

Southern Arizona Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) Business Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Zoom Meeting

6:30-7:45 PM

Call to Order, Serenity Prayer, and Opening Business

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Judith P. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Welcome and Courtesy Guidelines – Judith P.

Step 4 – Leigh S.

Tradition 4 – Monta A.

Concept 4 – Julia C.

Introductions – There were no new Information Service Representatives (“ISR”) or Alternates. There was one new Group Representative, Magaly L., representing the Una Luz en mi Camino Family Group. There were no new Alternate GRs or District Representatives.

Participants included:

Judith P.	Alice W.	Cynthia V.	Autum H.
Jane B.	Kathy M.	Ellen R.	Ened
Anne S.	Monta A.	Julia C.	Mike M.
Andrew M.	Lisa J.	Magaly L.	Leigh S.

16 voting members were present.

The March Business Meeting Minutes were approved by consent.

The March Financial Report was approved by consent. Cynthia V. noted that the financial report reflected that for calendar year 2024, AIS had budgeted \$1250 for contributions to the Area/Arizona. This payment was made in full in February. Also, for calendar year 2024, AIS had budgeted \$750 contributions to the World Service Organization in the sum of \$3,750. This payment was also made in February. These payments were made from amounts in excess of AIS’s reserve now that it no longer has a physical office.

The 7th Tradition was observed – Participants were encouraged to pay by the following methods: Check (sent to PO Box 44003, Tucson, AZ 85733); or Zelle (using the email address treasurer@so-az-alanon.org).

Old Business

Delegates Day June 1. Monta A. reported on Delegates Day, which is being held in Tucson, from 10 am to 3 pm at the Christ Church United Methodist. Two family groups have agreed to host the event—Steps to Freedom and the Sunday Morning AFG. There will be a silent auction to help support the Area. Family Groups will be asked to create baskets for the auction, and Monta will be sending out a Flyer.

Literature Procedures/Audit. Cynthia V., the Treasurer, led a discussion that it would be best practice to have some written accounting procedures in place for literature sales, and that it would be a good idea to audit a few selected literature items at least once a year as literature is AIS's largest investment. The group voted 15 in favor with one abstention to create a Thought Force to consider the matter and report back to the group. The following individuals agreed to be part of the Thought Force: Lisa J., Mike M. Andrew M., Ened, and Cynthia V.

Insurance. Cynthia V. reported that the yearly insurance premium of approximately \$650 was due and paid in March. There was a discussion that going forward, AIS's insurance needs should be reviewed, particularly in light of the fact that AIS no longer has a physical store or office. The cost of insurance has gone up. The cost of the insurance and the package that the insurance company is willing to offer us is determined by the "class description" of AIS's business, which is listed as "Substance Abuse -- Detoxification Centers, Outpatient." Mike M. reported that when AIS purchased the insurance, he had argued for a different designation, but the insurance company would only agree to this designation. The insurance policy covers two things: (1) general liability, which covers bodily harm and applies to wherever AIS is doing business and, (2) commercial general liability, which covers harm to property, only covers a loss if the location is listed as an additional insured. When AIS leases space, the lessor may require AIS to list the lessor on its insurance. Currently, there are 23 entities, including family groups, real estate companies, churches, etc. listed as additional insureds. There is a need to "clean this list up" as many these locations may no longer be in use. Insurance matters were referred to the Steering Committee for further review.

Spring Assembly March 23. Kathy reported that the event had been very successful, and she thanked the volunteers who had helped with the event. Judith P. thanked Kathy M. for all her work to make the event successful.

Founders Day. Kathy M. noted that Founders Day had been moved from July to February but had not been held this year because AIS was involved in hosting Spring Assembly, and in February there was no Alternate Chair to be responsible for the event. The group discussed whether Founders Day should be moved back to July. There was a discussion of the following: People are gone in the summer. There are a number of other events going on in the summer. Fellowship is important. It might be a good idea to have an event such as an ice cream social in July. The matter was referred to the Steering Committee for further review.

New Business

Area Deficit. There was a discussion that at the Spring Assembly, a budget had been adopted that reflected a year-end deficit for the Area. This deficit is largely due to expenses associated with interpreters for hybrid meetings and the cost of the next Assembly, which is going to be held over the course of two days. The hope is that the projected income in the budget is conservative, and registration fees for the Assembly will in large part cover the costs of the Assembly. There was discussion that if there still is a deficit in the fall, AIS may be called upon to make an additional contribution to the Area.

Translation Coordinator Position. There was a discussion regarding this position, which has not been filled. There was further discussion that the Spanish community is an integral part of the organization, and although Google translation is good, it is not always correct. There was consensus that we need to look for someone to fill the position and not eliminate the position. Ened and Magaly said they would see if anyone in District 10S was interested in filling the position.

In Person AIS Meetings. There was a discussion that some in-person AIS meetings would be beneficial to support fellowship, particularly in light of the new officers and coordinators. There was further discussion that the Tucson Ward 6 Office, which is located in central Tucson, has a good set-up for hybrid meetings for community events. Individuals could still attend the meetings virtually if they were unable to attend in person. The matter was referred to the Steering Committee to consider holding a hybrid meeting there every quarter.

Announcements, Coordinator and Officer Reports

District 24. Julia C. reported that the Assembly had gone very well, although there was not time to go through all the reports.

News and Events. Jane B. reported that she is becoming familiar with her position.

Prison Coordinator. Mike M. reported that he is still looking for volunteers to help with carrying the Al-Anon message into the men's prison. He stated that this service is very rewarding. Mike M. is looking for men and women to volunteer. Training is provided and it is a once-a-month commitment.

Literature Coordinator. Leigh S. reported that he had purchased shelving units for the storage facility from Amazon for a total cost of \$342, and the shelving was going to work well.

Judith P. closed the meeting at 8:00 p.m. with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Next Southern Arizona AIS Meeting:
Wednesday May 1, 2024, 6:30-7:45 PM
Zoom Meeting--Access Code: 879 9286 3715
Passcode: 913121

Respectfully submitted by Alice W., Secretary.