

Area Assembly

Meeting Minutes
AFG Area 22_LA
Saturday, January 18, 2020

**** UNAPPROVED MINUTES ****

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Louisiana Area Assembly was held at the Alexandria Convention Center on Saturday, January 18, 2020, at 11:10 a.m., in Alexandria, LA. Angela A., Chairperson, was absent, so Alyson M., Alternate Chair, opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. She then read the Area 22 Assembly Mission Statement: The mission of the Louisiana AFG Area Assembly is to foster and support participation in service for Al-Anon and interest in the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts; to provide opportunities for groups to associate with other groups; to inform about the activities and service in our region; and to maintain representation to and from the World Service Conference (WSC).

Alyson asked for volunteers to read Al-Anon's Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service.

Alyson made pertinent announcements, including the remaining dates of the 2020 Assembly weekends: April 4-5; August 15-16; and November 7-8. She then asked all newcomers to Assembly to stand and introduce themselves.

Rachel B., Area Secretary, asked for any corrections to the unapproved minutes from Saturday, November 2, 2019. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Naomi D., Group Representative (GR), and seconded by Randy W., GR.

OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer's report: Hope L., Treasurer

Alternate Delegate's report: Eric N., Alternate Delegate

Alternate Delegate Eric N. reminded members of the afternoon's workshop and evening speaker. He encouraged members to sign up to speak and lead workshops using the sign-up boards posted at the rear of the Assembly meeting room.

Delegate's report: Tammy M., Delegate

My heart is overflowing with gratitude and humility for the opportunity to serve Area 22 as Delegate. Never in my wildest dreams did I see myself as Delegate... I remember Mama Gail at my first Assembly (which I walked into by "accident" with Mama Gail dragging me into the rooms of Assembly). She was communicating to me at that moment: you can do what they are doing, as I watched Sylvia, and Cliff, and Angela dance at the podium...My response was I could never do that...Little did I know what God had in store for me...

The day I was elected I was shocked to say the least, and stayed that way for about two weeks. Then off the pink cloud I came, as fear stood shoulder to shoulder with gratitude, fear that I will not measure up, fear that I will screw up and damage Al-Anon, then the whisper came TRUST

and know that I will always be there and help you... I heard the voice of my Service Sponsor, relax and enjoy the journey, listen and breathe in the recovery...

As I start to refine my relationships with myself, others, and the God of my understanding, from a spiritual perspective, do I/WE dare to dream and ask our Higher Power for clearer vision for myself and Al-Anon and Area 22?

The disease of alcoholism is a thief slipping into our lives stealing our loved one, stealing our love, stealing our joy, stealing our hope, stealing our dreams, and stealing our vision for any future. Do we dare to dream with clear vision, clear mind, clear heart, or do we/I still have rose-colored glasses on, where everything is clouded, and obscured from view hidden in secrecy?

Joy is our birth right, our sight once clouded is restored. We can breathe in the “Spirit of the Fellowship”, and dare to “DREAM BIG with 20/20 Vision”.

On January 11, at 11:45 a.m. central time, I responded to my first conference call for Panel 60. We opened with the Serenity Prayer and got down to business.

DREAMING BIG with 20/20 VISION

What is my primary purpose for attending the WSC?:

Al-Anon’s Tradition Two states: “For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants—they do not govern.”

The WSC makes the group conscience available and effective for all Al-Anon. It is the practical means by which the group conscience can speak; it is the voice of the world of Al-Anon and the guarantee that our world services shall continue to carry on under all conditions.

The WSC protects Al-Anon and Alateen against a service breakdown; it makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole upon important matters. This makes it the principle guarantor of Al-Anon and Alateen’s harmony and survival.

We discussed the Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) process, reviewed the conference etiquette, and then we started discussing Chosen Agenda Items (CAI).

Then we ventured into the composition of the Conference—the Delegates as well as all other Conference members are the trusted servants of worldwide Al-Anon.

Then we went into the Spiritual Principles of the program and the Twelve Concepts of Service.

Spiritual Principles: “Let it Begin with Me”, “principles above personality”, Unity, Abundance, Acceptance, Knowing Our Roles, Equality, Trust, Presume Good Will.

So I’m requesting your help: what areas of interest does Area 22 have, what dreams do we have, where do we want our state to go as a whole in Al-Anon, how do you see Al-Anon evolving, what CAIs does our Area want clarification on so we can see clearly with 20/20 vision? What do we dare to “DREAM” for our Area? I’m here to be the messenger or the mouth to convey your dreams and your vision for the future.

So pull up a chair, grab a cup coffee, and let’s talk and communicate what our dreams and vision are for Area 22.

How can we get more people to Assembly, how can we fill the rooms with so much joy in Al-Anon that it really become ATTRACTION and not promotion? How can we help Alateen grow? What are we missing because our glasses are too thick or on backward? How can we help the new GRs feel comfortable in our presence at Assembly? How can we BE OF SERVICE TO Al-Anon, and its Members, and Group to Group?

Or do we stay isolated in our blindness and denials?

What do we wish we knew but don’t?

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Convention: Duke H., Convention Chair

The DoubleTree is saving July 17, 18, and 19, 2020, for us. We are working on a new contract. In years past, we used four sections of the grand ballroom for speakers and the dance. This year, at Kay B.'s (immediate past Convention Chair) suggestion, we will use three sections instead of four. This will reduce our costs. Additionally, in years past, we had the banquet upstairs in a section of the grand ballroom and a hospitality space downstairs. This year, we asked the DoubleTree to move the hospitality space into the banquet space. This will allow folks to grab a cup of coffee or a snack without waiting for the elevator to go downstairs then waiting for the elevator to return upstairs to the speaker space. Less time in elevators means more time for fellowship. Finally, the chef plans to meet with us to determine the best menu. He will also prepare some sample dishes for us. This will help us find choices that are more appealing to convention attendees.

