergroup Representatives (IR) Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom at 7 pm and chaired by Bill B., Board President. Other Board members present were: Blake R.-Vice President, Annette K.-Treasurer, Mary Kay H.-Secretary, Board members Linda W-AIS Office Liaison and Abby S.-Public Outreach Chair. Also present were Susan C.- AIS Office, Chris E.-Website Chair, Peggy B.-Answering Service Chair and Lynn M., prospective Board member.

I. Opening with The Serenity Prayer.

II. Concept 8 was read.

III. Introductions-There were 33 members present including 23 IRs or subs.

IV. Announcements/upcoming events-There were attachments sent out with the IR meeting reminder.

V. Secretary Report-July Meeting Minutes were emailed prior to the meeting, reviewed and approved unanimously. It was pointed out that the document showed Meeting Agenda instead of Minutes; that has been corrected.

VI. Treasurer Report-The Treasurer Reports were emailed prior to the meeting. Annette K. reported that for the month of June shows negative \$2,039 and for year-to-date for June there is a surplus of \$620. The Lois Campaign contributions thru June are \$5,310 and have spent \$2,900 on billboard payments. Another \$2,900 was paid in July for billboard payments, but there is \$1,600 in the budget for Public Outreach. The treasurer report was approved unanimously.

VII. After Hours Phone Answering Report-Peggy B. reported that there was one (1) call for June looking for an Alateen meeting and one (1) call in July looking for a weekend meeting. Both calls were responded to.

VIII. Website Report-Chris E stated that there were 1,078 users in July. Bill added that last month there were about 1,500 users and questioned the impact of the billboards. Bill later stated that new members should be asked how they found out about Al-Anon which will help determine the usefulness of the billboards.

Bill B. reported that the Website Committee is being rebooted and hopes to meet in September via Zoom. He stated that the presentation, not the content, needs review. He asked for members who might be interested to contact the AIS Office. **Topic tabled.**

IX. Office Report-Susan C. reported that the building is now open to the public for literature sales only and masks are still required to enter. The Office is continuing to sell literature via USPS by calling the office or purchasing from the website, www.stl-al-anon.org. Books are back in stock, except Alateen Courage To Be Me.

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The Office has given out 26 newcomer packets in the month of July. When asked the question ‘How did you hear about Al-Anon?’ Responses have been: therapist, relative in AA or AFG, AFG Member, and Website and one from Billboard.

Meeting updates or changes should be submitted by email so the website meetings are accurate.

From the Missouri Area: 2021 Missouri Al-Anon/Alateen Convention has moved from Hybrid to Zoom only. To register to attend on Zoom, follow this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuceChqzovHdxNZhvLj_F_bWh5TgYDjv1q

The next staff meeting is August 12th.

X. Outreach Report-Abby S. shared information about the billboard contracts. The digital billboard lapsed on July 25 and the static billboard contract will lapse on August 22, but there is no concern. The Warrenton area billboard contract is for six months and expires on November 26. The billboard costs totaled \$6,700 and the Happy Birthday Lois Campaign contributions were \$5,360. So if the billboards are to continue additional contributions are needed.

Bill B. asked if there is a PDF for the posters so members can print. Abby recommended that members find posters on the WSO website download and print. She provided Joy W.’s contact information.

XI. Old Business:

a. Journal Fundraiser Update-Patty S. reported that there about 152 journals left for sale. There were 828 sold. She added that the bid she received on July 13 will only last one month and it was for \$5 per book. It takes about 10 days to print, but the price could increase if ordered later. It took one year to sell what was previously order. There was a discussion regarding reprinting and the decision is to wait until there are more in-person meetings. Patty S. suggested waiting until another year with a new format. Bill B. motioned to not reorder and it was unanimously approved.

b. Excess Reserves-Bill B. stated that the \$10,000 in reserves exceeds what is needed to meet budget. There was discussion on how to use the reserves. Patty S. recommended mailing newcomers the book “How Al-Anon Works”. Kristen M. suggested waiving the shipping cost for members ordering books. Several members shared that their groups provide books to newcomers. Bill B. made a motion to move \$5,000 to Public Outreach for the Committee to determine the need. He added that Joy W. mentioned that a new meeting may be starting in Warren County so possibly \$500 could be used to help.

c. Flo W. is our volunteer for Intergroup Committee Chairperson as Liaison and report at AWSC (Area Wide Service Conference) meetings-She will receive a report from the AIS Office.

Secretary Note: AWSC is Area Wide Service Committee.

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d. Zoom meeting specifically for introducing people to Al-Anon-Bill B. asked for input on this idea. Shari C. and Kristen M. reported that there is a Zoom newcomer meeting on Mondays and posted on the website. Others shared that their groups have in-person newcomer meetings. The decision was to not pursue.

e. We need 4 new board members-Bill B. stated that 3 members are rotating out in October and we currently have 6 of the 7 required positions filled now. **Topic tabled.**

Bill introduced Lynn M. who expressed an interest in joining the Board. The vote, with one abstention, was to approve Lynn M. as a Board member to begin in October.

XII. New Business:

a. Revamping Sincerely Al-Anon: Publishing monthly totals-since June was light, as a means of getting more contributions. This month group names and amounts were excluded.-Due to time constraints, this was not discussed. **Topic tabled.**

b. Need a new part-time staff employee. Duties to include writing articles and publishing the Sincerely Al-Anon, as well as filling in at the AIS Office as needed when staff need time off.-Bill B. reported that a member is currently paid to publish the Sincerely Al-Anon but the intent was not to do this permanently. Members were asked to share this information and if anyone is interested to contact the AIS Office.

XIII. Open Sharing: None.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Al-Anon Declaration.

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