

Intergroup Representatives (IR) Meeting Minutes
July 1, 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, and Board Member Linda W-Office Liaison. Also present were Susan C. and Brenda F.-AIS Office, and Joy W.-Public Outreach.

I. Opening with The Serenity Prayer.

II. Concept 7 was read.

III. Introductions-There were 26 members present including 19 IRs or subs and 2 visitors.

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

V. Secretary Report-June Meeting Minutes were emailed prior to the meeting, reviewed and approved unanimously.

VI. Treasurer Report-The Treasurer Reports were emailed prior to the meeting. Annette K. reported that for the year through May, there is a surplus of \$2,659. The Lois Campaign contributions are on a separate line and only paid \$800 for a billboard payment. The cash balance at the beginning of the year was \$74,400 and we determined the 5-year average expenses were \$63,390 so we need to maintain that amount as a prudent reserve. The excess is around \$10,000.

Initially there was a six month budget prepared so by end of May revenue exceeded the budget. The projected budget for the 12 months of 2021 was presented. The expense of printing additional Journals was not included in the budget. The treasurer reports and budget were approved unanimously.

VII. After Hours Phone Answering Report-Paula B. reported on behalf of Peggy B. that there was one (1) call for June looking for meetings.

VIII. Website Report-Bill B. presented that there was a significant increase to the website with over 1,500 users. The pages views were 1,900: My Journey Journal store over 200; Events 83, Sincerely Al-Anon and Office Announcements 74, Store and New to Al-Anon was 39 people. Compared to 2019 the traffic has doubled.

Bill reported that the Website Committee will be rebooted to determine how to improve the website. He requested that IRs notify him if any members are interested in joining the Website Committee. It will probably be a quarterly meeting via Zoom. He will be on the Committee.

IX. Office Report-Susan C. reported that the building is now open to the public for literature sales only, masks are still required to enter the bookstore, and are continuing to sell literature. Call-in or online orders are being sent via USPS. Members can call the office or purchase from the website, www.stl-al-anon.org.

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Many books are still out of stock on the WSO website which does affect the books available in the AIS Office so member can call for availability. WSO has electric books and pamphlet. Current WSO out of stock books are: Courage to Be Me, Courage to Change, 12 X 12, One Day at a Time-only 4-large print).

The Office has given out 24 newcomer packets in the month of June. Once the meetings return to "in person" the mailed out newcomer packets will end. No date has yet been set.

A new consolidated list of live and virtual meetings is being posted on the website and updated weekly. The list is formatted in the same manner as the meeting directory: Zoom, Live In-person, and or Zoom & in person. There are currently 20 meetings noted-No Info Available (meaning the AIS Office has not received communication about the meeting since the pandemic suspended all meetings). If groups update the meeting on the WSO website, please also notify the AIS Office.

She also announced that Brenda F. is a new PRN staff member and the next staff meeting is July 8th.

Bill B. made a motion that the Newcomer packets continue to be mailed out with a PDF printout of the meetings listed on the website. Susan stated that the cost to mail a Newcomer packet ranges from approximately \$0.91-\$1.11. Annette K. reported that the budget for Public Outreach literature to donate for the year is \$1,103 and as of end of May only \$304 has been spent. The motion was approved unanimously.

X. Outreach Report-Blake R. reported that currently all three billboards are active: at I-70 near Wright City paid through November; at I-44 near Pacific paid through August; and just renewed at I-44 and Big Bend and will continue to renew on a month-by-month basis. The website users compared to a year ago shows an 81% increase.

Regarding the posters, he shared that each District Rep. received an email that each district will get 10 posters and can pick up from the Office or mailed. There will be 100 more posters delivered to the Office and available to be picked up. The districts to be contacted have been expanded and will include all districts listed in the Where and When (website list) and Illinois.

He added that there was a story in the Sincerely Al-Anon about starting meetings in District 10. A committee was formed and hope to launch 1-2 meetings in the fall. They are looking at locations, getting books, funding, and partnering with groups at other existing meetings. More details will follow.

