

CLEVELAND AL-ANON COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of
August 20, 2021

The meeting began at approximately 7:05 p.m. with a reading from *Courage to Change*. The meeting was conducted via Zoom. There were 17 persons in attendance. The reading of the minutes of the June 18, 2021, meeting were dispensed with as the members already had received copies.

VOLUNTEERS/OFFICE REPORT:

1. Vivian reported that a new volunteer is being trained to fill the slot for Tuesdays. There are now volunteers Monday through Thursday for the office. She also gave a status report on literature orders. She is looking to have a meeting of all the volunteers to discuss office procedures.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Merri presented her reports for the months ending June 30 and July 31, which are attached to these minutes. Some highlights include:

1. The PayPal button is up and running on our website. Payments or donations can be made through the website, but please make sure you specify whether the amount is for a donation or a payment. The name of the group and the date the items were ordered will be helpful in locating the invoice in the unpaid files. Also, please include your phone number on the PayPal transaction, so we know who to contact if we have questions. If the transaction is a donation, please indicate if it is a personal donation or a group donation. On donations, please put the name of the group or your name if personal and the address so we can mail out a thank you card.
2. I mentioned in my June report that I found a better way of keeping the books for Cleveland, so I spent the last several months going back to June of 2018 and working my way through December of 2020 and separated each year into a different excel ledger. In the middle of doing this, I called Patricia D. who volunteered to be on our review team several months back, to see if she would be willing to review the books for me. We met on July 8, 2021, and I gave her a copy of all the ledgers and all the notebooks that I had for the last 2.5 years. She will be giving her report tonight. I want to thank her for taking on such a daunting task. My suggestion going forward would be to review the books every 6 months or at the end of each year, but with the challenges that our office faced in the last 2.5 years, we were all doing our best to keep things operating.
3. Patricia D. prepared and presented her audit report for 2018, 2019 and 2020. The full report is attached to these minutes.
4. Merri announced her resignation as Treasurer effective September 15, 2021. A discussion followed on the different tasks of the treasurer as well as those tasks of the volunteers. Elections will take place in October for the Treasurer, as well as for all of the other officer positions. Vivian described the duties of the volunteers and the environment at the office. A discussion also took place on the duties of the office manager compared to those of the volunteers.

ALATEEN: Gary presented his report.

1. Not much going on in Alateen for the moment. KOMIAC was postponed this year because of COVID. The meetings have been struggling and it almost seems like we're starting all over. On a bright note, I noticed our meeting in Rocky River on Tuesday night is showing some signs of life. I need to check around and see if there are any other survivors out there. Ha! (Gary J, Cleveland Area Alateen - Res-440-835-8807, g.jokela@att.net)

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Regina gave her report.

1. The Public Outreach Committee has been slowly but surely moving forward. It was reported that our budget of \$2,000.0 was effective January 1, 2021. We spent \$401.15 for book distribution and postage to Lake County Libraries of 1 copy each of: How Al-Anon Works, Discovering Choices, Opening Our Hearts and Transforming Our Losses, Survival To Recovery, Paths To Recovery and one of each of the Daily Readers. This would allow anyone who could not afford to buy the books to check them out and return them as needed. The library system has updated where you can borrow between counties now. Since then we have purchased two push down stampers (easier to attach our information than sticking on labels) with ink refills and 5,000 neon yellow business cards. This totaled \$139.94 leaving a balance of \$1,458.91 on July 6, 2021. We also ordered 150 copies of the new Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism. The new ones do not display a year because the material inside remains relevant. The new balance will be reported at the next meeting after deducting their cost. Finally, the posters (Nancy reported that Huron County is interested and will be one of our next endeavors along with the PSA's that Ronni supplied information on. Our Health Fairs are on hold at this time due to the Pandemic, however it has been suggested that we purchase labeled magnets and pencils so that people can carry reminders of our contact information as well as the business cards.
2. We will continue to get the word out as best we can and will keep you posted on our progress, not perfection. We welcome new members. There is always a need for public outreach everywhere.

GREATER CLEVELAND AL-ANON WEBSITE:

1. Gary and Mary Jo provided the following web information for the month of July: For the month of July 2021, the clevelandal-anon.org website received 667 queries. The most popular was "Al-Anon meetings by day" followed by "Al-Anon meetings by city". Of that total, 662 were from the United States, 4 were from the United Kingdom and 1 from Canada. 396 mobile phones, 253 desktop computers and 18 tablets were used to access the website.
2. The web team extended an invitation to Brian M., who now does the Miami Valley Al-Anon website) to make a presentation to the group as a possible replacement for our current webmaster. Brian outlined his proposal for revamping the website to be run on a different platform as well as his experience with 12-step websites to more fully engage local Al-Anon members and to make Cleveland's website easier to navigate. He also presented the cost to perform the setting up and maintenance of the service. More discussion will follow.

DISTRICTS / OHIO AFG LIAISON:

1. Ginny C. was present at Council to report on the upcoming Trustees road trip ("Road Trip - You and Your Board Connect!) to Cleveland on October 23, 2021. The location is The Westin Hotel, in downtown Cleveland, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Details and registration can be found at the www.al-anon.org website. Registration ends on October 8, 2021.

HILITES: Mary Jo gave her report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Gratitude Night 2021 – Discussion was tabled until the September Council meeting.
2. Background checks – Merri reported on the status of her contacts with the firm performing the background checks and gave contact information.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council Group Inventory – our Canadian host was unable to attend the meeting on August 20 and Council agreed to extend the date for responses to submit to Kristine to September 10, 2021. Council secretary will send out another e-mail to all members to re-submit their answers.
2. 2022 AI-Anon picnic – A discussion took place on the choice of location, and it was decided to reserve the west side Brookside Reservation location for 2022. Council secretary noted that this location was available now and that she would call to confirm.
3. Audit review by Patricia D. – see Treasurer's report.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/20-22/21 AA Convention w/AI-Anon participation – online
- 8/28/21 Fall AWSC, via Zoom
- 10/1-3/21 Salt Fork weekend – in person
- 10/21/21 Fall Assembly, via Zoom
- 10/23/21 Board of Trustees road trip to Cleveland
- 11/5/21 Gratitude Night



The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2021 via Zoom. All are welcome to attend - Meeting ID is 863 9482 8658#. Or dial by phone 929-205-6099 followed by the meeting ID.

Respectfully submitted, Sheila C., Secretary

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