

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Membership of the LA AFG Area Assembly

April 13, 2014

A regular and properly-noticed meeting of the membership of the non-profit corporation, LA AFG Area Assembly, Inc. was held on April 13, 2014 with 29 voting Group Representatives (GRs) present.

Area Assembly Chairman: Chair opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer followed by the Mission Statement of the LA AFG.

The Area Assembly tentative dates for the remainder of 2014 are Aug. 23-24 and Nov. 22-23. And as a reminder the LA AFG State Convention is July 18-20.

Secretary: The minutes for the January 2014 Business meeting were made available to review. Emily made a motion to accept them with a revision to the date to reflect January 2014, not January 2013. They were seconded by Beverly and accepted.

Treasurer: Jan V presented the Treasurer's Report and Group Donation sheet. She reported the checking account balance on Dec 31, 13 as \$17969.54. The net income through March 31, 14 was 1366.53. The checking account balance is, less the reserve of \$4,000, less the Alateen fundraiser of 292.89 leaving \$15043.18 cash on hand. The Group Donations from your group are listed on the Account Quick Report from through March 31, 2014. As a reminder please put your group name and number on every check you turn in. The expense reports will be revised to make them easier to use and turn in.

Alt Delegate: Carmen O. handed out proposed workshop ideas for future workshops at our Assembly; please return them to Carmen as completed. Please add your name to the proposed workshop idea as well to help facilitate them. Thanks to everyone that participated in yesterday's workshop! Thank you to Bob H. for being the Saturday night speaker!

Delegate: Angela A. started with an announcement that we have a LA Treasurer Chest Editor! Thank you to Dave K. from Abita Springs! Thanks to everyone that participated in Service 101 workshop yesterday. Items discussed during the workshop will be brought to the World Service Conference. We have 19 districts in Louisiana, and 9 of those districts still do not have DR's. (District 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 14, 17, 18) Please discuss and pray about this to consider filling this position as applicable.

Officers, Coordinator's, Liaison's, past Delegates, and all DRs, should have received login information from the WSO so you can log in to your eCommunities at the Alanon World Service website for important information. If you have any difficulty logging in please speak with Angela. Please explore the Alanon World Service website for so much valuable information! For convenience, the link can be found on our Louisiana Alanon website. The password for our State website is serenity.

Thank you for all the hospitality shown to the visiting state delegates, from 6 different states, at the SCRDM in Lafayette in March. World Service Conference is in Virginia Beach, VA in May 2014. The theme is Our Spiritual Principles in Action. Please send your Mardi Gras beads again this year!

Please visit the Delegates Corner for all the good information that will be shared while at the World Service Conference. Submitted by Angela A., Delegate, Panel 54.

Special Committee Reports:

Newcomers: Cindy D reports that it was great to have 8 at the newcomers meeting! Several of our newcomers were

Convention: Erica F reports hotel is booked for July 18th, 19th & 20th at the Ramada Conference Center (formerly the Holiday Inn Holidome) on 2032 NE Evangeline Thruway in Lafayette. The theme is “Spicin’ up Recovery.” Registration is \$20/person for adults & \$5/person for Alateens. Registration is open online & brochure is uploaded to state AFG website & www.acadianaafg.org. Incentive for early registration: limited supply of gift packets – register ASAP for a chance to have one waiting for you at Convention! Room rate is \$98/person if using “LA AFG Convention Rate” by June 17th. Banquet will be \$26/person. Convention brochures & raffle tickets are available in packets being passed out in Assembly registration area. Packets contain 1 appeal letter, 2 AFG Convention brochures (1 in color so groups can display it & 1 in black & white so groups can make copies), 2 books of raffle tickets & a return envelope.

Groups are encouraged to contribute assembled gift baskets to the Silent Auction, or whatever else you would like to give. GRs please sign off & get packets for your groups. DRs, please take the packets that are not picked up by your GRs & get them to your district. Tote bags are available for sale \$18 per bag in two color options. It’s a great way to carry your CAL around in a discreet way while supporting the Convention. Take a picture of them or buy one to bring back to your group & let others know these will be available in limited supply at the Convention. Bags can be purchased from Erika H. & other AFG Convention Committee members. Terry’s Audio & Video is confirmed to record speakers & workshop. Don’s Downtown is booked for Friday night dinner with speakers. Catering arrangements with M&S Grocery have begun. DJ is booked for dance – yes, there is a dance on Saturday night!!!

