

AWSC

Meeting Minutes
AFG Area 22_LA
Sunday, March 28, 2021

****UNAPPROVED MINUTES****

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Louisiana Area World Service Committee (AWSC) was held online using the video conference program Zoom, on Sunday, March 28, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Angela A., Chairperson, opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. She then read the definition of an AWSC on p. 137 of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*. She also referred to p. 11 of 41 in the Louisiana Area Al-Anon/Alateen Procedures Digest to describe which members have voice and/or vote at the AWSC. Angela also reminded members about protecting the anonymity of fellow members in reports for the website and in email communication.

Angela described the new procedure for making motions during Zoom conference meetings: If you are considering proposing a motion, signal the Chair for permission to enter a breakout room with the Area Secretary and any interested “seconds” (person who seconds the motion), just to discuss the verbiage and to craft the motion, using the chat feature. This allows wording of the motion to be clarified before it is presented to the floor. Amendments to the motion can take place in a similar fashion.

Rachel B., Area Secretary, called the roll of AWSC members. Angela then read the purpose of the AWSC from p. 155 of the *Service Manual*. She then read the selection, “Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon”, from p. 22 of the *Service Manual*. Angela reminded members of a quote she heard at the 2015 World Service Conference (WSC): “What we do is not as important as how we do it.”

Rachel B. asked for any corrections to the minutes from the AWSC meeting held on Saturday, November 8, 2020. Duke H. suggested that, on p. 12, under “email service update”, that the following be added to the end of the text under the first bulleted point: “; discussion will be continued by officers.” A motion to accept the November 8, 2020 AWSC minutes with this change was made by Steve G., Area Alateen Coordinator & New Orleans Intergroup Liaison, and seconded by Lucy W., Acadiana Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) Liaison. Minutes were approved as amended.

Angela reminded everyone to state their name and position before speaking, since we are being recorded (audio only).

ACTION & STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Special Note: All committee reports were submitted in writing prior to the AWSC meeting and posted on the Area website (www.la-al-anon.org), and were also given orally during the meeting. On a three-Assembly trial basis, Action and standing committee reports will be given

during the AWSC instead of Coordinator reports, which were given at the Assembly the previous afternoon. (This is trial one of three.)

Public Outreach Committee: Gina R., Public Outreach Coordinator

Meeting came to order with a moment of silence, followed by Traditions One, Two, and Eleven. Public Outreach Coordinator asked for willingness and open-mindedness to allow us to collaborate for the good of Al-Anon and to carry the message of hope and healing.

In addition to existing District 8 committee members, several other districts were represented including District 6, New Orleans, District 13, Metairie, District 10, Northshore, and visitors who contributed to our discussion of relevant issues and opportunities to fortify our Public Outreach message in Louisiana.

Agenda Topics: How Area 22 Al-Anon members can reinforce efforts to distribute *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* (AFA) through electronic distribution as well as the printed hard copy. A flyer for AFA features a QR code which, when scanned, links directly to the new full-color version on the WSO website. The use of QR codes in community publications offers a high level of anonymity along with ease of access.

Cooperating with Professional Community: Researching statewide lists of licensed counselors, social workers, and mental health community centers. Enter Public Outreach in search on WSO website, Members section, to find several links and current outreach tools without restrictions. We are at liberty to use the designated pieces of literature without WSO copyright permission as Al-Anon has made these materials available in the public domain.

How to overcome barriers of low attendance by several minority groups by reaching out to leaders in their communities to display posters and communicate the benefits of Al-Anon. We discussed the need to be welcoming to everyone who enters Al-Anon to encourage them to be a valued part of AFG. Making a good first impression is up to every Al-Anon member. WSO Public Outreach has made strides in addressing diversity in Al-Anon publications including AFA. The balance of ethnic representation has also been taken to task in recent Public Service Announcements, showing a broader range of members we could attract to the program.

Television public service announcements (PSAs) are produced by WSO and being distributed by a new vendor. Unless a relationship already exists with a media contact, we are advised to refrain from direct contact. We are encouraged to reach out to radio stations for PSA airtime. The WSO website provides production quality downloads to distribute.

Optimistically looking ahead, members were reminded about building a strong foundation and keeping our focus as we move ahead. Members are encouraged to reach out to their own medical professionals and community contacts with AFA and to share their own personal insights.

Budget & Finance Committee: Pebble B., Budget & Finance Coordinator

I was asked to be B&F Coordinator in mid-March.

