

AIS Meeting Minutes
May 6th, 2017

Present:

Ancelin: Secretary
Carol C: DR D14/Women's 12 @ 12 GR
Connie T: Newsletter Editor/ Step into Recovery ISR
Elaine R: Finance Committee
JeanRita B: Spiritual Awakening ISR
John B: Treasurer/ Evening Serenity ISR
Marci: Vice Chair/D19 DR
Megan: Evening Serenity GR
Mel: Webster Monday ISR
Mike H: Book Depot/Faith & Hope ISR
Pat H: NYN Public Outreach/Penn Yann ISR
Rebecca B: Hope for Today ISR
Rose B: Serenity on Saturday ISR
Sarva: Hope for Today GR
Sheila S: Chairperson

Sheila opened the meeting at 10:05 am with the Serenity Prayer. John read the 12 Traditions; Marci read the 12 Concepts and the General Warranties. Elaine read Expanded Concept 5.
Roll call by 1st name and position.

Reports:

Chair: Sheila asked if all had time to read through her report, all did. Received comments regarding concern for rotation of service in the AIS office, will go into it more during the new business section of the meeting.

Secretary: Ancelin asked that reports be sent a week before the AIS meeting again so reports can be sent out for review on time. This last month reports went out at Thursday which is late. In the future reports will go out in bulk as received. If there are later reports received they will need to be read at the AIS office if they are received late. Received 1 correction to last month's mtg. minutes, asked if you find errors to email immediately so there are less steps for correction. Present last month's mtg. minutes with revisions for acceptance, Mel made a motion to accept, Sheila 2nd, approved.

Treasurer: John went through the March treasurer report, February was resent by mistake. Donations were up a bit in March and down for the month of April. Looking at the AIS Budget overall AIS is doing well. The Tureen Supper fundraiser brought in approximately \$815. He asked a question regarding a fall fundraiser; Ancelin stated she will put him in touch with Brian regarding the movie showing in the fall. Presents report for acceptance, Connie made a motion to accept, Sheila 2nd, approved.

Vice Chair: Marci went to the AWSC mtg. with Michele (Intergroup Rep.) She gave the report for AIS and realized after Michele should have done so, but all is well. Michele will be going to the Spring Convention. Encourages everyone who is attending to please get their registration forms in. Marci did reserve the same date and time for the Tureen Supper 2018 at St. Anne's church. There was lots of positive feedback received regarding the location and the set-up of the room. Rebecca did mention she has some heavy duty extension cords to provide to the AIS office for next year. Marci also read through all of the open positions & descriptions in the By-Laws coming up for election at the end of the 2017 year: Chairperson, Secretary, Book Depot, Public Outreach Coordinator, Volunteer Chairperson, Finance Committee, and Intergroup Rep. Also noted were that Activities Chairperson & Vice-Chair were open now. Marci will confirm with Diane regarding Alateen if she is remaining the chairperson for

a full 2 year term or will be resigning after this year. She requested Connie put the open positions into the newsletter with a link for the By-Laws description on the website.

Activities: Position remains open.

Alateen: Ancelin read Diane's report. No questions.

Book Depot: Mike received one complaint regarding certain titles being out of stock. The office currently holds about 11K in literature and has a finite amount of space. Asking for a list of current DRs for the Greater Rochester Area, Elaine stated this information was available through New York North records person. Pat also has a list; she will get it to Mike and to Mel who also asked for it.

Finance Committee: No report for this month.

Institutions/Public Outreach: Ancelin read through Brian's report. Did report on pre-trial services on May 5th well received and folks that shared definitely qualified for the program. Rose spoke to the Jennifer House meeting; they are having a parenting class which is why there is a 2 month delay. There will be a mtg. in both July & August. Mtg. is not gender specific, all female population but both females & males can go and speak at the mtg.

Newsletter: Connie asked if everyone read through her report, all did. Will keep the Newsletter shorter and point to flyers available on the AIS website. Hoping not only to provide a shorter Newsletter to save on printing costs but also to drive traffic to the website. She is constantly updating the Newsletter distribution list as GRs and ISRs continue to change. Suggests a table tent to make with the website address on it for mtg. tables in the same style of the anonymity table card. Will bring in something next month. Asked for a "Recovery through Service" article for the Newsletter, she has received one but can use more.