Our past Delegate, Sylvia G. spoke on the Assembly as well, and wanted to share that her good friend, David B. who arranged for the speakers for the Assembly, owes her one for helping arrange some of the speakers! Sylvia reminded us that Shirley R. from Arkansas will be speaking on Friday night and was Sylvia’s partner in crime while she was our State Delegate, which should tell you something special about Shirley! You will thoroughly enjoy Shirley! The 1030 Saturday speaker, Clif B., Sylvia G. doesn’t have a clue what to think about that speaker....wink, wink. The Saturday night speaker, Doris W., is not to be missed! She served as the Delegate in Oklahoma, and as a Regional Trustee and Executive Committee Board Member. Her husband, Don W. will be the AA speaker (who has 40+ years of sobriety!). One of our own, Angela A. will be speaking on Sunday!

South Central Regional Delegates Meeting: Clara E recognized all the volunteers for making the SCRDM a wonderful success! There were 64 paid registrants representing 7 areas and 6 states. The new delegates were prepped for the World Service Conference that included workshops on ‘The Spiritual Components of our Third Legacy’ and on Our Spiritual Principles in Action. Next year the SCRDM will be in Dallas, TX. Financially, the SCRDM was able to return the \$400 seed money the State Convention provided due to being so successful. Recommendation was made to Treasurer to post the refund of \$400 for the next SCRDM in Louisiana in 2020.

Action Committee Reports:

Group Services: Kathleen F. read the description of the committee, “Strength and connection between the Assembly and existing groups; encourage each group to have a GR; attend the assembly; reach out to newly registered groups to invite participation; keep the mailing list current and record history of the group.” Note: when an Archivist position is currently filled, that person is a member of this committee.

Kathleen reports that they met their goal of having more than two people at the committee meeting, by having 7 people present. We talked about the goals of the committee as stated in the description and decided that we will extend an invitation to the next area assembly in August to GR’s as well as others. We are going to make a half page printed invitation that we will have available at the Convention. We are also going to email or snail mail (regular postal mail) that invitation to GR’s throughout the state. This goal to increase GR’s attending Assembly can be measurable to identify GR increased participation. To note: A GR cannot be a GR for two different groups. A GR (and their applicable mailing address) can however be the CMA (Current Mailing Address) holder for more than one group. Also, if you are filling out a change on the meeting updater, it is really important, that we end up with all of the information, including email addresses, telephone numbers, and mailing addresses.

Website Coordinator: Todd B. reports about the updates to the state website, particularly how to update your meetings using the meeting updater. Go to www.la-al-anon.org and click on the blue button ‘Members’ then use the password ‘serenity’. From there, click on ‘Meeting Updater’ You will need and is mandatory to place your Group Name, District, and WSO ID# to make changes. A list of this information is located at the top of the Meeting Updater page, by clicking the red ‘Find your Group WSO ID#’ button. Then choose the appropriate section you wish to update and submit! This is the only way meetings will be updated with the State!

Fellowship Communication: Patti V reports that our LaTreasureChest coordinator is Dave K and will be reporting for Fellowship Communication next Assembly. As a new committee, with 10 people present, their current goal accomplished is to get to know one another and share our experiences with our groups. Their planned goals are to do a workshop in November 2014 celebrating the 60th anniversary of “The Forum.” We will have cake (from District 2) and other activities to help celebrate. We also discussed encouraging groups to use Al-Anon pamphlets for sharing at their meetings and to remind groups that only CAL should be used at meetings. A suggestion was made to sell raffle tickets at group level with a prize of a Forum subscription. Please spread the word, if anyone has published something in the Forum, or know someone that has, please contact Patti V or Dave K with that information to include this in the Forum 60th anniversary workshop.

Membership Outreach: Claire D. reported 10 members present. Goals Accomplished: Clara E was able to collect contributions for the South Central Regional Delegates Meeting and Pebble B. and Sheila S's group (Dist 11) made "Life Saver" bookmarks for the event. District 7 distributed bookmarks to promote the 2014 Convention in Lafayette on July 18-20, 2014. Website Coordinator, Todd B., had business cards prepared listing the State web address with members password on one side and WSO, Acadiana, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, and New Orleans web addresses on the opposite side. Planned Goals: Also to promote the State Convention, Clif B.

suggested displaying a convention tote bag (with Spicin' It Up logo) at meetings and award the tote as a prize, drawing from all who attend. The Committee encourages members to peak interest in the Convention by: personally inviting a newcomer or a member who has never attended; relate uniqueness of speakers; and, reminding members that on-line registration is available. Erica F. will consult with the Convention Committee and if receptive, we will initiate another "Name the Convention" contest for 2015. Kay B. is working on a way to determine the largest Assembly attendance of a district, percentage-wise, so they may be recognized as well as number alone. The Committee will present a Workshop at the first Assembly in 2015; it will be a "WEBSITE SCAVENGER HUNT" - details to follow!

