

## 05-20-18 AFG Al-Anon District 8 Meeting Minutes

Pine Grove United Methodist Church, 1580 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12205

### District 8 Meeting Attendance

Name	District 8 Service Position
Kevin M.	District Rep
Joan L	Alternate District Rep and Group Rep for Watervliet-Latham AFG on Thursday, 7 pm; also representing New Beginner meeting/Albany, Sunday, Noon
Tammy B.	Website/Electronic Newsletter Coord.
Maria S.	Alt.Dist.Secretary; Schedules Coordinator
Toni A.	Answering Service Coordinator and Group Rep for Friday Night Alive AFG/Albany, Friday, 7 pm
Don B.	Representing Cobleskill and Schoharie meetings
Linda R.	Representing Reflections on Our Legacies AFG/Albany, Tuesday Noon
Liz W.	Group Rep - Reflections on Our Legacies AFG/Albany, Tuesday Noon
William	Long-Term Temporary GR for From Survival to Recovery AFG/Albany, Sunday, 6 pm
Tim	Treasurer for Next to New Beginner meeting at VA Hospital/Albany, Tuesday at 7:30 pm
Angelina	Group Rep
Maria B.	Group Rep- Sunday Night Parents AFG/Albany, Sunday 7 pm
Betty H.	Group Rep - Courage to Change/ Albany, Monday 6 pm

Kevin M. opened the meeting at 3:00 pm with the Serenity Prayer, the Traditions were read, and everyone introduced themselves. Those who could not attend but who called in were also introduced. The free call-in number is (712) 770-4340; the participant access code is 799474. All are welcome to call-in.

### New York North ([www.nynafg.com](http://www.nynafg.com)) Update

- There is a new address for the New York North Treasurer. This address must be used when District 8 groups are donating money to New York North:  
NYN Area Assembly, P.O. Box 12183, Syracuse, NY 13220
- New York North will again have a table at the New York State fair. The link to sign up will be on the New York North website in June.

### Info from 2018 New York North Spring Assembly

- Kevin said that the main website is a topic in the 2019 Assembly's agenda.
- There is an insurance committee that is looking at the feasibility of buying insurance and possibly including a rider that protects against stolen funds.
- The funds that were stolen by New York North and trying to be recovered, although no criminal action is being sought.
- **2020 Spring Assembly** – District 22 (Saratoga County/North) will be hosting the 2020 Spring Assembly but has asked our District (8), District 7 (across the river) and District 24 (West of Albany) to assist. The Spring Assembly had been held in Albany in 2016.

**District 8 Treasurer's Report** – The report will be submitted next month, since Debora now is only able to produce it every other month. Donations to New York North must be sent to the new address (included above).

### **District 8 Literature Depot Coordinator Report**

- The LDC was absent, and no report had been submitted. Maria B., the GR for Sunday night's meeting at Pine Grove, gave kudos to the new Literature Packets that Andrew and Joan L. had made up for Outreach.
- Kevin reminded groups who needed to order Al-Anon literature to (1) try to get the order in at least a week in advance, (2) use the [ldc@al-anon-8ny.org](mailto:ldc@al-anon-8ny.org) email address and (3) remember to include the Name and Catalog Number of the item being ordered and download the actual order form from the website, when possible. The Al-Anon Literature order form with the stock numbers can be found here: <https://al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/S16.pdf>
- Groups are reminded that all literature can be ordered through the LDC, rather than going to a third-party vendor, such as Amazon.

### **District 8 Website ([www.al-anon-8ny.org](http://www.al-anon-8ny.org)) Report**

- District 22 (Saratoga County/North) will split the cost to upgrade the website, add the extra capitaldistrictalanon.org domain name [new website address that is easier to use and remember]. The new domain name will cost \$15/year, and the District 22 Website Coordinator will work with our Website Coordinator. Once we have the new domain name, Toni A will change the message for the Answering Service to include the new domain name.
- Contact Joan L. at [altdr@al-anon-8ny.org](mailto:altdr@al-anon-8ny.org) to get more info on service opportunities with the task force assigned to update the website.
- Current Wish List/Considerations for Website:
  - Box at top for “Important Notices and Changes”
  - Adding links to other 12-step programs – We are self-governing, although there is Tradition 6 that states “we shall not endorse”.

