

Area Assembly

Meeting Minutes
AFG Area 22_LA
Saturday, May 22, 2021

**** UNAPPROVED MINUTES ****

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Louisiana Area Assembly was held online using the video conference program Zoom, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, 2021. Angela A., Chairperson, opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. She welcomed all in attendance, and then read the Louisiana Area 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).

Volunteers read Al-Anon's Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service, including the General Warranties. Angela informed the Assembly that audio was being recorded using the record feature on Zoom in order to assist the secretary, Rachel B., with the minutes. Angela reminded Assembly members that all the documents that are needed for today's meeting were on the Area website, www.la-al-anon.org. She then reminded everyone of the online conference procedures for participating in discussions, asking questions, dealing with technical problems, online meeting etiquette, etc.

Rachel B., Area Secretary, asked for any corrections to the unapproved minutes from Saturday, March 27, 2021. A motion to accept the minutes as submitted was made by Steve G., Group Representative (GR), and seconded by Quinten D., GR. The minutes were approved as submitted.

OFFICER REPORTS

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

Thanks to all members who participated in this afternoon's workshop. Jay P. will present the second half of his Concepts workshop at the August Assembly. Tonight's speaker will be Regina S. Anyone willing to speak at the August Assembly, please contact me and I will give you the job description.

Delegate's report: Tammy M., Delegate

- ◆ Two historic decisions were made at this year's WSC. The first decision was to recognize permanent electronic meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups. The second decision was to allow creation of non-geographically based Areas, the first of which will be a non-panel Area for groups which meet on electronic platforms. These decisions allow groups which meet electronically to elect all the service positions identified in the *Service Manual*,

- including a GR. Everything in the *Service Manual* will apply equally to all groups whether they meet physically or electronically.
- ◆ The Conference gave traditional approval and, during the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees, in their legal capacity, elected the following trusted servants:
 - ♣ Regional Trustees: Debbie P., Canada Central (First three-year term); Tony S., Canada East (First three-year term); Linda R., US Southeast (Remaining one year of a first three-year term)
 - ♣ Trustees at Large: Lynette K. (Second three-year term); Don B. (First three-year term); Kathi M. (First three-year term); Nancy S. (Remaining two years of a first three-year term)
 - ♣ Board Officers 2021-2022: Lynette K., Chairperson of the Board; Marianne B., Vice Chairperson of the Board; Cindy M., Treasurer
 - ♣ Executive Committee: Deborah (Debbie) G. (Third one-year term); Terry F. (Second one-year term); David B. (First one-year term); Chairperson of the Executive Committee: Deborah (Debbie) G.; Executive Committee for Real Property Management Chairperson: Elizabeth (Liz) D. (One-year term)
 - ◆ Save the Date—“Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect”: Mark your calendars for this year’s “Road Trip!” event which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on October 23, 2021. This event gives Al-Anon members an opportunity to interact with members from the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. Be on the lookout for more details and registration information regarding the Cleveland “Road Trip!” event.
 - ◆ Longitudinal Study/Membership Survey: World Service Office (WSO) Staff began the process of developing the 2021 Membership Survey in 2020. During this process, Staff reached out to research professionals in the field of alcoholism/addiction asking for their opinions regarding our survey process. The professionals suggested a longitudinal study which would consist of asking the exact same group of members the exact same questions over a period of five to ten years. This would allow the WSO to track an Al-Anon member to understand the impact that consistent Al-Anon membership has on mental health, etc. As with the Membership Survey, the data would be anonymous. The Longitudinal Study participants will be selected at random from members who opt-in at the time they take the upcoming Membership Survey. Members who opt-in to the longitudinal study will be contacted via email and asked a set of ten questions, the same questions each year, for a period of five years from 2022 through 2026. All Al-Anon members are welcome to participate in the Membership Survey regardless of the amount of time you have in the program. The Membership Survey will be available in English, Spanish, and French at the following link al-anon.org/membersurvey starting June 16, 2021 to July 27, 2021.
 - ◆ The 2023 Al-Anon International Convention: Here is another opportunity for Al-Anon members to come together and celebrate recovery! Al-Anon’s Seventh International Convention will be held June 29 – July 2, 2023 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This exciting event will be here before you know it. Stay tuned for more details as 2023 approaches.
 - ◆ Finance Update (the following update is based on the un-audited financial statements for the period that ended 03/31/2021):

