

NYC AI-Anon Intergroup AFG Representative Annual Meeting Agenda  
January 25, 2022 6:30 pm  
Zoom ID: 826 0130 3807 Passcode: 052717

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IR sign-in and an attempt at a quorum is facilitated, but not achieved.

Meret O. chaired the meeting.

Opened with Serenity Prayer.

Meret explained safety and meeting protocols, etc.

Meeting is not recorded, but chats are saved to transfer comments that are pertinent.

When minutes are accepted at the next IR meeting, the chat will be destroyed.

Julie L. opened with reading from "Courage to Change," Dec. 1, p. 336.

Quorum not met so we moved to introductions.

Introductions

Cynthia, the tech host, will call IRs by name to introduce themselves.

- Amy C., Step into the Heights, Thursdays, 7 p.m.
- Fred G., Let It Begin With Me, Friday, 7:30
- Susie P, Uptown Saturday Night, Saturdays at 6 p.m.
- Lauren S., Healing Power of AI-Anon, Mondays at 7 p.m.
- Rita J, Stepped Up in the City, Wed, 7 p.m.
- Christine S., Start Your Day Right, every morning at 7:30 a.m. and Sat/Sun at 8 and 9
- Carolyn C., East Side Serenity, Sundays at 6 p.m.
- Gil, GR for Start Your Day Right
- Michael B., Happy, Joyous and Free, Mondays at 7 p.m.
- Vidya, Windsor Terrace Family Group, Tuesdays at 7:30
- Gabrielle P., Saturday Solutions and Serenity, Saturday at 10 a.m.
- Steven H., unofficial Saturday Serenity in Queens, Saturday, 11 a.m.
- Julia S., Bed-Stuy Serenity, 7 p.m.
- Jennifer H, Saturday Serenity, Saturday mornings
- Sal D., West Side LGBTQIA Group, Sundays at 6 p.m.
- Harriet, How AI-Anon Works, Mondays at 7:00 pm

Introductions of Board of Trustees:

- Meret O., acting as chair
- Cynthia, tech host
- Pinar, board member
- Bill, treasurer

Meret made a call for a new Treasurer (as the current treasurer is rotating out of service) or anyone who is interested, to attend the finance committee meeting.

A church in Inwood is willing to rent to 12-Step groups.

A call made to identify all IRs to see if we have a quorum. Including Steven from Saturday Serenity Queens as an IR, and now a quorum was reached and the minutes from the October 2021 IR meeting were accepted.

Motion was put forward for acceptance of the last meeting's minutes, voted to approve. Cynthia used a poll feature to gather votes.

### **Quorum met**

Julie L., outgoing chair of Intergroup, did official business of the changing of the guard.

- She nominated Meret for the chair role. No other nominations. Meret O. gets the position.
- Officially introduced Cynthia and Pinar as board members, since they began service after the annual meeting in 2021. Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer roles need to be filled. Only requirement is to have two consecutive years of service in AI-Anon and it is suggested that you are actively working the steps with a sponsor.

Meret welcomed everyone.

Intergroup has an onboarding document called, "Welcome IR." Put name and email in the chat to Cynthia if you want one.

Board members read: "We are but trusted servants--we do not govern."

Reports were given as follows:

#### **Office Admin Report (Cynthia)**

Donations declining, but receiving them.

Deposits into bank account happening weekly.

6 groups issued insurance certificates so far.

Website is up-to-date with flyers

All literature orders have been shipped

Still can pick up literature or have it shipped. (Free still if it's under \$10.)

\$315 given to building staff and \$55 to volunteers as holiday gifts.

Question posed about the insurance for groups. Gabrielle P. wanted to know if she should bring info back to her group on that.

Meret O. answers: Intergroup carries insurance and some buildings require it from groups. For an individual group it is prohibitively expensive, but if the group meets once a week they can pay \$100 (\$150 in more than once a week) and be put on Intergroup's insurance. Contact the Intergroup office for information. It's a service that Intergroup offers but not needed if the space you rent doesn't require it.

#### **Treasurer's Report (Bill)**

FY 2021

Total Income: \$140,604

Gross Profit: \$126,926

Total Expense: \$94,993

Net Other Income: \$938

Net Income: \$32,141

Available Cash: \$47,581, a 30 percent increase over the prior year.

Had a very profitable year in 2021 compared with 2020. Al Anon has been profitable the past two years and this is the first time this has happened.

Contributions increased in 2021 by 13 percent.

Share-a-Day contributions increased by 51 percent.

Literature sales income decreased by 20 percent.

Total expenses increased by 9 percent (pay raises and bonus to office manager, more sanitizers and modernizing website).

Made contributions to service arms (\$3,000 x 2)

\$36,787--current balance.

Paying bills in a timely manner.

-Gil asks if the Intergroup office is back open again at all and were we paying rent when it was closed. Even though so flush with money, is there any thought to try to look for another space?

Meret: Rent is low b/c the owner only rents to non-profits. Intergroup paid rent throughout the pandemic b/c it's a good space and we don't want to lose it. We discussed re-opening the office, but omicron came, so we held off. Can still pick up books at the security desk. Will talk about the reopening of the office at the board meeting.

