

Al-Anon Phone Bridge Technical Meeting

June 6, 2015

Revised: 6/8/15 v1

Members by State (Present): Illinois (2), Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Ohio.

I. Open with the Serenity Prayer

II. Reading of Traditions and Selected Concepts: This reading was completed by a member from Illinois.

III. Introduction of Members: This started with introductions from members representing specific groups and then was followed by introductions of other participating members.

IV. Secretary's Report: There were no minutes from the previous meeting (Date?). The member from Michigan chairing the meeting requested that someone take minutes for this meeting. The member from Maine offered to do this task.

V. Old Business

- a. The member from Maryland gave a summary of the results from the May Workshop on **“Obstacles to Success.”** She felt that this workshop went very well as a first-time effort and suggested that succeeding workshops on this topic encourage participants to share how these challenges affect each participant in his/her own life. The member from Maryland noted that we need to understand what we think and do in the domains of “gossip, religion and dominance,” so that we have an opportunity to change our understanding of these topics and perhaps change our behavior. She thanked everyone for his or her participation and hoped that the next version of this workshop could be offered in a couple months.
- b. The member from Michigan and chair for this meeting provided an update about the **future capabilities** that might be offered on the Alanon Phone Bridge. These include a passcode that could allow a caller to get the complete schedule of meetings or a passcode that could give the caller information about upcoming events. These options are currently under negotiation.

Discussion: One of the members from Illinois was in favor of the feature that provides the meeting schedule. She was of the opinion that sometimes newcomers are silent. There is also a population of participants who don't have access to computers to be able to get the meeting schedule online.

- c. A Proposed Workshop on **“How to Lead or Chair a Telephone Bridge Meeting.”** The member from Illinois stated that she was originally willing to take on this project, but she no longer has the time to do it. The member from Michigan summarized the original concept for this workshop which stemmed from the problem of not having enough leaders for the existing bridge meetings. The person who takes on leading this workshop will be someone who has led meetings; understands what works best; and is anxious to share his/her knowledge of how to lead meetings.
- d. **6:00 pm Sunday Meeting for Members with Disabilities:** This meeting is designed to help participants with disabilities.

VI. New Business

- a. A member suggested that one of the **additional technological capabilities** would be to have a specific pin code so that members could listen to a recording of minutes and announcements.
- b. **Open vs Closed Meetings:** the member from Maine wanted to discuss whether or not it is necessary to identify individual meetings as either “open” or closed.” The chair noted that the overall purpose of this meeting is to talk about “safety, meeting schedules and technology issues.” This topic (open vs closed) is one that is more appropriately handled in the business meetings of individual meetings.

Discussion: The member from New York City noted that folks should be very careful in how they talk about something, so that they are using appropriate and respectful language. The member from Ohio noted that each meeting has to decide what is appropriate for that meeting.

- c. **Safety:** The member from Michigan asked for comments about how the security monitors are doing across the phone bridge. The member from Maine said that in general the sound quality on the 4 pm meetings is excellent. The member from Illinois said that the clarity on the noon meetings was also excellent. The member from Ohio said that sometimes the sound quality fades in/out. The member from Michigan gave an explanation of the problems with different carriers and different cell phone towers. This results in different sensitivities on different lines.

V. Next IT Meeting: Saturday, June 20 at 2:00 pm EST.

This meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm EST. Respectfully submitted, Member from Maine