- ◆ Budget & Finance Committee Thought Force completed a knowledge-based decision making (KBDM) document regarding “Online Area Contributions”. This KBDM document was presented to the Officers. As per the flow process of ideas at Area Assembly, the AWSC will determine at this meeting whether to place it on the Assembly Business Meeting agenda or if it will come back to our committee for more information.
- ◆ A 2020 Budget Tracker showing revenue & expenses is on the website; however, it could possibly be revised once I receive the supporting documents for the last quarter of 2020.

This will ensure it is accurate. NOTE: In 4th quarter of 2019 we sent the World Service Office (WSO) \$1,953 for the equalized expense to cover our Delegate attending the 2020 WSC. Of that amount, WSO returned \$1,481.59 which Assembly received in the 4th quarter of 2020. Also, \$600 was given to the Alternate Chair in 1st quarter of 2020 for the meal at the April Assembly. This was returned by the Alternate Chair in 4th Quarter of 2020

- ◆ A 2021 Budget Tracker was posted on the website; however, it will probably be revised after I receive the supporting documents for the 4th quarter of 2020 and whether to plan for the remaining Assemblies in 2021 will be virtual or in-person.
- ◆ A 5-year comparison (2016 – 2020) of income and revenue was provided to the Officers so they could see how our finances are trending.
- ◆ A request for the Budget & Finance Committee to begin a Thought Force to produce a KBDM document on the signatures that Assembly will/should require for the checking account – keeping in mind Motion 2020-02 rescinded Motion 97-02 that required two signatures for a check to be valid.
- ◆ To comply with Motion 16-02 the donation of the 2020 net income to WSO is \$4,487.
- ◆ I received a request to produce a budget for a hybrid Assembly (in-person with virtual attendees); however, this cannot realistically be done until more details are received.
- ◆ I would like clarification to know if the Budget & Finance Committee is an Action Committee, a Standing Committee, or a Thought Force. It is very confusing to those who are on the committee what role we play at Area Assembly.

Fellowship Communications Committee: Danielle H., La Treasure Chest (LATC) Editor

Group Services Committee: Rosey A., Group Records Coordinator

New Goals:

- ◆ Have a Zoom meeting between now and next Assembly
- ◆ Email all District Representatives (DRs) in the Area to include:
 - ♣ Detailed informational printouts of all their groups from the WSO database
 - ♣ Step by step process of how to process group changes
 - ♣ Encourage electronic submission of changes
 - ♣ If District has no DR, let Group Representatives (GRs) know that the position is available
 - ♣ Encourage participation in Assembly by attending Zoom AI-Anon meetings and by speaking briefly to the group

Prior Goals:

- ◆ Each member of this committee will write a positive service story sharing and send to LA Treasure Chest (partially met)
- ◆ Encourage groups to elect Alternate GRs to attend District meetings and Assembly if their GR cannot attend
- ◆ Encourage Assembly to consider hybrid Assemblies once we begin to meet in person to accommodate GRs who cannot attend due to travel concerns
- ◆ Ask members in service to focus on sharing experience, strength, and hope about how Assembly enhances their recoveries

Membership Outreach Committee: Sylvia G., Newcomers to Area Assembly Coordinator

Twelve members were in attendance. The committee began the discussion regarding the two goals set: 1) encouraging personal outreach one-to-one at the group level, and 2) encouraging intergroup communication among GRs and DRs. The goals have been set. Therefore, the discussion began on the objectives and tasks. Due to time constraints the members agreed to continue our planning in a scheduled Zoom Meeting within the next two weeks. We will continue to discuss the commitment of each individual member to the tasks needed to accomplish our goals and to serve the fellowship well.

THOUGHT & TASK FORCE UPDATES/REPORTSLouisiana Alateen Safety & Behavioral Requirements Task Force: Steve G., Alateen Coordinator

Task force members are split into two groups: one focusing on AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service) training and requirements, and the other on safety and behavioral requirements for Alateen groups and events. They are meeting once per month, and their goal is to have everything ready for review by a Louisiana lawyer by July, then to the AWSC in August, then to WSO, and then to the Assembly in November, to hopefully have everything in place by the end of the year.

Louisiana Area Policies & Procedures Handbook Thought Force: Rachel B., Secretary

No update at this time—this thought force is basically “on hold”.

OFFICER REPORTSAlternate Delegate: Eric N., Alternate Delegate

Special thanks to Vicki D. for telling her story last night. I am looking for a Saturday night speaker for the May 22 assembly weekend. Jay P. will give the second half of his workshop on the Concepts in May. I need speakers and workshops for future assemblies; please contact me if you are interested in filling either of those roles.

Alternate Chairperson: Susan A., Alternate Chair

The district assignments for 2021 Assembly in May:

Saturday morning meeting – District 2, Danny C.