Volunteers/Service Center: The office is manned 5 days a week for a total of 17.5 hours. Please as always call ahead. Updated hours are on the website and will be put into the newsletter.

Website: Sheila spoke to Joni who was expected at the mtg. but not present at this time. Ancelin read through the website report. Continue to receive positive feedback regarding mobile functionality of the website and how user friendly it is.

Intergroup Rep: Michele not present, no report submitted.

Unfinished Business:

Office committee updates:

Biggest discussion they have had is how to get a survey out to the GRs for all the groups in the area. Most GRs that have been asked have not heard of the survey. So far they have received 3 responses. Questioning also whether an online survey would work better for the GRs to access. Connie asked if John could send her something for the Newsletter. Ancelin asked 2 questions are there minutes for these minutes that can be sent to the AIS email distribution list and did he want to send the survey questions to the entire distribution list which consist of GRs and ISRs? Carol C will send Ancelin the questions for the distribution list. Much discussion regarding the type of questions and if enough information can be received from them; will need more responses to judge that.

Would like to have the survey's done by the end of this summer. Ideally the committee wants each GR to provide the answers to the survey, but they survey done by each group together. Further discussion is tabled until the next AIS meeting.

New Business:

Rotation of Service:

Sheila received concerns of rotation of service while she was away for surgery. A representative came from a group of individuals who hold this concern. There was much discussion regarding if there is a concern why are these individuals not present? Why are they not here at the time to take part in rotation of service and volunteer for officer/committee chairperson positions? Etc.?

There were a few comments on the rotation of service thought to be better as there are many new faces in the office presently as well as new chairperson's in volunteer positions. Sheila commented on all the new people in service positions in the office and while folks may change positions within the office there is still rotation going on.

Ancelin spoke to her observations. The way the info was put forward it was known who made the comment, and this is fine. An example would be the fall movie showing suggestion. There was clear frustration as the Activities chairperson at the time called for a simple vote on the date only. At that time there was many comments made to suggest different theme's for the movie showing, different ideas, but nothing on an actual date until the Secretary brought it back to the initial point on conversation. It is very frustrating trying to accomplish tasks when everyone has a suggestion (including people present in the room) and no one steps up to help.

Carol C also shared she has received similar comments from other members about a perceived lack of rotation of service in the AIS office.

Filling spots is difficult (currently still seeking a new Vice-Chair) and is not a new issue for AIS. MaryAnn commented there it is her observation there is a lack of service in Al-Anon as a whole in the Greater Rochester Area. Is it known whether this is a national issue? Connie asked if the concern was people shifting chairs or the energy in the room? There was much discussion regarding fear and what happens when a spot is unfilled? Current example Marci has filled in as Vice-Chair a little longer as Sheila was absent due to surgery, however, her time in the position had come to an end so in this instance what do you do when no one will pick it up?

Carol spoke to an example in her personal life in volunteering for a position for 7 years that someone else only picked it up after she had asked several times for a change and had physically walked away from the position. She said she would also have to ask why does it bother "me" to fill a spot? What is the motive behind it?

Pat made a comment stating this is a good conversation to have as points of view on this issue is very varied and can point to an issue of ownership & domineering of a position.

Mike counted 15 people currently present, there are 65 meetings in the area, and there are still comments that some people are still unaware of what AIS does and what there is available to the groups. Maybe if each of us goes to 2 meetings and spread the word along with an About AIS pamphlet this will help get people to the office and raise awareness for a need for help.

Megan also commented that the AIS By-Laws need updating. There is information that has been changed in regarding to certain positions and the information is not current. This is important since the future is currently being discussed. This is tabled under new business for the next meeting.

Mel made a motion to close, Ancelin 2nd, approved.

Closed at 11:47 am with The Declaration and The Serenity Prayer

Next meeting is June 3rd, 2017 at the AIS office at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted: Ancelin