

Al-Anon Information Service of Greater Rochester NY
Meeting Minutes – 01/09/2021 10am
Zoom Meeting-links on Rochester AIS Website

Mel opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Read: 12 Traditions-John B., 12 Concepts of Service-Rose B. Warranties-Janise, and Expanded Version of Concept #1-Pat H.

Roll call first names. Deb G, Loron O, Mel Y, Pat H, John B, Sue C, Janise, Carol C, Rose B, Karen R, Robin S, Diane S, Dennis C, Maggie G, Nancy M.

Welcome to any newcomers. Welcome statement below from Mel:

We welcome you to the AIS Rochester monthly meeting, and hope you will find in this fellowship:

1. Growth in your program and understanding of how AIS works.
2. A welcoming environment where members feel safe and can express opinions and ideas freely without interruption or criticism.
3. Discussion and actions that benefit the Al-Anon groups in Rochester area and beyond. We welcome feedback on how our organization is working on ideas for improvement.
4. Contact information for officers and AIS members -- an orientation for new members.
5. Lastly, thank you for your service. Rotation of service is important for all group health.

Reports:

Secretary: Minutes reviewed -December 2020 minutes found at:

<http://wwwaisrochester.org/pdf/minutes12122020.pdf> Motion to approve by Rose B., Second Pat H. Sign in sheet follow-up, how to add new members and contact information? Short-term Loron has created Excel spreadsheet. Will add to old business.

Chair: Mel Y. – The past year was filled with challenges as we went from face-to-face meetings to electronic meetings.

Thanks to Ellen V., who took on the Zoom committee, we moved forward with electronic online meetings. She also helped organize a successful online replacement for the Tureen Supper. Ellen thanks for all your service.

Mel thanked everyone who stepped up in time of need. We are looking forward to a new year and the challenges it brings.

Discussion – thanks to all outgoing folks who served, could not do this without this team of dedicated volunteers. Group agrees!

Vice-Chair: Welcome! Pat H. Outgoing Chair, Loron O. has mailed service manuals to two of our new members. See Vice-Chair for this valuable resource. All are encouraged in our program to note members who might serve short-term on committees or longer-term service at AIS, Group or NY North level.

Treasurer:

Report at <http://aisrochester.org/pdf/treasurer-report.pdf>, Janise approves, Loron O. second, treasurer report accepted. John B. thanks all and welcomes Diane S. John is available for questions and help to the new treasurer. Kudos to all the fundraising done this year, including calendar and Al-Athon. Thanks to this work we have one year of operating expenses on hand for Rochester AIS.

Book Depot: Rebecca B. – Mel notes we have sent out 163 newcomer packets since March and fielded six, 12-step calls since last meeting.

Public Outreach: Outreach report to AIS meeting – Met 12/16/2020

- 1) Visitors Pat H. and Laura to discuss PSA's and observe.
- 2) Food Cupboard Contacts – nothing will be taken to food cupboards until pandemic is under better control. Revisit opening again in January at meeting on the 20th.
- 3) Carol contacted *Pittsford Neighbors* magazine and they will give space for Al-Anon to explain program briefly and give contact information. Looking for town newspapers to contact.
- 4) Loron is looking forward to AFA donation to EAP members.
- 5) Laura brought information from WSO about PSA's being distributed by vendors and the increase in use by radio and TV stations. Our previous contracts for distribution were limited to 1,000 TV and 2,770 radio stations. A mailing impacted the number of stations we could contact. Our current vendor's contract is 2,200 TV and 8,300 radio stations and networks in the US and Canada. The gap no longer exists with the old contract with the stations not in the distribution list to fill in the gap and encourage those stations to play the PSA's.
- 6) Discussion about how to help struggling meetings. Carol suggested using Beginner Meeting on Wednesday which has an 8-week course. Discussion was tabled until next meeting.
- 7) Rebecca asked if there was an easier way to reach the Outreach Website. Possibly we could have a link on the web and also a link to the Outreach meeting. Action is to let web committee know.

ACTION-add Zoom link to outreach meeting 3rd wed of every month 6pm so others can attend. Rose will submit to treasurer expenses for outreach - \$60 for packaging of literature.

Web Committee 2020 Year End Report - Pat & Mel

The year started out with over 60 meetings in the greater Rochester area. Due to the discovery of COVID-19, our meetings began to change. The area scrambled to understand what effect this was to have on our Al-Anon meetings. It was soon apparent that the in-person meetings would change.

Online meetings appeared to be the way to continue. Zoom became the preferred method for having online meetings. A volunteer was selected to be the Zoom coordinator for the year. We thank you Ellen for all of your help during this transition. With all the changes taking place, the website went from monthly updates to daily updates. Each day, the list of face-to-face meetings changed to electronic meetings.

Some meetings ultimately decided not to meet while others went to Zoom. As of year-end, we have:

- 36 Zoom
- 2 Hybrid (Zoom/Face to Face)
- 4 Face to Face

For a total of 42 meetings.

