



Al-Anon / Alateen North Jersey Information Services

Help for friends and relatives of alcoholics

Please take notice that there will be a Special Meeting of the Information Service Representatives (“ISR’s”) of Al-Anon/Alateen Information Service of North Jersey (“NJIS”) via Zoom, on **Thursday, February 27, at 7:30 PM**. Here is the Zoom link and login information for the Special Meeting.

NJIS is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting for **Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 7:30 PM:**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86352472995?pwd=QguGZo5OUa1VLI7mJqpAqvAqqdnrOy.1>

Meeting ID: 863 5247 2995

Passcode: 987775

Thanks again for your support, interest and your service, which has been a critical part of our ongoing efforts to update and revitalize NJIS. One of the priorities of the Steering Committee has been the reviewing and updating of the NJIS Constitution which was last visited about a decade ago in 2015. This effort is particularly important since, in 2018, South Jersey Information Service was disbanded, leaving the central and southern portions of the New Jersey Al-Anon Area without an Al-Anon Information Service (“AIS”) and without an Al-Anon Literature Distribution Center “LDC” (NJIS is both an AIS and LDC).

Throughout the NJIS revitalization process, we have heard from many members of the Fellowship, both within the current NJIS service territory and from the other parts of the New Jersey Al-Anon Areas, asking that NJIS expand its service territory to include the portions of the Area previously served by SJIS.

The Steering Committee believes that such an expansion would serve the interests of the entire New Jersey Area Al-Anon Fellowship and is consistent with Al-Anon Tradition One “*Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity*” and with the Al-Anon Information Service Guidelines “*An AIS exists to aid the groups it serves in the common purpose of carrying the Al-Anon message to the suffering families and friends of alcoholics.*”

We therefore propose that the NJIS Constitution be amended to redefine the NJIS service area as covering the entire State of New Jersey (Al-Anon Area 36).

Article VIII of the NJIS Constitution provides, in relevant part:

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the I.S. Representatives, representing the total Member Groups.

Section 2. Written notice of any proposed amendments to this Constitution must be given to each I.S. Representative at least three weeks prior to the meeting at which the said amendment is to be voted upon.

Attached for your review and consideration is a copy of the proposed Amended NJIS Constitution. Please let us know if you have any questions or require more information.

The proposed amendments have been the product of ongoing Steering Committee work over the last several months, and has included our participation in WSO Quarterly Meetings for AIS's and AIS/LDC's, as well as a detailed review and analysis of: Al-Anon AIS Guidelines (G-4); Al-Anon LDC Guidelines (G-18); Al-Anon Links of Service pamphlet (S-28); Al-Anon Service Manual; and, the Al-Anon World Service Conference Summaries (relating to AIS, LDC and Al-Anon Links of Service).

The Steering Committee has also undertaken a review and analysis of AIS and LDC organizing documents from other Al-Anon Areas in the US. Below is a brief summary of the proposed changes.

- The Preamble and name of NJIS has been changed to reflect it covers all of NJ.
- The definitions of "Member Group" and "Membership" have also been revised.
- The responsibility for certain non-NJIS Al-Anon matters have been expressly excluded from within NJIS's "Purposes", to avoid overlap or confusion, and to affirm NJIS cooperation, collaboration and support of WSO and the Area Assembly. (Al-Anon Service Manual, pp. 203-207, Concept Ten, "*Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority and double-headed management is avoided.*")
- The composition of the NJIS Steering Committee has been updated and reconfigured to reflect the Area-wide coverage and to respond to current levels of volunteering.
- Additional descriptions of Steering Committee Officers have been added, to also emphasize NJIS's role as an LDC, and to reflect NJIS cooperation with and support of our Districts and Area. (AIS Guidelines (G-4) "*Experience shows that when the Information Service works closely with the Area and districts, it increases its formula for success!*" and an AIS, "*Collaborates with the Area Group Records Coordinator to keep meeting information up-to-date.*" and "*When AIS committees are formed, they work in cooperation with the district/Area coordinator. . .*"; see also, Al-Anon Service Manual at pp. 66-67)

If your Group has not yet done so, please designate an Information Service Representative ("ISR"), and/or an Alternative ISR, who will participate in the upcoming meeting. Please let us know who from your Group will be attending by promptly responding to this email and to mmcpher59@outlook.com. Kindly provide your Group's name, meeting date and time, WSO Meeting ID number, as well as the name of the ISR and/or Alternate ISR.

If you cannot make the upcoming meeting, but support our NJIS efforts, please let us know via email. Thanks for your continuing support, interest and attention!

The NJIS Steering Committee