We plan to offer five (or more) workshops this year. Suggested topics, thus far, are: (1) Twelve Steps, (2) Twelve Traditions, (3) Twelve Concepts, (4) how to write an article for *The Forum*, and (5) how to start an Alateen group (to be led by Alateen members). It has been suggested the workshops have two co-chairs who share for 10 minutes each to introduce a topic then ask workshop participants to share their experience, strength, and hope on the topic. It has been suggested, as well, that we offer each workshop twice, so that folks can participate more.

Advances in online meeting technology allow us to have committee members from around the state. This is working in Tennessee. I recently sat in as a "silent observer" on a meeting of the Memphis Convention. The process was similar to other meetings that I have attended: reports were given, questions were asked, etc. For folks in Lafayette, I will arrange for a physical meeting space to gather. Those in other locales may meet with us online or by phone.

When folks register online this year, we want to provide a way for them to sign-up to volunteer. It has been suggested that we have a page that describes the volunteer opportunities (e.g., registration, literature table, raffle tickets, workshop co-chair, etc.) so that they can better match their interests with opportunities that are available.

In years past, the co-chair of the committee served as The Voice. This year, that will be a separate role. This will free the co-chair to focus on the overall convention.

We plan to offer a paper survey and an online survey to convention participants this year. This will help us know what worked (and didn't) to help us plan for 2021.

GR Meeting report: Carmen O., GR Meeting Coordinator

Newcomer Orientation: Angelique L., Newcomer Orientation Coordinator

District Representatives (DR) Meeting report: Sylvia G., past Delegate

South Central Regional Delegates Meeting (SCRDM) report: Clara E., past Delegate

The South Central Regional Delegates Meeting (SCRDM) will be held the first weekend in March, March 6, 7, & 8, in Wichita, Kansas. The purpose of the meeting is to acquaint and

prepare the new Delegates for the WSC that they will be attending in April 2020. Current and past delegates are voting members; any Al-Anon member may attend.

At the present time, Carmen O'M, Sylvia G., Clif B., Clara E., Gail F. (past delegates), and Eric as Alternate Delegate, plan to attend. Jay P. and Angela A. do not plan to attend.

In 2021, Louisiana will host the SCRDM in a city to be announced.

In the "new business" section of today's meeting, we will be seeking confirmation for partial financial support to the 2020 SCRDM. (Either full or partial financial support for the past delegates has had annual approval by the Assembly.)

ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Group Services Committee: Mary F., Group Records Coordinator

Fellowship Communications Committee: Duke H., Convention Chair (immediate past La Treasure Chest (LATC) Editor)

Membership Outreach Committee: Angelique L., Newcomer Orientation Coordinator

Public Outreach Committee: Patsy G., Public Outreach Coordinator

Budget & Finance Committee: Lisa A., Budget & Finance Coordinator—absent, no report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Alyson M., Alternate Chair

- ◆ Trial Assembly weekend schedule: this is the last weekend of the trial (Motion 2019-01), so the Assembly needs to decide to keep the new schedule, go back to the old one, or continue with the trial.

Motion 2020-01:

Matter under consideration: Area 22 Assembly Weekend Schedule

Wording of Motion: to continue the trial schedule from Motion #2019-01 for the rest of the year 2020

Motion made by: Hope L., GR; *seconded by*: Angelique L., GR

41 voting GRs; yes: 40, no: 1; abstain: 0

Motion passed

- ◆ Clara E.: Louisiana is hosting the 2021 SCRDM, past delegates will make arrangements for location, venue, etc. Please support us emotionally and financially.

NEW BUSINESS: Alyson M., Alternate Chair

- ◆ Signatories on LA AFG, Inc., checking account:

Motion 2020-02:

Matter under consideration: Rescind Motion 97-02 dated 03-07-97, Checking Account Authorization

Wording of Motion: Rescind Motion 97-02 dated 03-07-97 “A checking account will be opened requiring two (2) signatures for the check to be valid. The Area Officers, Chairman, Co-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer will be authorized”

Motion made by: Pebble B., GR; *seconded by:* Paul H., GR

41 voting GRs; yes: 32, no: 8; abstain: 1

Motion passed, Motion 97-02 rescinded

- ◆ Matter under consideration: requiring only one signature on checks and who will be authorized to sign them. No motion made, Eric N. will begin a KBDM document, and the policy at the bank requiring two signatures will not be changed until there is a motion to do so
- ◆ SCRDM funds for Alternate Delegate and immediate past Delegate

Motion 2020-03:

Matter under consideration: SCRDM

Wording of Motion: The Area Assembly shall fund the expenses of the Alternate Delegate and the immediate past Delegate to a maximum of \$500 each annually

Motion made by: Clara E., GR; *seconded by:* Allan L., GR

40 voting GRs; yes: 39, no: 1; abstain: 0

Motion passed

- ◆ SCRDM funds for active past Delegates (excluding immediate past Delegate)

Motion 2020-04:

Matter under consideration: SCRDM

Wording of Motion: The LA Area Assembly shall reimburse each past active Delegate attending the SCRDM to a maximum of \$250.00 annually

Motion made by: Clara E., GR; *seconded by:* Paul H., GR

40 voting GRs; yes: 23, no: 17; abstain: 0

Motion passed

Alternate Chair's report: Alyson M., Alternate Chair

Assembly was closed with the Al-Anon Declaration, followed by the Lord's Prayer.