

## Intergroup IR Meeting January 26, 2021

Start with the Serenity Prayer

Jeanne said we need 12 IR's for a quorum if you are an IR please raise your hand we had 10 but Fred pointed out that we can start the meeting without 12 but in the end turns out we had 12.

Jeanne welcomed everyone and everyone is muted.

JEANNE "Welcome to the New York City Intergroup Representative Meeting. To keep the meeting safe we have put some security measures in place:

- Private Chat is disabled, but everyone can send messages to the SIGN-IN Host, Cynthia, via the Chat.
- Members cannot screen share.
- To keep the sound quality good, members have been automatically muted.
- If you want to share, please raise your virtual hand so we can unmute you.
- You can also post comments and questions to Cynthia, the SIGN-IN host so we can address them.
- We will NOT record this meeting, but we save the Chat in order to transcribe any pertinent comments into the Minutes. When the minutes are accepted at the next IR meeting, the Chat copy is deleted.
- Members who have dialed in can use \*6 to Mute and Unmute, and \*9 to raise their hand."

Julie opened with a **reading** from Conference Approved Literature."

JULIE (Board Member) read Hope For Today, January 17, p.17

JEANNE (Chair)

Thank you Julie. Julie asked if new IR's came and asked them to sign in to the chat and sign their groups. We now ask IRs to **approve the minutes** of the prior meeting, in October. A copy of the minutes was sent to all IRs via email last week. Please direct any questions or comments regarding minutes into Cynthia, the SIGN-IN Host. Jeanne asked if anyone had a question"

Besty asked about the topic and there is a blank part and she wanted to know if there is an answer to the bottom of page 3.

Other than the change Jeanne asked if the minutes are approved. A motion was made to accept the minutes and we voted. There were 20 “Yes” and there were no opposed and there were 2 abstentions. We have 22 participants.

JEANNE said “The Minutes have been accepted. I’d now like to introduce our Board, Bill, Julie, Meret, Suze, and Pinar, who will now read “We are but trusted servants””

-Board members read the document.

Jeanne said we now go around the room to **introduce ourselves**. Cynthia called each IR by name to introduce themselves and identify their group. IR’s did their introductions.

Jeanne introduced the **Election of new Board members**. “Three new members have joined the Board since our last Annual Meeting. We have space for 15 members, and currently only have five members, so this election is procedural, but it is required by Article 5 of our bylaws as follows: “The members of the Board shall be elected at the Annual IR Meeting. Nominations to the Board shall be made by the Board and announced at the Annual IR Meeting. I will read a short statement about each new member, and there will be an opportunity to vote YES, NO, or ABSTAIN for each new board member.”

Jeanne read Meret’s Bio and 21 voted Yes and Meret is elected to the board.

Jeanne read Pinar’s Bio and 23 voted Yes and she is elected to the board.

Jeanne read Suze’s Bio and 23 voted Yes and one abstention and Suze is elected to the board.

We moved to **Reports** and Jeanne let everyone know that they can type questions into the chat

Julie read the Administrative Report “our office is closed but May comes to the office once a week to do the clerical chores. This week the board is finalizing our contract with her and due to the contributions the board was able to give her a modest raise and a one-time bonus. May is keeping the literature in tact and members can pick up literature from the building. We would like to express our gratitude for the contributions but we still need more contributions. Share day exceeded its attendance limit and we upgraded the zoom account, which cost us about extra 40 dollars a month. Now the attendance is from Poland to San Francisco. We are planning more events this February we are doing an event with District 18 and 15. We really want to make sure there is someone there for new comers. We still run our hotline. 212 941 0094 is the hotline number. It is a great service. The other thing that came up with the area that WSO will continue to have their events virtually through July 2021 and our board meetings will remain the same virtual. Last fall we created a new email for the board very simple and if you email us someone will

Question: Is literature under 10 dollars sending out for free? Yes it is.

