

CLEVELAND AL-ANON COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of
April 15, 2022

Zoom log in information: Meeting ID is 847 9751 3760. or dial by phone 312-626-6799 followed by the meeting ID.

The meeting began at approximately 7:03 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer. The meeting was conducted via Zoom. There were 14 persons in attendance. The minutes of the March 18, 2022, meeting having been forwarded in advance to Council members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with. The minutes were put on screen for review, and afterwards, two corrections to the minutes were noted: (1) under Old Business, the two members working on the ample reserve proposal were Sydney and Morgan, and (2) the Spring Assembly will be conducted via Zoom. Motion was then made to approve the minutes with these corrections.

A suggestion was made to consider starting the meeting at 7:30 p.m. rather than 7:00 to accommodate Mary Jo's reports. Discussion to follow at the May meeting.

VOLUNTEERS/OFFICE REPORT: Nancy reported that things are going well. She remarked that the large-print *Courage to Change* daily reader is now available and the office will be ordering it. She also noted that there are two new prospective volunteers.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Patty presented her reports for March, 2022 (all are attached to these minutes) as follows:

1. Beginning office checking account statement balance: \$16,261.69; ending account statement balance: \$15,078.76; and current CD's total: \$80,896.55
2. All bills paid, with donations totaling \$352.50
3. Patty presented the Office Statement for 2021 to Council for their review. Sheila will forward this statement to Council members.
4. The financial audit on the 2021 Greater Cleveland Al-Anon Intergroup Treasurer's Financial records was completed, with all checks and receipts accounted for. Patty thanked Merri G. for the outstanding job she has done at the Treasurer's position. She carried us through a very difficult time and never complained. She has made my transition into the Treasurer's job much easier than I anticipated. She is always there to answer any questions I have, and for that, I am very thankful! Thank you again for all your years of service!

ALATEEN: Gary presented his report as follows:

Ohio Alateen held a Sponsors Workshop on April 9th and one of the topics discussed was that Indiana Alateen was going to try and hold KOMIAC on July 22-24 this year at Indiana State University. This will be the first time KOMIAC will be held face-to-face since the start of the Pandemic. That would be one HUGE step back for Alateen. Let's keep our fingers crossed. More to follow.

HILITES: Mary Jo's report is as follows:

1. I received fliers from the Marblehead Sharing & Caring weekend (April 30-May1), Youngstown Districts 4-9 Spring Day of Sharing (May 14th), and Founders Day (June 10, 11 & 12) and included them in the April newsletter. I sent the hard copy to Vivian's email on Tuesday March 22nd because I thought she was working at the office that day and wanted to try to save her a trip into the office. I keep forgetting that volunteers work every other week! Vivian & Nancy took care of printing & posting from that point forward. Regina F and three of my home group members reported positively on the monthly New York

City Al-Anon's Zoom Workshop March 26th, so I included the future information on those. My appointment with the potential newsletter volunteer (at Lakewood office) on March 28th was canceled due to family matters and rescheduled for April 11th. I reached out to the potential newsletter volunteer to suggest a day and time to meet at a nearby public library and have not heard back. I reached out to Sheri B. (Public Outreach Coordinator) and Sara M. (Alateen Coordinator) for new letters and Zoom information on the Alateen Sponsor Workshop in April. I actually had to ask Carolyn to repost the April Newsletter to be sure to include the Alateen Zoom information. Lucky I did because I was able to include these later entries that came in email and texts: the Sunday Serenity Circle WordPress change (in person with masks and full vaccine), the Lakeshore Thursday's 39th Anniversary (April 21st) and the Dover Courage AFG 50th on April 4th. Electronic subscribers received their newsletter on Thursday March 31st. Early on April 1st, the state Alateen Coordinator sent corrected Zoom information for the Alateen workshop. I redid the newsletter and re-sent it to the Webteam.

2. A treasurer from a local AFG reached out to help with the newsletter. We are "talking" through email. The volunteer who assisted in April wishes to assist for May - we are meeting Tuesday, April 19th. Also a helpful office volunteer is meeting with me Monday April 25nd to learn about the newsletter. If Nancy and Vivian continue with one week for the snail mail, I will need to get the electronic newsletter done by Friday April 22 so it can be posted Saturday latest.