Saturday Night Owl meeting – District 8, Sarah G.

Sunday morning meeting - District 14, Allan L.

Schedule: Remember that the trial weekend schedule will be extended until the last Assembly weekend in 2021.

Upcoming Assemblies: The May Assembly will again be virtual. We are awaiting AA’s decision as to whether the August and November Assemblies will be virtual or in person. We will have a decision by the May Assembly.

The 2021 Assembly Dates:

May 22nd -23rd, Aug 21st -22nd, & Nov 6th -7th

The 2022 Assembly Dates:

Jan 15th -16th, April 9th -10th, Aug 20th -21st, & Nov 5th -6th

Attendance: 52

Spirit Stick: District 10

Delegate: Tammy M., Delegate

- ◆ Last year was an unprecedented year. One example of this is, thanks to your generosity, contributions exceeded literature sales! On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., we want to thank you for your financial support in 2020. The number of contributions received, which by the way was over \$3 million, is overwhelming and beyond what we had imagined. We are truly grateful!
- ◆ Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect: Last year the “Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect” event had to be postponed. This year the “Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect” event is planned to be held on October 23, 2021 in Cleveland, OH! Mark your calendars and come and join the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee members for a day of fun and connecting with each other. At the 2021 WSC, information will be presented regarding the 2021 “Road Trip!” along with information about how your Area can apply to host the 2022 “Road Trip!” We look forward to meeting you in Cleveland.
- ◆ WSC Interpretation: In July 2018, the Board approved a three-year trial to offer professional interpretation, when required, to support Spanish- and French-speaking Delegates who attend the WSC. The trial, which began at the 2019 WSC, included aural interpretation, not written translation of documents or presentations. The 2021 WSC will be the final year of the trial. At the January 2021 Board meeting, the Board discussed the continuation of interpretation at the WSC. In order for the Board to make an informed decision regarding continuing interpretation at the WSC and how to fund the cost, we will need input from the Delegates. A Board task force has been formed to prepare a presentation for the 2021 WSC. Delegates will receive information on this topic prior to the start of Conference.
- ◆ Electronic Meeting Work Group (EMWG) Update: The EMWG reported to the Board its continuing work on ways to incorporate electronic meetings as groups into the service structure. Any recommended changes will be presented at the 2021 WSC for consideration. Stay tuned for more information following the 2021 WSC.

ON-GOING BUSINESS: Angela A., Chairperson

- ◆ Email service update: not functioning yet; we hope to have this up and running soon. A task force was proposed by Duke H.; officers would like to continue without a task force, requesting help from the Tech Team
- ◆ Hispanic Outreach Coordinator position: we have a position with no job description; we need volunteers interested in forming a thought or task force to talk about what a Hispanic Outreach Coordinator for the state of Louisiana would do; please talk to members in your groups and districts to find out who would be willing to serve, who might know what is needed, etc.
- ◆ Louisiana AFG, Inc. by-laws: a plan of action is in place; Allan L. has identified a member who has legal expertise in this area who can help us; planning to have something for us in May
- ◆ Proposed position of Area Technical Coordinator: GW is our current Website Coordinator, but since March 2020, the majority of his work has not been involved with the website. He would like his position re-named to Technology Coordinator to better reflect the duties he is

carrying out; we still have the possibility for a separate position of Webmaster. GW thinks the Tech Team should be a standing committee (chaired by the Technology Coordinator); he is in the process of updating the job description of Website Coordinator (to be presented to the AWSC in the future).

- ◆ Online Donations KBDM (Budget & Finance Committee): Pebble B. read the KBDM document submitted to the officers. Angela asked the AWSC if they felt all sides were represented—i.e., if this was ready to pass on to the GRs at the next Assembly for consideration (keeping in mind we can still add to the “discussion” in the KBDM document). The AWSC voted to add this to the next Assembly’s agenda for GR consideration.

NEW BUSINESS: Angela A., Chairperson

- ◆ Hybrid Area Assembly (in person and online/phone conference): conversation was started and will continue
- ◆ Archives: Rebecca P., Area Archives Coordinator, presented information about an Archives Section on the Area website. She requested that the AWSC consider adding this to the next Assembly’s agenda for GR consideration. The AWSC voted to add this to the next Assembly’s agenda.
- ◆ Posting of unapproved Assembly minutes and approved and unapproved AWSC minutes to the website: Rachel B. asked for this topic to be brought up so that any members with concerns regarding the posting of these minutes may be able to express them. The discussion will be continued in the future.

Meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer, followed by the Al-Anon Declaration.