Bill gave the Financial Report: Alanon had a positive year financially in 2020. Net income is \$26,430 which compares quite favorably to \$10,357 in 2019. Please note that the \$10,357 positive gain was the remaining amount of \$22,674 transfer from our Prudent Reserve to meet our expenses as show on the P&L as well as a loss of -\$12,316 if the transfer was not made.

The primary reasons for the gain in 2020 were contributions which increased to \$96,867 from \$59,406 in 2019 a 63% increase. Another positive item was an increase of \$3,326 in Events, 70% increase. Literature income decreased by -\$18,236, 47%. This was offset by a decrease in Cost of Goods Sold in the amount of -\$15,693, 52%. There was also a timing issue in posting payroll costs. We start 2021 with almost \$37,000 in our checking account. We continue to pay our bills in a timely manner. The Savings Account shows \$50,425 in assets which includes \$21,000, the full 3 ½ months of Prudent Reserve, \$23,479 is targeted for Public Outreach, and the remaining \$5,946 is undesignated at this time.

Question can the spreadsheet be emailed to the IR's Jeanne said I believe we can send it out. It can be requested at [board@nycalanon.org](mailto:board@nycalanon.org) Libbie requested that the reports are send to the IR's in advance. Jeanne said there is always a delay we will take it into consideration. Jeanne said we tried our best but we were not able to.

-Inreach Report & Website Report Meret gave verbal reports: "I feel great about doing service and it is a slow process. When I came to the board I wanted to change everything very fast but what feels like the slowness of things changing is. On the web site not much has happened on the in reach for the groups that don't have a group or IR rep I have started to do that in collaboration of the districts. Collaborating with district 18 and 19 and 30 and come up with pilot programs especially with the groups that are ghosts, we are trying to find ways to do that and I am super open to suggestions and ideas. We should have more to report in the next IR meeting and have a little bit of more feedback. If anybody who is an IR is interested in attending a different meeting and see if that might be a way to encourage the meeting to connect. The central aim of the group is to foster communication. My increasing realization that when I got to the intergroup there were 3 members and the mission is to get more people involved to get more people working it doesn't have to be a huge commitment of time but hoping to get more people participate"

### **Jeanne announced the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Break**

-Andrea (tech-host) screen shared 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition payment info when Jeanne (Chair) begins 7th Tradition announcement.

A question do we need more people for the web site Meret said yes we can announce it at the meetings and we need more people.

Another question is how do we know if a meeting is not connected? Meret " I am working on a big spread sheet and each of the 2 districts I am working with we have gotten lists of dark meetings and I can give you list of 3 meetings that are dark. I can figure out and give you a shortlist of 3 meetings for people to attend"

Lauren asked a question can you send an email to the groups and we figure out

Meret she said she will try to come up with a list and she said she would love to work with Lauren.

JEANNE “For this quarter, we have experimented with sending a questionnaire of possible topics for our breakout rooms, so you’d have time to ask your groups about what interested them.

The possible topics were “Newcomers, Sponsorship, Unity & Diversity, Virtual Fellowship, and Managing Finances Electronically.” The votes were almost completely even, with Virtual Fellowship in a tiny lead.

Since no single topic rose to the top of the list, we invite you to move into breakout rooms for discussion, but we’d like for you to share about what your group cares about.

-Andrea slide shared the List of Topics and pastes the text (below) into the Chat.

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Newcomers  
Sponsorship  
Unity & Diversity  
Virtual Fellowship  
Managing Finances Electronically

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We’d also like to know if sending a questionnaire about topics was a good idea or not. If it worked for your group, great. If not, let us know why.

The breakout rooms were created and discussion were done we came back to the main Zoom room where everyone gathered again

Jeanne: Welcome back. Can the spokesperson from each group raise your virtual hand so we can call on you? Each Spokesperson has 3 minutes to share their group’s findings. Members are encouraged to share their comments in the Chat to the Sign-In host, Cynthia, so they can be discussed after the spokespeople share.

