

Intergroup Representatives (IR) Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom at 7:00 PM and chaired by Blake R., President., Other Board members present were: Barry R., Treasurer , Barb BS, Secretary and Jan McD, Board Member. 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 6.
- 2) **Attendance:** There were 26 members present including 4 board members, one AIS staff member, Joy W., Area Public Outreach Coordinator and 20 IR's.
- 3) **Secretary Report-** Minutes from the May, 2023 IR Meeting were provided in the email sent to the IR's before the meeting and were unanimously approved.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** - The following treasurer report was provided to the IR's in an email sent before the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT – AFG OF STL

As of April 30, 2023

Submitted by Barry Russell, Treasurer

For June 1, 2023 IR Council Meeting

Month of April 2023

1. Overall, the month of April 2023 produced **Total Revenue** of \$6,111 versus the 2023 budgeted average of \$5,693. **Net Operating Surplus** was \$466, and the YTD result was a \$5,109 Surplus.

2. On a cash flow basis, Literature Sales were \$1,640 [versus 2023 budgeted average of \$1,833].
3. Group Contributions were \$3,222 [versus the 2023 budgeted average at \$2,108]. Miscellaneous Contributions of \$716 were below our average 2023 monthly expectations of \$1,108.
4. **Monthly Expenses**, at \$5,645, were just below the 2023 budgeted average of \$5,688.
5. Literature expenditures of \$2,013 were above the 2023 budgeted monthly average of \$1,417.
6. Higher Group Contributions and keeping expenses within budget made the difference. Our YTD Surplus of \$5,109 compared to 2022 YTD of (\$80) is a good place to be. That is a \$5,189 Variance in favor of 2023.
7. **Total cash in checking** was \$5,926. Total Cash and Reserves were \$63,651.
8. The previously approved drawdown of \$5,000 has \$2,000 left undrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Barry Russell, Treasurer

Barry summarized that we are doing very well the first four months and have a lot to be grateful for. Blake told the IR's to thank their groups for all their contributions.

Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

5) **Public Outreach** - In John Y's absence, Blake shared the following:

Blake mentioned that Christine has had to resign from the Board due to personal family obligations.

In John Y's absence, Blake shared the following: The PO Committee recently participated in a very successful event at Collinsville Middle School. There continues to be a lot of participation in AA/Al-Anon

sponsored events. PO Committee is starting to reach out to more unconventional types of events such as information booths - at block parties, hospitals and schools. Joy W from the PO Committee (also the Area PO Coordinator) reiterated that anyone can join the PO Committee. She said that the new campaign they are looking into is getting information into ER's. There has been some success in this regard in Rolla. Christine has connections with various ER coordinators - they are trying to find out whom they should contact. She said that there is just a lot overall going on right now in public outreach. In the MO Area Assembly, she was happy to hear from various DR's about the outreach projects they have going on. She mentioned the Day In Service is on 6/3 and said it wasn't too late to sign up. It will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Olive in Creve Coeur. There are breakout sessions, activities and a free lunch. Theme is "The Lively Links of Service." There is a flyer on the AIS Website as well as in the Round Robin.

Joy also mentioned an article in the most recent Round Robin about using Social Media by Scott Powers from the WSO. She said it has some very useful tips and guidelines on districts making the most of social media. Individuals can also share information on their personal sites in accordance with the guidelines.

Barb asked Joy if every district has its own public outreach coordinator. Joy said that there are some districts that do but not all of them. Her own district 28 has its own as well as some others including district 2. Joy works closely with Cathy W on the AIS public outreach committee.

Susan mentioned that she has let the PO committee know that they have 1000 business cards for them. Susan mentioned that Joy and Cathy have provided PO materials for each table at the Day in Service and expressed gratitude to them.

6) After Hours and Office Reports - The following report was provided via email to the IR's prior to the meeting:

AIS IR Office Report JUNE 2023

Al-Anon/AA Pot-Luck

Sunday June the 4th at Deer Creek Park-Maplewood, MO. 63143-Is where the Al-Anon /AA picnic potluck is being held. We will be selling jewelry at the event. The office is seeking used and unwanted jewelry. We will also take broken or missing pieces to sell for crafting.

Please drop off at the office M-F 9-5 pm

We hope to meet our members at this event.

Grateful Everyday AFG

Friday 7:30 pm now has babysitting

Webster Groves Christian Church 1320 W. Lockwood 63122

Answering Service Report

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 MAY Sales and Website Report

Web Activity

2,776 views. 5 web orders.

AIS Office Sales

101 sales

Joe O. AIS Staff Member

New Website

Have you visited our new website?

Newcomer Packets

The Office now has a Welcome to Al-Anon Email. When Newcomers call we first offer to send them The Newcomers Email. Please let your groups know of our new guidelines.

4 emails went out to NC's for the month of May. Only one NC packets was mailed in May.

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

Help me and write an article for the Sincerely Al-Anon Newsletter. Please send to the AIS Office by the 20th of each month. Please ask your group members to sign-up for our newsletter at www.stl-al-anon.org.

Districts

If you send the AIS Office your District events dates we will post them on our website. If you make a flyer we will also post them in our office.

My Journey Journals

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

Events

We love to post events!! Please let the office know of your upcoming events. If you want to write a small article about your event for the Sincerely Al-Anon, we will include the link to your flyer at the end of the article.

In Service,
Susan C.

Blake asked if there were any questions about the report. Susan reiterated that Peggy was looking to step down as answering service coordinator and that she was looking for someone to step up and take over. The time slots are full so it would just be a matter of coordination. The SA is a few days late this month - it will come out in the next few days.

7) **Old Business:** Business cards are now being leveraged. The first 100 are available free of charge to each district. Groups can also order them and pick up at the office. The business cards are a great way to spread the word about Al-Anon and the AIS office.

8) **New Business:**

Coordination of Public Outreach Efforts - Blake mentioned that we want PO efforts to be coordinated (AIS, Districts, AREA) as much as possible. We want to share information and make sure efforts aren't duplicated/things aren't scheduled at the same time. We want to coordinate effectively and support each other. Joy mentioned a health fair in her district and another one in Kansas City. She said that different types

of outreach are being done across the state. Each district provides a report at the Area assembly regarding what they are doing, including PO efforts. Blake mentioned that it would be great to share efforts/ideas across the state and leverage it as much as possible. Joy said she'd think about more ways to do that.

IR Meeting Participation - Blake and the Board are trying to come up with ways to get more IR participation and get more members to attend IR meetings. One way he thought would be to send out direct email invitation to GR's. The AIS office doesn't have a list of the GR's/their email addresses and would need to get that from the Area. Susan didn't think that the Area would necessarily share this information. Susan mentioned that she sends out the IR invite to everyone on the Sincerely Al-Anon email list. Barb suggested that perhaps the IR's could send out the email invite directly to their individual group's email list. Barry said that he is the "mail forwarder" of his group and that he forwards this type of information. In some groups there is a secretary who does this. Joy W said that she previously didn't know about IR meetings when she was a GR and likes the idea of inviting GR's directly.

9) **Open Sharing:** Mary Ann discussed how she tried to increase awareness of the new AIS Website at her home group. She prints out a copy of the first page of the website with certain things circled including the URL of the website - people take them. She brings examples of ways they can participate. Lisa mentioned that she tried to click on events in the electronic version of SA and wasn't able to get on them. Susan C mentioned that this was being fixed and in the meantime you could find them directly on the website. Mary asked about how up to date the AIS Office Sustaining Support Campaign flyer was - Barry said that it's out of date and needs to be updated. We are no longer operating at a deficit.

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

- Next meeting is Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM on Zoom