XI. Old Business:

a. Journal Fundraiser Update-Patty S. reported that 816 of the 1,000 journals have been sold plus others given away so she does not have a final tally. She would like to get journals to live meetings and events.

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Bill B. recommended that an additional 500 journals be printed and Patty offered to investigate the cost. **Topic tabled.**

b. Excess Reserves-New meeting in North County-Bill B. reported that some of the excess reserves will be used to fund new meetings in District 10. (Previously approved for Public Outreach)

c. Need a vote on eliminating Alateen, speaker's bureau, visiting intergroup, and Liaison to In-the-Loop chairperson positions. Bill B. asked for a vote for each Committee chair positions individually. All were approved to be eliminated unanimously. The Office will update the Intergroup Committee document.

d. Need a volunteer for Intergroup Committee Chairperson as Liaison and report at ASWC (Area Wide Service Conference) meetings-Bill B. reported that the agenda should show AWSC (Area World Service Committee). Mary Kay H. reported that the next AWSC meeting will be August 18th, 9 am-4 pm, in Camdenton, MO In-person and Zoom. It is held twice a year so someone is needed to report what is happening in St. Louis and the AIS Office can assist will preparing the report. **Topic tabled.**

e. Approval to continue sending newcomer packets with meeting directories. (the old Where and When) even if we need to tap the reserves for this.-Refer to Office Report-discussed and approved.

f. We need 4 new board members One now, and 3 more before October-Bill B. stated that it is important to have all 7 Board member positions filled. Interested members can attend a Board meeting and shadow a current Board member as an observer for a smooth transition. The need is for a President, Treasurer and another Board member.

Valerie F. asked about the requirements and Bill B. responded that there are at least two meetings a month and the job descriptions are being written by current board members. Contact Bill directly or email the Office to be contacted. The next Board meeting is July 29 from 5-6 pm on Zoom. **Topic tabled.**

XII. New Business:

a. Ordering more journals-Refer to Journal Fundraiser Update. **Topic tabled.**

b. Reboot Website committee-need volunteers-Refer to Website Report. **Topic tabled.**

c. Revamping Sincerely Al-Anon: we need proof readers; also should it include Treasurer's report; changing group contributions to a "C" instead of an amount.-Bill B. explained that there is a need for a new editor and proof readers. Val T. who has been assisting with the layout and stated that this is an opportunity to make the Sincerely Al-Anon more cohesive, more thematic, and upgrade the quality and content by having someone look at it from a single-point perspective. Val T. and Brenda F., new AIS Office staff member with journalism experience, will discuss.

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Susan C. said that groups can request a receipt. Following discussion, Bill made a motion to list the groups who contribute and show a total amount for all contributions. The motion was unanimously approved.

XIII. Open Sharing:

a. Marc B., a former Board member, shared that we serve a vital function and are the infrastructure that enables all groups in the St. Louis area to get materials and keep everyone informed. With respect to the Sincerely Al-Anon, he asked for consideration that someone be responsible for coming up with a monthly theme for the entire year, publish the theme in December of the prior year as a guideline for the upcoming year, and then solicit articles on the themes throughout the year. **Topic tabled.**

b. Patty S. asked if the IRs should continue asking to fund the Lois (billboard) Campaign. Bill B. responded that the billboards will continue as long as they produce results by website visits. She also asked about the tracking of the billboards and the Office staff is asking newcomers how they heard about Al-Anon.

Joy W., Public Outreach, added that extra funds will keep the billboards going and that one is in Franklin County where they are hoping to start two new meetings.

c. There was a question about members who are members of A.A. can be on the Board and the response is Yes, they can be on the Board. Susan C. clarified that A.A. members cannot serve as District Rep or Group Rep on the Area State level per WSO guidelines.

d. Annette K. added that there Al-Anon books available at the libraries.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kay H., AFG-STL Board Secretary