There were 6 groups

Jordan “ We chose newcomers everyone felt that it was a vital piece of Alanon, some groups do it through fellowship, if during a meeting after the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition just for new comers, one of our weekly meetings always has a newcomer share, a new comer share is done for 5 minutes, we also talked about robust meetings and how do you make a newcomer feel comfortable in a big meeting like that”

Tina “ We spend most of the times speaking about electronic financial group especially donating anonymously, wanting to protect anonymity and not wanting the treasurer to know the amount of contribution, and different members level of electronic financial literacy, a group also paid their zoom fees so no member will be responsible from paying the zoom fees”

Lauren “ We were more broader we did not have any topic we honed on only one person in the group had time to distribute it to their group. One group had a discussion around and safety and how do we return to the safety. Literature was the topic how do we get the literature to the newcomer without telling them to go to the web site to purchase it”

Julie clarified” WSO does have an electronic newcomers packet that is \$3.00”

Hannah” We kept it broad and Unity and Diversity is what we mostly talked about and basically what we spoke about was noting where we feel the lack of unity and diversity. We talked about the next steps brainstorming looking at AA and seeing how they approach diversity, group inventory is another possible way. Virtual fellowship and newcomers also felt like an important topic”

Dessida “ We talked broadly not all of us were able to get the survey to the group. In terms of Virtual fellowship and one person talked about how they had a big meeting but the attendance dropped. Sharing and fellowship was discussed. The next topic was lack of diversity especially the lack of people of color and one group added a statement on diversity. Newcomers is another topic. We talked about to posting at the

church where we meet so newcomers can come. The next issue is Virtual finances is an issue the groups are struggling with. Sponsorship and challenges on it”

Question” What is a group inventory”

Amy answered “We sit down we dedicate a meeting to do an inventory and someone from the area delegate attends”

Amy representing group went on and said “ We covered newcomers, diversity and electronic finances and a Pdf of new comer packet, the challenges of the new format. Electronic financial stuff and re examining whether or not it is necessary to raise money right now. How we can improve diversity is also discussed”

Jeanne said The next item on the Agenda is “Old Business.” We have no old business, so we’ll move to New Business, where Suze will share an idea for members.”

Suze reports on progress around an interactive page on the website. She said she likes the web page and asked would it not be cool if we extended the laughter to the web site and if there was a special page for members if you have suggestions and like the idea big suggestions is Alateen , speakeasy to see how it can happen. We would be including things like little stories, puzzles, or cartoon, or a funny story.

Jeanne made the announcements, which will all be posted on the News page of our website by the end of the week.

Here are a few important dates to bring to your groups.

- Share A Day is on Saturday January 30th, noon-4.
- The Intergroup Board meeting on Tuesday February 9th, from 6:30-8 pm. If you’re interested in serving on the Board, please contact me. You are welcome to come to the Board meeting.
- Intergroup & District 18/19 Seminar will present a seminar on Sunday, February 21, noon-1:30pm. It’s called “Start Your Year Right,” and addressed how service beyond the group level can turbocharge your recovery. A flyer on the News page of our website will have the sign-in information.

- The next Intergroup Rep (IR) meeting is on Tuesday April 27,2021

We also have some general announcements about volunteering.

- Andrea and Cynthia were our fabulous tech-hosts for this meeting. If you or any member of your group can be a tech-host for an occasional Intergroup event, we need you.
- We practice rotation of service, and Bill, our Treasurer is now serving for a second year. If you or any member of your group has numbers or accounting background, please consider joining the Finance Committee.
- Here's a gentle reminder: at your 7th Tradition breaks, please announce that there's a "Volunteer" button on the Intergroup homepage. Encourage members to check out the volunteer options, and maybe suggest new ones.
- Dates for the remaining IR meetings are posted on our website News page. They take place Tuesday evenings, April 27th, July 27th, and October 26th from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Jeanne said that we've now come to the end of our meeting. The room will stay open for 10 minutes after the meeting closes, so members can chat, exchange numbers, and have fellowship. Suze raised her hand to close the meeting and it was seconded and we closed with the Serenity Prayer.