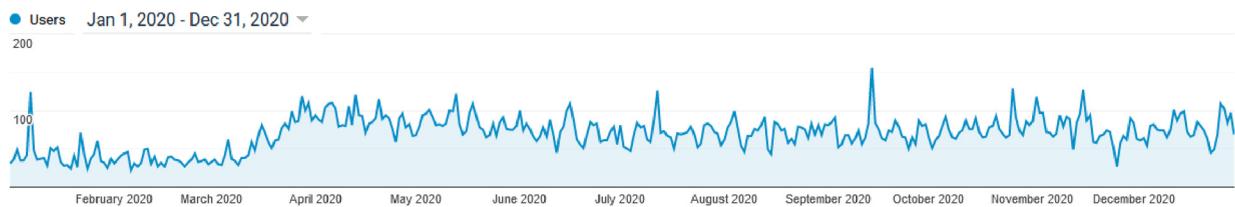
The website has been active to say the least, and now includes:

- All Zoom, hybrid and face to face meetings. Changes are made when information is received.
- PayPal for donations, ALATHON FUNraiser and calendar sales.
- We've added Public Outreach information and now Public Outreach has its own tab and their monthly meeting information is posted on our homepage.
- Activities page shows all current activities with links.
- The days of the week show the current status of all greater Rochester meetings with clickable Zoom links
- Any face-to-face meeting has a Google map link for location.
- The meeting list is published with all meetings active and inactive and with their Zoom information.
- Under "Literature" is Al-Anon's Free Downloadable Items (such as Detachment) along with Conference Approved Literature which we can now read samples from. A special thank you to Rebecca for her "trunk sales" and delivery of literature orders.

Let us take a look at our success in 2020:

- Total visits were 45,464
- Pages viewed 192,273
- Meeting list (PDF) accessed 12,123
- Days of the week
 - Sunday - 539
 - Monday - 640
 - Tuesday - 611
 - Wednesday - 1408
 - Thursday - 851
 - Friday - 851
 - Saturday – 628
- 77% new and 23% returning visitors
- On May 29th a request for a Newcomer Packet was added and 163 have been mailed out.
- In December the Newcomer request page added a place for a phone number, if they wanted a call back, and 12th step calls have been made.
- When the website is accessed, the most visited pages are the days of the week and the meeting list.
- The calendar sales page was added in October and has been successful.
- The ALATHON FUNraiser was super successful.
- 50% use desktop computers and 50% use smart devices to view the website.

Below is the daily traffic to the website.



Web Committee: Pat & Mel

We made a few changes on our website during December:

- Public Outreach now has its own tab on the homepage, per the committee's request. We also added their monthly meeting, the 3rd Wednesday of each month, on the homepage with a "click here" to make it easier for folks to attend.
- Meeting information continues to change so please remind members to check the website.
- Districts have been asked to update their information on the website.

Full stats for 2020 are as follows:

We had 45,000+ visitors looking at 192,000+ pages, 50% used desktop computers and 50% used smart devices.

77% were new visitors and 23% returning visitors.

December 2020 - AIS Traffic

- 4243 visitors viewing 17,660 pages
- 65% new and 35% returning visitors
- 49% mobile and 51% desktop viewing devices

Top 10 pages visited for December:

1.	Home Page	3581
2.	Meeting List	868
3.	Sunday	329
4.	Wednesday	270
5.	Saturday	209
6.	Tuesday	208
7.	Monday	203
8.	Friday	163
9.	Thursday	161
10.	Literature	139

Days of the Week Meeting Information for December:

- Sunday 329
- Monday 203
- Tuesday 208
- Wednesday 270

- Thursday 161
- Friday 163
- Saturday 209

Newsletter:

Newsletter at <http://aisrochester.org/pdf/newsletter.pdf> -deadline for articles, 1/15/2021

list newsletter items at meeting (with help of editor and secretary)

- Safety articles and resources for Zoom meetings
- Zoom tutorials coming up from Ellen V.
- Calendars-there are a few left-call office for more information

Calendar Report: From Pat H. 35 calendars left. Ellen suggests using as gifts. We have raised \$1,000 dollars from calendar sales. Ellen is willing to be service sponsor to anyone wanting to do a calendar project for next year.

Alateen: Beth-no report

Finance: Open

Activities: Debbi G and Dennis C.

We would like to have a meeting that acquaints new members with Al-Anon. Possibly a big book study or *How Al-Anon Works* book review. The group has commented that support of newcomers is important and without face-to-face we lose some contacts with new members. Dennis will contact Ellen V. to talk about options.

Intergroup Rep: Open

Unfinished Business: Contact list for office holders/committee chairs and how to access?

- Past lists included contact numbers of folks attending meeting in the minutes.
- We have contact emails on the AIS website for officers and committee chairs, this is an easy access and preserves anonymity.
- Note that anything on the website should reflect Tradition 12 and anonymity.
- Members at this meeting would like to be able to contact one another.
- Secretary is comfortable right now with excel list, which she is creating with phone number, email and position or meeting connections.
- Group would like district number to be included in any list.
- ACTION-secretary will create excel spreadsheet with the information and present at next meeting. Will encourage use of website email also for inquiries as well as calling the office. Newsletter reminder to be sent.

New Business: meeting safety

- Pat H. would like to discuss meeting safety, focusing on the virtual meetings
- Members shared that in some meetings there have been people attending meeting who do not respond to requests to identify themselves.
- Discussion-is this due to lack of skill with calling in or Zoom? Or are folks scared? Or would people be in a meeting wanting to eavesdrop or look for people without interest in our program?
- There are options for removing folks from meeting, but we would like more discussion of how groups can handle these situations

- G-39-Electronic Al-Anon meeting Guideline, S-60-fact sheet for electronic meetings. These would be good resources for next month's discussion.

Bullet Points for meetings: secretary to summarize

- We thank all our incoming and outgoing members for their service and invite all members to consider service short- or long-term
- We encourage all members to use website to contact phone officers and committee members via phone or email
- Calendars available for donation or gifts – call office 585-485-0396
- Literature available and newcomer packets can be mailed
- New members encouraged to use newcomer meetings

Adjourn: Motion from Robin, Janise seconds, group agrees.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2021 10 am – see electronic link on website

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January 9, 2021

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