Public Outreach: Sandra P. reports District 10 had District meeting and they discussed Public Outreach (POR) and is working on getting a committee together for POR. POR committee voted to offer a public outreach workshop at the LA State Alanon Convention in July. We had a productive POR Action Committee meeting and we are getting comfortable in our roles. Planned goals are to have monthly e-meetings with the POR committee, do a public outreach workshop and state convention, make contact list of all DR's in LA in hopes to offer state wide POR opportunities and be able to contact DR's. Our long term goal is to be able to meet or Alanon declaration, "When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Alanon and Alateen always be there." Note: The WSO contacted our committee to let us know that the Dear Abby website, <http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby/2014/4/17/father-of-four-is-selfish-to> for April 17, 2014 has a story that references Alanon.

Old Business: No old business to report.

New Business: Clair D reports that we had budgeted \$250.00 per person for the Alternate Delegate and the Past Delegates to attend the South Central Regional Delegate Meeting (SCRDM) that has already taken place. It was suggested that \$300 per person be better. Motion was made to "Approve the funding of the immediate past delegate, the alternate delegate and the other past delegates who attended the 2014 SCRDM at a maximum amount of \$300 per person." Submitted by Claire D from Dist 7, Seconded by Jan B., was voted on by 29 GR's, with 27 yes's, 1 no, and 1 abstained. Motion #14-01 passed.

Eric N reports that during January 2014 Assembly, the LaTreasureChest mailing list was used as an emergency contact list due to the ice storm that caused delays and more. As well it was used for the April 2014 Assembly to pass out minutes and the schedule. Suggestion is should we have a separate recall list or emergency notification list that has all GR and DR's on it to communicate when situations exists to communicate state-wide. If no separate list created, then to at least manually add all GR and DR's to LaTreasureChest list to use as needed for any future emergency contact. In any event, please subscribe to the LaTreasureChest to be added to the protected 'member' database.

Sylvia G reports for informational purposes, that with the increase in electronic publication of CAL, more electronic readers (iPad, Kindle, Nook, etc.) will be in meeting rooms being used. This may be a potential item of interest to committees to develop an informational message or something to be mentioned before meetings to ensure continued use of only CAL during meetings rather than outside material being read during meetings to stay with group conscious and traditions.

Kay B, Alt Chairman, invites everyone to spread the message to consider filling missing District Rep positions. These are the links between the Assembly and the Groups! Let's fill those Districts with missing reps! Those Districts are: 3, 5, 9, 11, 14, 17, and 18. (As of April 2014). DR guidelines (G-37) are on our state website, WSO website, and page 63 of the Alanon Service Manual. The DR needs to have been a GR, current/incoming, or past GR. You can be a GR and DR at the same time. Ask at your groups, who has been a GR in the past (in any district) and invite them to become a DR! Rotation in service positions is healthy and needed!

Thank you to everyone that stepped up to volunteer to assist with lunch! 65 registered Alanon members for this Assembly meeting. Approx \$360 sold in Literature. 14 rooms sold for the hotel. Silent Auction total was approx. \$99. Newcomers meeting, 8 attended; Membership Outreach, 10 attended; Fellowship Communication, 10 attended; DR meeting, 14 attended; Group Services, 7 attended; Public Outreach, 13 attended; Tote bags sold (for State Convention), 38 bags sold.

For Assignments for August 23-24, 2014:

Saturday Morning Meeting: District 6, Elein B

Saturday Registration: District 15, Bob H

Sunday Registration: District 19, Jane S.

Hospitality: (Salts: District 12, Emily T & Sweets: District 7, Robert J.)

Saturday Night Owl Meeting: District 1, Steve B.

Sunday Morning Alanon Meeting: District 10, Eric N.

Silent Auction: District 8, Sara M.

Spirit stick for highest number of attendees from one district is: District 10

August speaker will be Jan V, our Assembly Treasurer! Plenty fun Workshops coming! Door Prize of a beautiful Convention Tote Bag went to: Emily M!

It is being noted and thanks given from this Assembly for the dedicated, hard work given by Marsha R to review, compile, and the creation of a new Procedures Digest that is now on the website! It is a contribution to the Louisiana Alanon program as a whole and is very appreciate! Thank you!

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned. The Chair closed the meeting with a few moments of silence to allow time for personal prayer, followed by the Al-Anon Declaration.

Submitted by Bob Herring, Secretary