GREATER CLEVELAND AL-ANON WEBTEAM: Mary Jo's report is as follows:

1. Carolyn P downloaded the meeting list for the paper Hi-Lites on 3/22/2022. She needs one week of seven days to make changes so when three meeting changes came in between the paper (hardcopy) and the electronic April Hi-Lites, Mary Jo put white rectangles followed by text boxes in the 3/22/22 meeting list (see April Electronic Hi-Lites meeting list - Garfield Gratitude, Courage to Be Me and New Hope Thursday Afternoon), and Sunday Serenity Circle back to in person. I sent the two anniversary fliers to Carolyn and Loretta to post on the website. On 4/9/22, Loretta posted the new service manual on the website. Same day, a WordPress came in for Sunday Serenity Circle: They already dropped their Zoom and are fully in-person but added that masks are now optional at this meeting and vaccination is highly recommended but not required. Sunday Circle Serenity WordPress was posted at 5:11 on 4/14/22. Cleveland AIS office staff at this email address cleveland.ohio.ais@gmail.com does not receive the Word Press notifications. I let Carolyn P. know. Stepping Up AFG is active again (WordPress notification came in 4/15/22).
2. Mary Jo also presented updated meeting information for Garfield Gratitude AFG, Courage To Be Me AFG, and New Hope Thursday Afternoon.
3. The web analytics for March, were as follows: there were 836 total users, with the most popular search for meetings by day; 480 mobile users; 332 desktop users; and 24 tablet users.

DISTRICTS / OHIO AFG LIAISON: Mary Jo's report is as follows:

1. She received an email 3/30/22 from Theresa (Chairman of Ohio) talking about an Alateen Sponsor Workshop in April. I texted Sara M. right away who got me the particulars for the April newsletter and the website. The AWSC minutes went out on 4/11. Officer meeting on 4/11. It was decided that the May 21st assembly will be virtual on Zoom. The treasurer sent out the twice a year plea letter (with motions) and OAC flier on 4/11 and again on 4/14 adding the electronic meeting motion. The question: should Ohio allow non-geographic electronic meetings (that have petitioned) into the area? The other motions include rotation of 2 day Fall and Convention (By-Law change), and checks over \$2,000 requiring two signatures (handbook change). These will be decided by the GR's at assembly. Also date reminder for WSO Road Trip October 29th at DoubleTree in Independence. The two day fall assembly will also be on Zoom since Road Trip will be the weekend after that. Please read the plea letter at your meetings.
2. Morgan reported that she had been in touch with the state regarding the need for a new state AAPP person and learned that they are good with this position at present.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Regina presented her report.

1. On March 1, 2022 from 12:15 -1:00 pm, I gave another presentation to the Case Western Controlled Substance Seminar. This time it was at the usual place, George Dively Building, and face to face. This is for physicians who prescribe medication and their patients have become addicted to it. They want to know if there is anything that they can do. Giving a brief Al-Anon share, answering questions and giving them the Hope and Help business cards does put their minds at ease to a certain degree.
2. On April 13, 2022, 10:20 am to 1:20 pm, Fred S. and I manned two tables at the Westlake high School Wellness Fair. Our pamphlet boards were displayed. We also had Hope and Help business cards and *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* booklets to distribute. Other tables at the fair that deal with teen addiction said that they refer families to Al-Anon and Alateen. About 100 cards were given to teens, a few to a police officer and a few to other vendors. Most of the teens said they never heard of Al-Anon or Alateen. However, about half had heard of AA and alcoholism. I used the scenario that they may know someone who is upset about someone else's drinking or drugging addiction. They could give the card to them so they could get help from us.
3. There is an upcoming Alateen Fair on April 29, 2022 at 7 pm at the Indy Alateen Family Groups in the Brecksville/Broadview Heights area.
4. Case Western has asked us back, tentatively in June.
5. Literature was requested by the Alateen Fair group costing \$63.49. The candy for the Westlake Fair was \$17.16. A receipt will be turned in for that. These monies will come out of the Public Outreach Budget. The balance in the budget for 12/31/21 was:\$1,371.41. Deducting the candy and the literature will bring the balance to \$1,290.76.
6. Help is still needed on the Public Outreach Committee. We have various ways to get the word out beyond what has been mentioned. Please join and assist when you can for as long ass you can. It would be greatly appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ongoing CD discussions – Hernan presented his research on the different rates offered by different entities such as Marcus by Goldman Sachs - offering .65%, with \$500 minimum; and Ally Bank - offering 0.5% with 0 deposit. Betty will contact Ohio Savings (who currently holds the CD's) to ask about the April 26 due date for the larger CD. More discussion to follow.

