

## CLEVELAND AL-ANON COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of  
September 17, 2021

The meeting began at approximately 7:03 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer. The meeting was conducted via Zoom. There were 21 persons in attendance. The reading of the minutes of the August 20, 2021, meeting were dispensed with as the members already had received copies, and to allow time for two special reports. Introductions were then made. Kristine B. attended to present the results of the group conscience inventory, and Jane K. and Tony R. were present to present their proposal for new website hosting and management.

### **VOLUNTEERS/OFFICE REPORT:**

1. Vivian gave a report on the meeting of volunteers. Volunteer guidelines were reviewed in order to officially be typed up. Vivian described the different tasks and which volunteers will be handling them. The volunteers will monitor the different tasks. Until there is an office manager, the volunteers will be handling the bulk of the tasks.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Betty presented these key items for August:

Beginning bank balance:	\$15,545.10
Ending bank balance:	\$15,047.20
Rent paid:	\$ 495.00
Checks paid:	\$ 1,621.84
Electronic checks:	\$ 482.11
Checks purchased from Walmart:	\$ 221.15
Sales taxes paid:	\$ 134.18
Per diems:	\$ 215.00
Donations:	\$ 382.68
Payments from groups:	\$ 1,703.37
One HiLites subscription:	\$ 15.00

**ALATEEN:** Gary presented his report.

1. Cleveland Alateen is still hanging in there as we try to recover from the COVID Experience. The meeting I sponsor on Tuesday night in Rocky River is back to face to face meetings but we are one of the few. When I look back at past active Alateen members that I've had, most were brought by grandparents, aunts and uncles, parents, or family friends who were active Al-Anon members. They seem to know the value that Al-Anon has brought to their lives. We could definitely use their help. We are having a struggle for kids. We appreciate all the help the Cleveland Area has been in the past.
2. Vivian noted that a new Alateen group has started up in Independence.

Gary J, Alateen Cleveland (res. 440 835-8807) ([g.jokela@att.net](mailto:g.jokela@att.net))

**PUBLIC OUTREACH:** Regina's report will be given at the October Council meeting.

### **GREATER CLEVELAND AL-ANON WEBSITE:**

Ray and Mary Jo provided the following web information for the month of August: For the month of August 2021, the [clevelandal-anon.org](http://clevelandal-anon.org) website received 608 queries. The most popular was "Al-Anon meetings by day" followed by "Contact Us". Of that total, 603 were from the United States, 1 were from Australia and 1 from India. 354 mobile phones, 228 desktop computers and 26 tablets were used to access the website.

## **DISTRICTS / OHIO AFG LIAISON:**

1. Mary Jo gave an update on the upcoming Trustees visit to Cleveland as well as a reminder for the Fall Assembly on October 16, via Zoom. Information and registration information can be found for the Trustees visit on the Ohio Al-Anon website ([www.ohioal-anon.org](http://www.ohioal-anon.org)). Mary Jo remarked that there are 40 participants currently registered. A donation of \$30.00 is required. There will be a luncheon and break-out sessions during the day.

**HILITES:** Mary Jo reported that September's HiLites are almost ready and that everything is looking good. She noted that she is getting updates regularly from the volunteers.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Council Group Inventory/Group Conscience – Kristine B., the Canadian Al-Anon member who agreed to review the answers for us, presented her report on her review of the answers to questions submitted to her by Council members. She began by introducing herself, where she was located, and a little background on how her group operates in Canada. She then read Tradition 2 and Concept 4, as well as Tradition 12. She also remarked that her favorite book is *When I Got Busy, I Got Better*. She also noted that she was not aware of much of the history of the office. In reviewing the responses, she focused on "being human" and that what unites us is "principles and not personalities." With respect to Council, she noted that Al-Anon is a "spiritual program, with a business component." She said that she turned the project over to her higher power to help her with her review of the responses.

The main theme that surfaced in her review of answers submitted was a sense of discomfort among people and of much loss of serenity. There will be controversy, as well as disagreements, and she found in the responses that when members share, sometimes people take the sharings personally. A lack of communication was sensed. There also were complaints without anything being done about them.

In summing up the results of her review, Kristine strongly suggested that Al-Anon's conflict resolution literature be used. Also, she suggested that stepping up to service is also good. She noted that volunteering for positions was a little unusual in her area. She said that a member would just be asked to do something and that member ordinarily would not say no. There is much to reflect upon in Kristine's presentation, and Council thanked her for her service. Discussion is sure to follow.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Gratitude Night 2021 – There was a discussion regarding meeting in person at the church hall, and with several members concerned about the new Covid issues, it was decided to take a vote on whether to have Gratitude Night be done via Zoom as was done last year. A vote then was taken to have Gratitude Night be a virtual meeting, with almost unanimous support. Mary Jo and Jane K. volunteered to co-host the event.
2. Background check update – Betty and Sheila remarked that they had both responded to Praesidium and are waiting on replies.
3. New proposed website management presentation – Jane K. and Tony R. of Design Mojo, gave their presentation on how they would design and manage a new website for Cleveland Area Al-Anon. A detailed description of what their efforts would be in designing the new website as well as figures on the cost to perform the same were given. Jane K. informed Council that her company would be willing to perform the setting up of the new website pro bono, except for the maintenance of the website. Much discussion followed, including the suggestion to ask our current webmaster, Ray, to attend the October Council meeting to present his proposal for continuing to manage the website. After further questions and answers of Jane and Tony, it was decided not to wait and to proceed with the hiring of Design Mojo to be

the new webmaster for the Cleveland website. A motion was then made and passed to accept the pro bono offer made by Jane's company.

- 4. Elections for Officer positions – Betty asked if there were nominations for any of the officer positions, but none came forward. Elections are slated for the October meeting.

**GREEN LIGHT:**

- 1. Betty remarked that it is now fine with St. Vincent to meet in person at Rosary Hall. A discussion followed, and a vote was taken to continue to meet via Zoom until further notice.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/1-3/21 Salt Fork weekend – in person
- 10/16-17/21 Fall Assembly, via Zoom
- 10/23/21 Board of Trustees road trip to Cleveland
- 11/5/21 Gratitude Night



The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2021 via Zoom. All are welcome to attend - Meeting ID is 847 9751 3760. Or dial by phone 312-626-6799.

Respectfully submitted, Sheila C., Secretary

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