### **Website Committee Report** (Judith and Clara)

Clara:

Have been on the new website committee with Robert and Intergroup board.

In the fall, Robert mapped out a new website. We have come to learn that we need more functionality than our original platform could offer. We are moving to SquareSpace. Robert is implementing the new site.

Committee is now working on: Meeting list format, which is such a key component of why people come to our site. We will purchase a plug-in, designed for 12-Step meetings

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Judith:

(Showing new format of [website--aasanjose.org](http://website--aasanjose.org))

This is the plug-in several 12-step programs are using.

It will all be in one place instead of clicking different pages for virtual meetings.

It incorporates drop-down menus and icons.

This will be our biggest user functionality on the website.

Website is being done by Robert, who is one of us, which will make a big difference.

Meret:

Thanked Clara and Judith.

Speaking for the board "If price too good to be true, too good to be true."

Board had hoped to do website for \$800, come to understand it costs \$6,000 to \$7,000. The board has decided to move forward and have allocated the funds for that. It's our most important outreach tool. And we have ample funds for this purpose. After spending \$7,000 we will still have over \$17,000 earmarked for outreach. We're supposed to be spending money on it. That will be a topic of break-out rooms.

**7th Tradition Break**, with additional language about offering service.  
Meret's goal this year: to increase service at the grassroots level.  
Asked for \$5 per group.

**Breakout Room Discussion** Topics and Questions are as follows and posted on the chat as well:

- If money were no object, how to spread the word?
- Do we have target populations?
- Should we donate CAL? How does it get to where it's needed?

Each room is asked to have a secretary to report back to the main group. Everyone has 10 minutes to discuss the questions.

IR's came back from the break-out rooms at 7:40 p.m.  
Each spokesperson raises their hands to share their ideas.

Group 1 Carolyn C.

Discussed materials like posters, flyers to be targeted to therapists, life coaches and interventionists, public schools (guidance counselors) rehabs. Deliver literature to hospitals and rehab centers. Most positions on Intergroup that are paid if have a need for service. Could study Al-Anon to gain legitimacy.

Group 2 Michael B:

GR in its group talking about the district's outreach re. domestic violence. Could be more interaction between IR and GR. GR donates CAL to precincts. Use resources to promote Alateen sponsors and literature supporting Alateen members to go to Al-Anon. More outreach to meetings themselves to encourage service. Re. diversity in meetings, encouraging people to form meetings in their communities.

Group 3 Christine S.

Spoke about translation of materials into Spanish and Chinese particularly those for newcomers. Talked about money left aside to be used to donate literature to people. Could invest funds in a growth fund so it's there for rainy day. Giving literature to schools. Could do social media PSAs.

Group 4 Jeanne

Approach institutions using the tools they have today like internet-type things like schools, health institutions. Something to be explored. Mentioned libraries. Someone mentioned doing member outreach by reaching out to meetings across the country that we could share on the Intergroup website.

Group 5 Gabrielle P.

Overall, we talked about understanding the tradition as a filter and noting not always sure of the nuances around it. Talked about focusing on racial equity. AI-Anon tends to be white and could focus on Black and brown communities that don't have a lot of meetings. Look at neighborhoods where there are not a lot of meetings and think about pop-up meetings. Talked about recognizing treatment centers are important but won't always include people not in recovery. Want to do efforts outside of there and in places where people live--community centers, bodegas, etc. Talked about how we can advertise even with a flyer and how to share info that we exist and where people can access us. "Reaching people where they live."

Meret

Would like to follow up on this so you can share more with your groups. Intergroup will follow up in a week or two.

### **New Business**

1. This being the service year, in your IR packets there was a draft document about the internal structures of service that Intergroup might have.

Shared a slide with volunteer opportunities for finance, Share-a-Day, hotline and outreach. More info is in the IR packets.

2. For the future, developing a policy for out-of-town virtual service -- how much of Intergroup is NY versus elsewhere? Things are in flux. Probably will discuss it further. We may need to be a task force. We have a charter and bylaws: how much does that need to change or stay the same? It's on the board's mind. For next 18 months, Meret is in Georgia.

### **Announcements** (Key ones were posted)

- Update your group's meeting info at NYCAlanon.org.
- WSO has separate records from NYC Intergroup.
- Alateen AMIAS training session this Saturday, Jan. 29.
- Next Share-a-Day is Feb. 26.
- If no one is making an Intergroup-related announcement during a 7th Tradition break at a meeting, feel free to copy and paste the news from the "AI-Anon-Related Announcements" section on the Intergroup website.
- Next Intergroup Board meeting is Feb. 8. Anyone can observe.
- Next IR meeting is April 26.
- SENY is in Tarrytown in Westchester and it needs AI-Anon people to sell books. Not requiring vax, but yes to masks.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Fred:

AI-Anon Intergroup website lists Alateen meetings.

There are Alateen chat meetings across the country available on the AI-Anon App.

Rita:

Are we going to get these announcements in a package that can share in a meeting?

Meret said yes and that she would reach out to Rita.

The meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer.