

4/12/15

The Chairman, G.W., opened the meeting at 9:00am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. G.W., then read the Mission Statement of the LA AFG Area Assembly.

Upcoming dates for 2015 Assembly: Aug 15-16; Nov 21-22. The State Al-Anon Convention is July 17-19.

Treasurer Report: Jan V. The Treasurer's report and donations report were passed out. Beginning checking account balance of \$19,749.44, net income of \$2,196.85, balance of \$21,946.29, less \$4,000 reserve, less Alateen fundraiser \$292.89, less DSAC donation, less SCRDM seed money \$450.00, which leaves cash on hand \$17,153.40. Please be sure your checks have the full and exact Group name, Group number and District number.

Secretary Report: Bob H. Unapproved minutes from January 2015 were reviewed. Corrections made, motion made to be approved as amended, seconded by Lucy. The January 2015 approved minutes will be sent to website for archival.

Alt. Delegate Report: Carmen O. Thank you to Clara E for chairing Traditions Workshop on Saturday. We had fellowship, interaction and learns ways to apply the traditions to our personal recovery. Thanks to Pamela M for courage to share her story for the first time. Angela A will do workshop on the WSO Conference and our next speaker will be from Lafayette, LA. We are still looking for speakers from all over the state to share their story!

Delegates Report: Angela A.

1. The World Service Conference begins in Virginia Beach next weekend. The theme of the 55th annual Conference, referred to as Al-Anon's Largest Group Conscience, is "Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding Our Vision." Thank you all for your continued trust, encouragement, and support! I am eager to carry your voice to this Conference, and to participate fully, bringing back to you as much information as I can.

2. Please thank your groups for sending Mardi Gras "love beads" and goodies last year, and ask them to consider sending them again this year.

3. I want to give you an overview of some of the items to be discussed at the WSC: First, the Conference will give approval to revisions made to the descriptive text of Concepts Eight and Eleven in "Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service," as proposed by the Policy Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees. Concept 8's revisions mainly add the history of the ECRPM (Executive Committee for Real Property Management), its composition, and the role of this Executive Committee. The revisions to Concept 11 appear to be updates that bring the terminology used in the Service Manual into line with the terminology now used by the World Service Office. These appear to be primarily technicalities.

4. The Conference will continue the Policy discussion that began in 2011 in an effort to develop a guideline for memorial contributions. In preparation for this ongoing discussion, framing documentation has been provided that includes: an overview of the recent history of the discussion, definitions requested at the 2013 Conference, a review of all Twelve Traditions regarding Memorial Contributions by Family Members and Friends of a Deceased Al-Anon Member, and a time line of key dates going back to 1962 that relate to this issue. I will update you on this discussion in August! In the meantime, this is a fascinating study in how seriously our Al-Anon service structure undertakes issues that affect our historical interpretation of our Three Legacies.

5. The Conference may be asked to grant conceptual approval for a new piece of CAL based upon member sharings previously published in past issues of The Forum. Again, these discussions began in 2013 in the Forum Editorial Advisory Committee (FEAC) and the framing document and answers to KBDM questions clearly illustrate the careful consideration that goes into the processes of YOUR Board of Trustees and World Service Conference. It is nothing short of amazing! And a great model for us to use here in our Area Assembly, in our Districts, our Groups and our personal lives.

6. Yesterday in our Delegate's "workshop," we accomplished two tasks: (1) we began practicing the processes by which discussions based upon spiritual principles take place at the WSC, and we did this by learning the rules for such discussions, tapping into the wisdom and experience of our Past Delegates, beginning our discussion based upon spiritual principles and then (2) we began a discussion on an agenda item that will be a part of the Conference that relates to visioning the future of Alateen. As your Delegate, I was able to begin to hear the wisdom of our Assembly so that I can carry that and relay it to the Conference. Please keep that discussion going and email me your thoughts on the current realities and future vision for Alateen! As a side product of this discussion, I think we learned that our Assembly needs to be better educated on the Alateen component of AI-Anon, and I'd hazard a guess that our fellowship in general would benefit from this as well. Our challenge is to put into place workshops and educational programs to accomplish that goal.

7. What we did not accomplish yesterday was to begin a discussion on the second chosen agenda item, which is likely to open up even greater opportunities for us to learn and grow as an Assembly! It would also yield vital information about Louisiana AI-Anon that you have commissioned me to carry to the WSC next week at this time.