Note: Any feedback on the website can be emailed at any time to our District 8 Website Coordinator, Tammi B., at [info@al-anon-8ny.org](mailto:info@al-anon-8ny.org)

### **World Service Office (WSO) Find-A-Meeting on Website ([www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org))**

A few attendees had tried it and liked it, but one downside is that you cannot search for a “radius of \_\_\_ miles”. There is a requirement to enter the Zip Code, City or County. Note: on the New York North website, you click on the County on a map and then you can select a specific meeting.

### **Upcoming District 8 Coordinator Service Position Transitions - Kevin**

- Kevin said the District 8 Coordinators will change in conjunction with the New York North and World Service Office changes that occur every three years (unless a particular coordinator has served less than the three years and would like to continue in their current position)
- There will be **three months of Transition – Sept. – Dec. - the new positions start officially January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.**
- Open District 8 positions may be found at <http://www.al-anon-8ny.org/d8news.html>
- Those seeking info on any open position are asked to email Kevin at [Dr@al-anon-8ny.org](mailto:Dr@al-anon-8ny.org) with any questions they may have.
- Those interested in filling these positions are asked to email Kevin at [dr@al-anon-8ny.org](mailto:dr@al-anon-8ny.org) and are also asked to come to the August District 8 meeting on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm at Pine Grove United Methodist Church, 1580 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12205.

### **Schedules Coordinator Report – Maria S.**

- Drafts of two versions of the new schedule were passed around. It was decided to try the “sideways” version--it can always be changed, if necessary.
- There have been a few new meetings and changes to current meetings. Maria said it was difficult to try to keep up with the changes and try to insert them into the current, tight schedule.
- The new schedule will be printed and sent to the Current Mailing Addresses (CMAs), along with a friendly letter that Maria and Joan will draft and with the new GR pamphlets.
- There are currently 2800 copies (1400 two-sided documents) that are available in our account at the UPS store.

### **Second Saturday Speaker Meetings – Kevin**

- The first meeting in the new location was well-attended and went very well.
- GRs are asked to announce this meeting every month and remind their groups that the new location is:  

Gathering Space at Calvary United Methodist Church, 15 Ridge Pl, Latham, NY 12110  
<http://www.calvaryumclatham.org/>
- Attendees are reminded to park on the main level (across the street from the entrance), not the lower level.
- This is an open meeting - everyone is welcome. In addition to telling your story, other service opportunities at this meeting include set-up, clean-up and bringing food and/or beverage offerings.

### **District 8 Group Representative (GR) Reports**

- A GR had a question on how often business meetings should be held, since there were problems with getting group participants to stay. Various current and prior GRs offered their opinions, such as: having flexibility on their frequency; holding them quarterly; cutting the meeting short so that people could attend the business meeting; bringing concerns up each week during the “announcements” section of the meeting; reminding groups that “everyone is welcome to stay for the Business Meeting and we hope you will”; since two people can make a meeting, two people can hold a business meeting; creating an email list to get the word out.

- GRs need to ask their groups if they will be purchasing the new 2018-2021 Al-Anon Service Manual. Kevin reminded everyone that WSO no longer sends this Manual free of charge to the Group Reps.

### **Outreach Task Force – Joan L.**

- Maria and Peg H.'s report was discussed on working the Outreach table with at the Summer Smith Run for Addiction at Guilderland High School. Maria said that it was a great opportunity and that approximately 40 people came to the table. Maria and Peg had made suggestions on how to make the Outreach table more eye-catching.
- Contact Joan L. at [altdr@al-anon-8ny.org](mailto:altdr@al-anon-8ny.org) to get more info on service opportunities with this task force. Some goals of this task force are to gather information, determine standing opportunities, work with rehabs.

### **New GR Task Force – Joan L. and Maria S.**

- Drafts of the “Thinking About Becoming a GR” and “Welcome New GR” pamphlets were passed around and discussed.
- Contact Joan L. at [altdr@al-anon-8ny.org](mailto:altdr@al-anon-8ny.org) to get more info on service opportunities with this task force.

### **Day of Sharing 2018 – No update**

### **Other Items**

- There will be no District 8 meetings in July and December this year.

**Next District Meeting - Sunday, June 17th, 3 pm, Pine Grove Methodist Church, 1580 Central Ave., Albany**  
– Enter through Glass Doors on West Side of Church and head immediately left down the stairs into the Basement and through the door, unless the meeting room is specified elsewhere on the Meeting Agenda.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

Note: Although June 17<sup>th</sup> is Father's Day, the group conscience agreed that this date would not be a problem for attendees.

*Respectfully Submitted, In Service  
Maria S., Scribe*