

DRAFT MINUTES
AL-ANON INFORMATION SERVICES-CALGARY
June 3, 2024, ZOOM platform only

Attendees: *Carolyn*, Gina, Candace, Annie, Raman, Debbie, Jamie, Joanne, Nancy, Carol, Collette, Shellie, Kate

Meeting opened at 7:07 pm with Serenity Prayer

Attendance: 1 non-voting members/12 voting members

Concept read by Carolyn

Adoption April 2024 – missed

Reports:

AIS Chair Report: (Carolyn) Email activity remains constant. Most of the emails are regarding meeting lists. Respondents are needing information about registration and qualifications. The District 3 and 4 workshop in May was well organized and attended. Unfortunately I could only be there for the morning. Succession planning: I am stepping down in my role as Chair at the end of the term (Dec 31, 2024) as I have personal responsibilities that have made the workload a little harder. I will be available for transition and hopefully, will be organized to make that transition as smooth and supported as possible.

AIS Calgary and AIS Edmonton presented on “Double-Headed Management” at May Assembly. Some of the observations:

- within the service structure, AIS has a minor role, but with numerous and important responsibilities.
- the relationship between Area Assembly and AIS is not entirely clear. This leads to the potential for duplication of roles and responsibilities.
- how do we maintain efficient communication to avoid the potential for double-headed management?
- given the size of Al-Anon's membership in Canada, is this as good as it gets? We are experiencing similar issues to the other western Canadian areas. The common observation is that it is difficult to fill service positions.
- is there room for one or two more AIS offices within Alberta/N.W.T Area 80 (servicing Southern and northern Alberta) or do we make participation and communication with these groups and Districts accessible within the existing AIS Calgary and Edmonton?
- no conclusions or work groups arose from the discussion, but the groups and districts will take these concerns back. There is potential for further discussion at September Assembly.

1. **Treasurer Report:** (David P.) Regrets – no report. Carolyn was unable to sign into the bank account and get the balance. She estimates it is similar to last month, a healthy balance of \$3400 (?). We need to discuss spending some money to get back to our prudent reserve of \$1500. Our biggest expense was Big Sky and it has been eliminated to a Telus of bill of approx. \$35 a month. Bring back some ideas to the September meeting.

2. **Secretary Report:** (Gina) I will also step down from this position in December. It has been a great job for me, and a great way to find out what CAIS does and to practice my listening skills. The 3 years went by so fast there is no need to be afraid of commitment.
3. **Public Outreach:** (Raman) We visited Fresh Start Thursday Alumni meeting and have been invited to help with a meeting manual. At Simon House we did a ½ hour presentation, offered newcomer pkgs. to the attendees and also gave a copy of our blue book to the chairperson. They are very keen on our program. September Recovery Day in will be our focus in the near future. We hope to have many volunteers manning our table so we can visit the other tables and share our program with them. We have business cards being printed, doing a poster blitz, reaching out to women's shelters and professional associations that are health focused.
4. **Newsletter:** (Kate L) the newsletter is going out shortly and I am happy to stay in this position. I am curious about how it can be made more available within groups etc. More communication. Deadline for the next edition is June 6, 2024. Email is aiscalgarynewsletter@gmail.com. Carolyn mentioned that the newsletter is being received and enjoyed by others outside of the Calgary area. It is being used as an example by Area for other groups. The events bulletin is for getting out information between newsletters. If something needs to go out as an emergency notice we use the newsletter mailing list and the secretary's list. Annie mentioned how much she likes the colourful events page. Their group places it out at the meetings.
5. **Alateen:** (vacant). We are actively looking for an CAIS Alateen Coordinator. The Calgary Area has several certified AMIAS volunteers to support an Alateen meeting. The next step: we urgently require an Al-Anon meeting willing to support an Alateen meeting with a place to meet. AIS is an over-arching support to the above. Please contact Carolyn at aiscalgaryinformation@gmail.com if your group is willing to support an Alateen meeting or if you are interested in the Alateen Coordinator position (see the job description on the Calgary information page: al-anon.ab.ca). There has been a survey that teens want in person meetings.
6. **Monitoring:** (Shellie) – The transition to Telus is complete and going well. We receive approximately 10 calls a week, with a few callbacks. Most people find what they are looking for on the website. The system is super easy to manage, and it appears the system can do more but I have not checked into anything else at this time. I will be leaving this position at the end of my term and have enjoyed it immensely. Thank you, Shellie, for doing so much work to get the new system in place. We appreciate all that you have done.
7. **Banff Round up:** (Jamie) I will be remaining in my position for the next term. If anyone wants to learn the role, I can certainly share my experience. This position also includes the Pioneer dinner event in October. Planning meeting will be in August. I will be looking for an Al-anon speaker with 20+ years, since this events focus is on long time members in program. First planning meeting for the Banff Roundup will be in November.
8. **Gratitude Round up:** (Carolyn) June 14-16 the AA Roundup event will occur with Al-Anon participation. Our speaker is Peter from Saskatchewan. The workshop theme is 12 Steps to Freedom. based on an article in the February Forum with a panel and discussion component. Our workshop coincides with the AA workshops so everyone can attend all speakers. Tickets for the Round Up event can be purchased online, at the event and AA office. \$45 for the weekend, \$100 for the weekend and the Banquet Saturday night. There is a comedy event for the Saturday night entertainment.

9. Web site Coordinator : (vacant) Nothing has been uploaded to the site lately due to this position being vacant. Kate has offered to upload the minutes. Anyone interested please contact Carolyn.

General discussion: Sept 9 we will try and have some fellowship before this last in-person meeting for 2024. November 4 will be on ZOOM only.

All current AIS positions are asked to submit a little item about your role by June 6 to the newsletter. Elections are in September. Please also review your job descriptions on the website and any changes you think are necessary bring to the next meeting.

Raman volunteered to read Concept 4 at Sept 9 meeting.

Next meeting Sept 9, 2024 – HYBRID - Zoom ID 471 384 6072 Passcode 987654

Meeting closed with Al-Anon Declaration at 8:11 pm.

Submitted by: Gina G.

Calgary AIS Secretary