

## **Intergroup Representatives (IR) Meeting Minutes**

**May 6, 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 Members-Abby S.-Public Outreach and Linda W-Office Liaison. Also present were Susan C.-AIS Office, Peggy B.-After Hours Phone Answering Coordinator, Chris E.-Website Coordinator and Cathy W. and Joy W.-Public Outreach.

I. Opening with The Serenity Prayer.

II. Concept 5 was read.

III. Introductions-There were 31 members present including 21 IRs and 2 visitors.

IV. Announcements/upcoming events-There were attachments sent out with the IR meeting reminder. Gina reported that the Spring Fling, A.A. convention with Al-Anon participation, was held April 23-25 and she was the co-chair for the event. There were 400 tickets sold and 70 tickets were sold for the Al-Anon luncheon. Literature sales were \$170.

V. Secretary Report-April 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 reported that the Year-to-date through March 31<sup>st</sup> operating surplus is \$2,456. The Lois contributions received thru March 31<sup>st</sup> is \$3,752. The investment value increased by \$1,337 so total increase in cash is \$7,584. We are about \$3,500 ahead of March 2020. The treasurer report was approved unanimously.

VII. After Hours Phone Answering Report-Peggy B. reported that they had only 1 call in April from a repeat caller who needed to talk. She needs to fill a volunteer slot on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be making some calls.

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VIII. Website Report-Chris E. stated that the website had 914 unique users and there were no changes made to the website. Bill added that the meeting organization on the website looks very good.

IX. Office Report- The building is now open to the public for literature sales only. A mask is required in the building and one person at a time is allowed at the door to the AIS Office. Literature is sold and sent via USPS by calling the office or purchasing from the website, [www.stl-al-anon.org](http://www.stl-al-anon.org).

The Office is no longer sending out the updated Virtual Meeting List weekly and the list is now on the website. The second column will list if the meeting is: Virtual, Live in person, phone or no information available. Please let the office know of any meeting changes via email so that we can keep our website Meeting List updated.

As new volunteer forms arrive to the office, after board approval, they will be added to the volunteer spread sheet. Friendly reminder, that a blank volunteer form is attached to the IR email and can be returned by email or mailed in.

Additional flyers were added to the Sincerely Al-Anon email and sent with the IR meeting reminder: Dist. 14 Business meeting and Hybrid workshop; Dist. 15 Business meeting & Service Sponsorship workshop and the Now Hybrid Day of Service in June.

“From Survival to Recovery” book is still out of stock at WSO and the AIS Office. The Office has two copies of “In All Our Affairs”, also out of stock at WSO. There were 31 newcomer packets sent out in the month of April.

The AIS Board is looking for Al-Anon members willing to work in the office when the staff is unavailable to fill in for each other. The requirements are: working an active program by having a sponsor, a home group, and have worked the 12 steps at least once. Please email or call the office for an application.

Delegate Lori Hassler sent the office a grateful thank you note for the five journals given to her.

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The next staff meeting is Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Beth C. will provide the Office Report at the June IR meeting.

X. Outreach Report-Abby reported that two committee members, Cathy W. and Joy W., are in attendance. They received a contact for Peoples Health Center on Delmar from Susan C. in the AIS Office and will be using this location for outreach posters. President, Bill B., contacted four treatment centers which the committee will follow-up with about Al-Anon information meetings and literature. Sana Lake already has a meeting in place; Joy W. attends and will give a more detailed report next month. Bill contacted St. Patrick's Center, Haven of Grace, and Harris House. The Outreach Committee is always looking for volunteers and requested that IRs ask members to consider joining the committee.

Cathy W. then provided an update on the billboard campaign which has about \$4,800 available in addition to \$1,600 available in the budget. She asked members to look for updates in the Sincerely Al-Anon. She showed a proof of a billboard with must be approved by Committee, WSO and the St. Louis Board. She also showed the breakdown of costs totaling \$5,700 and is hoping to have billboards displayed by June 1<sup>st</sup>. They are considering a digital billboard at city/county line near Jennings exit for the non-profit cost of \$1,000 per month.

She also reported that the Committee's next focus is to put up posters in hospitals, clinics, and churches. They are asking members to call into the AIS Office with information on where posters can be placed, especially in Districts 10 and 25. There are examples of posters on the WSO websites which can be downloaded for free and local information can be added. Also, members who are willing to be a contact person to help distribute posters should contact the AIS Office.

### **XI. Old Business:**

- a. Journal Fundraiser Update – Patty reported that 782 of the 1,000 journals have been sold. She would like to get journals to meetings. The recommendation is to not reorder at this time.

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b. Excess Reserves-Bill explained that the reserves should be what are needed to cover expenses for one year. He asked the IRs to provide assistance in determining how to use the excess reserves and had previously recommended using for public outreach. Abby added that the outreach committee would use the funds to reach more people in District 10 (North City). It was suggested to switch the image of people on the billboards to other minorities.

There was discussion regarding meetings in District 10 and Eliza offered assistance in starting meetings. Patty S. suggested using excess funds to provide literature for new meetings. Linda W. recommended contacting the A.A. meetings that meet in North City and Susan C. will follow-up to provide a list of those meetings. Bill stated that the excess funds can be distributed on an ongoing basis and asked the IRs to continue to consider options. **Topic tabled.**

c. Thank you letter from Lori Hassler-Covered in the Office Report.

d. Increase Minority Participation-Discussed under Excess Reserves. Abby asked that Chris E. and Blake R. work together to monitor website users to track effectiveness of billboards and outreach posters. Blake reported that they will capture metrics to identify the traffic as baseline and then measure after billboards are up. Annette reported that there are funds in the budget to donate literature.

e. Open Positions for Intergroup Committees-Mary Kay reported that there is an Intergroup Committees document included with the New IR packet which was last updated in 2017. The Board reviewed and identified that there are some committees listed with no chairperson. Bill suggested that some committees be suspended. The IRs were asked to notify members of the need to fill the chairperson open positions, especially the Liaison chair. **Topic tabled.**

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### XII. New Business:

- a. Investment of Reserves-Bill made a 10<sup>th</sup> step amendment to the IRs regarding his decision in 2020 without IR consent to invest funds from a three-year CD and invest 60% in Ameren UE stock which pays dividends and 40% in a liquid mutual fund. The income is tax-exempt and the current reserves total approximately \$70,000. Annette pointed out that if the IRs approve, the Board will not be held liable should there be any loss on investments. The current investment of reserves was unanimously approved.
- b. Opening for a New Board member-Bill reported that Mike P. resigned and there is a need for a replacement. IRs were asked to announce to members. The time commitment is approximately one hour per week, unless assigned to another committee. **Topic tabled.**
- c. Future IR meetings on Zoom or in person?-Bill recommended that the IR meeting continue on Zoom for now with the possibility of having an in-person gathering every six months. Susan C. pointed out that currently the capacity for the meeting room is at 19 people. It was suggested to consider a hybrid meeting. **Topic tabled.**

### XIII. Open Sharing.

- a. Karen M. asked if the Excess Reserves included our obligation to WSO. Bill and Annette responded that currently WSO and Missouri have adequate reserves.
- b. Patty S. asked members to contact her to sell Journals at hybrid meetings.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 3, 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