NEW BUSINESS: Ample Reserve report - Sydney and Morgan met to discuss an "ample reserve" for the office accounts and presented their report as follows:

- We identified TWO separate topics for consideration:
 - (1) the amount for the ample reserve
 - (2) what to do with the extra money IF we have more than the ample reserve. We will present these separately.
- In considering **What is an ample reserve for Cleveland Intergroup**, we did the following:
 - (1) We referred to the WSO Al-Anon Guideline entitled “Reserve Fund”
 - (a) In that guideline for a district, a 3 to 6 month reserve is recommended
 - (b) In that guideline for an area, a 6 to 12 month reserve is recommended
 - (2) We thought about who/what is intergroup:
 - (a) We represent more than one district AND
 - (b) We represent a literature office, and

- (c) Yet, we are smaller than our “area”
 - (d) We have in the past kept a lot of money in reserve
- (3) We considered Intergroup’s cash flow: how much money has been coming in (including literature orders) (i.e. income) and how much money is going out (including literature payments) (i.e. expenses)
- (a) Those numbers are as follows:
 - (i) **Income:** \$30 thousand (2 year average (2019-2020); rounded to the nearest thousand and not including the insurance reimbursement for the theft that occurred pre 2019) (highest \$41k; lowest \$17k) (k = thousand)
 - (ii) **Expenses:** \$30 thousand (3 year average (2019-2021); rounded to the nearest thousand) (highest \$40k; lowest 22k) (k = thousand)
 - (iii) **Current Total Balance:** \$97 thousand (rounded to the nearest thousand, including the insurance reimbursement for the theft that occurred pre 2019)
- (4) We considered that almost all the data we have is from during the pandemic. Thus, in our proposal we are recommending that the amount of the ample reserve be reviewed again in about 2 years, preferably after taxes have been filed, so that the most current data is available. It is our suggestion that it be reviewed regularly, maybe every 2 or 3 or 5 years(?) but that does not need to be decided now.

- **The “ample supply” committee recommends for discussion and vote that:**

- 1. An ample supply for the Cleveland Intergroup is \$30,000**
- 2. Additionally, that about \$10,000 (+/- \$5000) be kept in the checkbook**
- 3. AND that these amounts be reviewed again in about two years**

- BEFORE WE TAKE QUESTIONS AND VOTE ON THIS PROPOSAL, we would like to share some brainstorming on why and how we could spend the excess funds. The excess funds if this proposal is accepted are about \$50,000. The ideas we present, are not meant to be discussed tonight but are presented to stir up some creative ideas from this group. HOW to spend the excess will be discussed after the “ample reserve” is decided, probably next month and for months to come.

1. When we give to Al-Anon we are giving so that the program can thrive. So that it will be here in the future AND so that good things can be done to help families of alcoholics.
2. We do not have to spend the excess funds in a month or in a year. (i.e. no rush, no time table.) We can spend it on ideas on which we (the intergroup) agree.
3. Some Ideas we had are:
 - (a) Give \$1000/month to WSO.
 - (b) Offer \$100 for expenses to every group rep and/or district rep to travel to AWSC and/or Area Assembly meetings (promote service; promote group representation). (AWSC=area world service committee)
 - (c) Send \$50 to each group to celebrate their anniversary (for the cake, speakers ...)
 - (d) Offer \$1000 or ??? to one or more intergroup attendees to attend the Al-Anon International Conference
 - (e) Have the summer picnic, the spring workshop and gratitude night free
 - (f) Offer \$100 of literature or rent payments as a start up gift for new groups in the Cleveland area.

(g) We want to ensure that we promote both AI-Anon and Al-Anon service.

NOW BACK TO THE PROPOSAL: WE ARE READY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (if we can), HEAR COMMENTS/DISCUSSION and hopefully vote.

To Reiterate: **The “ample supply” committee recommends for discussion and vote that:**

1. Make the ample reserve \$30,000, and that
2. \$10,000 be kept in the checkbook

Comments were made and suggestions offered. Vote will be taken on these proposals at the May Council meeting.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/26-30/22 World Service Conference – New York City (to be attended by delegate)
- 5/21/22 Spring Assembly – via Zoom
- 6/10-12/22 Ohio Area Convention – Findlay, Ohio – flyer is on the Ohio website
- 7/30-31/22 KOMIAC – time and place to be determined
- 8/5-7/22 Ohio AA Convention – Dublin, Ohio
- 8/20/22 Fall AWSC Committee meeting (place to be determined)
- 10/2022 2-Day Fall Assembly – to be determined
- 10/29 Trustee road trip – Doubletree by Hilton Hotel –Independence – more information in August



The meeting closed at approx.. 8:52 p.m., followed by the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2022, via Zoom. All are welcome to attend - Meeting ID is 847 9751 3760. or dial by phone 312-626-6799 followed by the meeting ID.

Respectfully submitted, Sheila C., Secretary

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