Convention Report: Erica F. As this is the last Assembly before the AI-Anon State Convention, Convention packets are available at the Registration desk. These contain Convention brochures, appeal letters, raffle tickets, & a request for baskets to donate to the Silent Auction. The Saturday night banquet menu was not included in the brochure, so it has been printed separately & included in the packet, as well. GRs, please sign off by your group name on the list at the Registration table & get the packets for your groups. DRs, please take the packets that are not picked up by your GRs & get them to your GRs/district groups. The hotel is booked for July 17th, 18th & 19th at the Ramada Conference Center (formerly the Holiday Inn Holidome) on 2032 NE Evangeline Thruway in Lafayette. This year's theme is Worldwide Recovery. We've got bookmarks at the Registration table – feel free to take some & pass them out in your groups! The room rate is \$98/night if using "LA AFG Convention Rate" (by June 15th). The Saturday night banquet will be \$27 per person. Please encourage groups to contribute completed gift baskets to the Silent Auction. We will be dining & fellowshipping with Convention speakers at Don's Downtown in Lafayette on Friday, July 17th at around 5:30p. Dinner will include an entrée, 1 side, 1 dessert, a drink, & coffee. I don't have the exact cost at this point, but it should be somewhere around \$21. If you would like to attend that dinner, please email Convention co-Chair Kay B. at Leslie.Barnett@WoodGroup.com.

The current balance in the LA AFG Convention checking account is \$16,981.38. We are happy to report that the Convention will be fully self-supporting in the event of an emergency in which no one is able to attend, but convention-related expenses still need to be paid. This is aligned with Warranty One of Concept Twelve, which reads "that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle." Terry's Audio & Video is confirmed to record speakers & workshop. All speakers have been booked & confirmed by our Program Chair. You can find out more about who will be speaking when you pick up your Convention packets at the Registration table! Catering arrangements with S&P Oriental Grocery have begun. The DJ is booked for the Saturday night dance.

Newcomer Committee: Cindy D. We had 8 "newcomers" from 6 different districts. 4 of these were GR's. We had great participation and questions. If you would like to see the basic information we handed out it is available on the state website.

SCRDM Report: Clif B. The SCRDM was held March 6-8, 2015 in Dallas, TX, representing Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. The objective is to inform the new Delegates on the procedures of the WSO Conference as well as things that will be discussed at the Conference.

Action Committee Reports

Group Services: Kathleen F. Our mission is to strengthen the connection between the Assembly and existing groups; encourage each group to have a GR; attend Assembly; reach out to newly registered groups to invite participation. We are committed to sharing with others the notion of why we come to Assembly. We are planning a workshop at an upcoming Assembly. We have 6 Districts that do not have a District Rep.

Fellowship Communication: Dave K. We had 9 members present. Our goal and focus is to encourage the use of CAL (Conference Approved Literature), use of the Forum and to encourage members response to the need for Literature that we write. Forum subscriptions are up, please continue to promote subscriptions. We also discussed the eGroup Newsletter on ways to properly greet newcomers.

Membership Outreach: Claire D. We had 10 Members in Attendance. Winner of the "Name the 2015 Convention" contest was Danielle H. of Lafayette for her submission of "WORLD WIDE RECOVERY." The committee encouraged members to loan out past convention speaker CDs; send group email reminders prior to registration deadline of June 16; invite newcomers to the convention; car pool and share rooms. Convention bookmarks and tent cards were distributed. Todd added a State Convention page with full schedule of events and a link to online registration. The committee encourages districts and groups to utilize the website. (The members' page password is "serenity.") Todd has added a wealth of information to the members' page, such as: meeting topics with CAL page references; skits, games, and workshops that can be used in your areas. Please keep using the meeting updater to submit any meeting information changes and check the meeting schedule page to insure accuracy of meetings in your area. Groups who do not have a group e-mail may wish to consider setting one up to receive the WSO E-news.

Public Outreach: Elizabeth T. We had 16 members present. There was a Public Outreach meeting held in Covington, District 10, their main focus being distributing the AFA 2015 pamphlet and also are conducting an Al-Anon meeting in the mental health hospital in Mandeville, once a month. We have activated a Twitter account to enhance Public Outreach of Al-Anon in Louisiana. The account name is @LaAlanon and will follow the WSO guidelines and mirror similar policies the WSO uses for its Twitter account. Messages will consist of reminders for state/national events and occasional messages of Al-Anon recovery.

Alt. Chair Report: Kay B. Thanks to everyone that helped out with the April lunch meal! 59 members registered for Assembly; CAL sold \$204.71; 24 hotel rooms booked; 9 Districts in attendance. Spirit Stick for for most members in attendance, District 10!

DR Assignments

Sat Morning Meeting: District 1

Registration Sat Morning: District 10

Hospitality - Salts: District 7

Hospitality - Sweets: District 16

Sat Night Meeting: District 6

Sunday Morning Meeting: District 15

Silent Auction: District 14

Registration Sun Morning: District 5

Unfinished Business: Alateen Coordinator position update. Approval has been made to create an additional position, an Alateen Process Person, to help the Alateen program in Louisiana. Work is ongoing to delineate the duties between the two positions and information on this can be seen on our state website in the member area. This will be reviewed by the AWSC at next Assembly then brought to the General Assembly for consideration.

New Business: GR's and the Assembly to consider use of Twitter (@LaAlanon) as a Public Outreach tool using KBDM.

The meeting was closed at 1200pm by G.W. with a few moments of silence to allow time for personal prayer followed by the Al-Anon declaration.

Submitted by Bob Herring, Secretary