

Minutes for October 18, 2023 – 7:00 – 8:30 PM - Held Via Zoom

Opening:

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer and the Concepts of Service. Those present were Lynne F., Jack A., Jim I., Megan P., Mary Kay S., Bill S., Kim H., Erin I., Margene K., and Jan B.

Minutes:

The Secretary asked if there were any changes to the July 19, 2023 minutes. Hearing none, a motion to approve the minutes was requested, which was then moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s 4th Quarter Report:

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,718.81
Credit from Wells Fargo	500.00
Donations	1058.52
Expenses	<u>(519.52)</u>
Ending Balance	<u>\$2757.81</u>

Jim called attention to the \$465.32 donation from the Saturday Arnold 10AM Gloria Dei meeting, which included a \$337.00 special donation for the AIS web site redesign.

2023 Donations –

1st Quarter \$1009.08 - 2nd Quarter \$344.50 – 3rd Quarter \$1058.52

Please send donations for Al-Anon & Alateen – Mid-Chesapeake Region Al-Anon Information Services donations to:

Mid-Chesapeake Region AIS
 PO Box 763
 Severna Park MD 21146

Mary Kay asked that the list of meetings in the financial report be updated to remove Thursday Davidsonville from financial report. Mary Kay will advise additional meetings to remove if necessary.

Lynne asked that the financial report sort meetings in order of Districts to make it easier to find specific meetings in the list. Jim will update the sort order accordingly.

Old Business

Website working group progress

Lynne asked Jim to provide an update on the web site work group progress. Jim reported that the workgroup met to assign three tasks:

1. Contact WSO regarding their use of Wordpress

AFG WSO did respond and provided valuable information.

AFG WSO uses Wordpress to manage the content. In Motion hosting provides hosting services. AFG WSO advised that Wordpress is widely used and well supported. Plugins require maintenance and updates. An advantage of using

Wordpress for content management and hosting services is that updates would be included. AFG WSO uses an event calendar. AFG WSO advised that the WSO has guidelines to follow when building a web site, see <https://al-anon.org/pdf/G40.pdf>.

2. Identify other AIS, etc. that use Wordpress for their web sites

Jim advised that Jack was able to obtain two responses to the survey he sent to several AIS.

District 6 Lane County OR uses Wordpress for content management and hosting. The web site was built by and is maintained by volunteers.

Indiana Area 17 uses Wordpress for content management and HostData for hosting services. The web site was built by and is maintained by volunteers.

3. Contact Wordpress directly to get more information on their web site builder and hosting services.

Beth was to contact Wordpress about their offerings. Her report was not available at the time of the meeting.

There was a discussion regarding web site upgrades to include a possible logo change and name change. Jim suggested that the board take some time to identify all the enhancements or features required.

Jim mentioned a required \$500 flat rate fee for Wordpress design services. There was discussion about what that would include, and Jim said that more research was needed.

Jim provided a link to an article that compares Wordpress.com and Wordpress.org: <https://www.wpbeginner.com/beginners-guide/self-hosted-wordpress-org-vs-free-wordpress-com-infograph/>

Coordinators Reports

Alateen: Margene provided the following update during the meeting and via email:

Since the July meeting, we still have not had any attendance at our “In-Person” meeting in Arnold. The Ellicott City meeting has closed due to no attendance. The two Zoom meetings, one Saturday evening, the other Monday evening, both are seriously considering closing due to lack of attendance. Only a couple AMIAS are now willing to sponsor those meetings. There is also a New Market meeting that has been on Hold for school to start and has not reopened.

Good News! Our Arnold Ashbury meeting sponsors were invited to be part of a huge event sponsored by a local Broadneck church. The event is called “The 5th Quarter”. Their goal is to encourage faith, hope, and love in Christ as a positive alternative to combat the drugs, alcohol, and sex which are often offered at after-game parties.



This event took place last Friday Oct. 13 and at least 400 kids attended. Our Alateen table was very busy with interest in our “Take A Chance” game to win a \$10 gift card for fast food, a Beanie Baby, or a Candy Bar. We hope this will at least make our name known and possibly bring a few to our meeting.

Alateen “Terrapin Adventure” in Savage, MD, with free food, adventure rides, and info about Alateen was scheduled for Oct. 14 but it rained all day.

We have not given up on Alateen but admit many of us are getting discouraged. Hopefully better news at our January meeting.

Answering Service: Jan advised that she took over on September 1 and has received two messages, one in September and one so far in October. Jan explained the pros and cons of call forwarding. She would also like to review the call log from the monthly bill to see how many actual calls we get and how many callers do not leave a message. Jim will check the phone bill to see if a call log is available. Jan checks for messages daily at 5:00 PM.

Jan also mentioned that there are outreach opportunities with Anne Arundel County social services agencies. The members will work together to move this forward.

Directories: Mary Kay advised that the current version of the printed directory could be downloaded from the AIS website. She suggested that GR’s do that periodically to have directories available for newcomers.

Public Outreach- Bill advised that Public Outreach met on September 13. Public Outreach had tables at the Recovery Walk on September 17 and the Recovery Coalition on October 4. Public Outreach will be reaching out to District Reps to coordinate outreach efforts at the group level.

Webmaster- Megan advised that Jim's earlier update captured everything.

New Business

Meeting in person for next year

Lynne asked the members if there was any interest in meeting in person. There was no response from the members, suggesting a consensus that meetings can continue to be virtual going forward.

WSO reminder – are you ready to welcome newcomers this holiday season?

Lynne suggested that groups be prepared for the holidays by ensuring that there are plenty of Newcomer packets.

Lynne asked if it would be appropriate to share bullets from the minutes, or the minutes in their entirety on the web site for ease of access. Erin and Mary Kay stated that they are in favor of posting the minutes on the web site. Lynne will work with Jack and Megan to define the bullets and get the minutes posted on the web site.

Next Mid-Chesapeake Region Information Service (AIS) Meeting: January 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM via Zoom

Area 24 and World Service Related Announcements:

Area 24 AWSC Report:

Lynne asked Erin to provide an update from the September meeting. Erin advised that the Area is holding an Election at the Fall Assembly to fill all the board positions. Group Records requests that electronic groups finalize their status by the end of 2023 by updating at the Area level and with the WSO. Erin added that The Forum is looking for member shares on the impact that the following literature has had in their lives: A Little Time For Myself, Lois Remembers, Moving On from Alateen to Al Anon, Many Voices One Journey, Alcoholism, A Merry Go Round Named Denial.

2024 Events:

Spring AWSC: March 16, 2024

World Service Conference: April 18-21, 2024

Fall AWSC: September 21, 2024

Fall Assembly: October 19, 2024

Closing: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM with a reading of the Al Anon Declaration.