

SJIS District Meeting – March 2016
Meeting minutes

Present:

Maria, Angelique, Anita, Mary, Gina, Chichi

Group Reports:

Thursday, Stratford—Group continues to be small with sometimes only 2 members present. There are issues with finding the meeting within the hospital itself. They would like new members to revitalize the group,

Suggestions:

- Place directional arrows to lead people to the meeting from the entrance of the hospital to the room.
- Announce that the meeting exists and would like new members.

Monday, Mt Ephraim- Group is thriving and well attended. There are a fair number of newcomers. The church requires that they keep the door locked at all time and have someone standing at the door to greet and open it until @ 10 minutes after the meeting starts. The Candlelight Gratitude meeting was held in December continues to be a tradition and well attended.

Thursday, 1pm Haddonfield- This meeting has grown in the past 2 years to @ 30. They have a format that includes ten minutes of sharing once per month on Service, anniversaries/gratitude, literature and sponsorship. This group recently presented and used the skit “When I got Busy I got Better” that was presented to the Assembly as a topic.

Friday Night, Westmont- Strong group where many members are involved in service. Have had complaints that the group is rather loud in their gathering and talking after the meeting which has been dealt with by keeping the door closed and reminding members that other meetings are still in session.

Tuesday and Thursday evening Haddonfield- Although both are consistent groups there is no interest in having a GR or ISR.

Saturday Haddon Heights- this meeting has had a dwindling number of members in recent months and announcements are being made to try and increase awareness of the meeting and the need for members.

Discussion:

The question was raised as to what constituted an open meeting/closed meeting.

Comments: One member stated that she read that a meeting was closed and thought she couldn't go as a newcomer because she wasn't a member yet.

The guidelines indicate that all meetings are closed unless the group decides that it is an open meeting. However being an open meeting also means that anonymity does not have to be honored.

Service Project:

It was decided by group conscience that the district would focus on outreach for Alateen with the following 2 actions:

1. Emailing Middle school and High School Substance Abuse Counselors (SACS) to alert them to the existence of Alateen Meetings and to the purpose of Alateen.
2. Using the outreach letter from WSO to snail mail the SACS as a follow up to emailing for all the middle and high schools in the district. Mary K volunteered to obtain the information to mail and email the various schools.

There was also discussion about making personal contact with SACS in the schools. Mary will speak with other AMIAS to clarify if that could be a more widely based service among general members.

Suggestions were discussed regarding how to increase service in general. These included:

1. Promoting and suggesting to groups to do a group inventory and providing the paperwork for that.
2. Announcing and offering to perform the "When I Got Busy " skit at meetings
3. Directly asking individuals to do service jobs.

Next District Meeting:

Will be held in April.