- ♣ Revenues (Income): Revenue consists mainly of literature sales and contributions. Other revenue includes magazine sales and investment gains or losses. Literature sales for March were \$191,559. Contributions for March were \$292,245.
- ♣ Expenses: The largest categories of expenses consist of WSO Staff salaries and benefits, public service announcements (PSAs), Conference costs, and travel. Expenses for March were \$426,296. We continue to monitor all expenses and reduce them wherever possible.
- ♣ Net Increase/Decrease: Change in net assets resulted in a net increase of \$105,057 which reflects the decrease in expenses.
- ♣ Investments: Our ample reserve is contained mostly in the Reserve Fund under the careful watch of our investment managers. Market conditions in March were favorable as the market experienced some gains. To date, we have an unrealized gain of \$554,258. Our investment accounts continue to be sensitive to market conditions.
- ♣ Reflections and Insight: In the first three months of this year's financials, while our Literature Sales are still lower than this time last year, our Contributions are not only higher than this time last year, but they also continue to exceed literature sales! While we are hopeful that our literature sales will grow, we are also hopeful that our membership is increasing. We look forward to this upcoming year as we find the courage to persevere and move towards unity with all our groups—physical, electronic, and hybrid. Additionally, our expenses are lower than this time last year, but that is partially because we will not be traveling until the second half of the year. However, our fabulous Staff at our World Service Office continues to serve the groups efficiently with grace and love. We are very grateful to our fellowship for their continued support of our program, so that we can continue to be available for those seeking recovery from the effects of alcoholism.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newcomers to Area Assembly Meeting report: Sylvia G., Newcomers to Area Assembly Coordinator

State Convention: Duke H., Convention Chair

GR Meeting report: Carmen O., GR Meeting Coordinator

There were 28 in attendance including newcomers. Attendees were encouraged to review resources of handbook and agenda. Icebreakers included questions about Al-Anon and Alateen's history. Using the Conference theme of Going Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance we study the Traditions and Concepts. Participation included Tradition Three (Quinten), Concept Three (Cathy R.), Tradition Four (Denise), and Concept Four (Rosey). Those who were willing for August Assembly are Tradition Five (Lucy W.), Concept Five (Angelique C.), Tradition Six (Andrea), and Concept Six (Steve). GRs are *Forum* cheerleaders in your group; recent submissions to *The Forum* included: March-Photo by Carmen; April-submission by Duke, Lafayette; May-submission by Kay B-Baton Rouge.

Reminders for afternoon Assembly included importance of Delegate Tammy M.'s report.

Discussion on meetings: numbers, style (hybrid, face-to-face, Zoom), safety concerns, losing Al-Anon focus with outside issues brought in. Assembly would also include Preparing for Assembly (election of Area Treasurer). Review of Current Mailing Address (CMA) and updating group records with your District Representative (DR).

Recovery: focus on all discussions was awareness of spiritual principles to apply to personal life. GRs were encouraged to communicate between Assembly weekends via email: topics, insights, focus for next Assembly, follow up on discussions. GRs: This is your meeting! Make it yours by participating—the key to harmony (Concept Four).

DR Meeting report: Susan A., Alternate Chair

The DR meeting went very well. We had thirteen members in attendance, eight DRs, one Alternate DR, our Area Secretary, Alternate Delegate, Delegate, Convention Chair, and a Past Delegate. We always appreciate the attendance of our officers and their depth of knowledge. Thank you for your attendance! We still have six districts with no representation. Please encourage your GRs to consider stepping up to DR in those areas. We filled our assignments for the August Assembly. We reiterated the importance of taking care of ourselves by attending meetings, and using a sponsor and a service sponsor. We held an information forum where each DR brought several topics of concern to the meeting. We all contributed to solutions sharing our own experience, strength, and hope, always using the Traditions, Concepts, and *Service Manual* as a guide. There were two common topics of concern – the first was the tensions felt around changes to our meetings: how to hold a group conscience and make decisions with some members attending in person and others attending only on Zoom; fear, control, flexibility and keeping an open mind were mentioned. Tammy reminded us that no decision has to be made now, that we have a year for our groups to come to these decisions. She offered to attend any of our district meetings and share her knowledge from WSO. We were reminded that DRs are not decision-makers for groups within our districts. The groups make their own decisions. We as DRs help uphold the principles of the program again reminding groups to turn to our *Service Manual*, Traditions, and Concepts for answers. We discussed possible solutions to lack of District meeting attendance. We stressed the importance of keeping our groups informed and keeping in touch with each group in our district by visiting each of our groups, monthly newsletters, personal phone calls, notices sent out in advance followed by a reminder, etc. Lastly, we decided that at the August Assembly we would again hold a meeting using an information forum format.

Convention: Duke H., Convention Coordinator

Treasurer's report: position vacant—short summary given by Angela A., Chairperson

First quarter of 2021: Net income was \$1,894 and cash-on-hand at the end of the quarter was \$6,844.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Special Note: All coordinator reports were submitted in writing prior to the Assembly and posted on the Area website (www.la-al-anon.org), and were also given orally during the meeting. On a trial basis, Area Coordinators will give their coordinator reports at the Assembly

instead of Action Committee reports, which will be given at tomorrow's Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting. (This is trial two of three.)

Alateen: Steve G., Alateen Coordinator

- ◆ Thanks to ALL who attended our Area Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) touch-base Zoom meeting on May 2nd. Shout out to Tammy, Delegate, and Randy, Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP), for giving updates and information on Alateen. Thirteen AMIAS attended, and we discussed many points: training, updates to Alateen Preamble, and re-certification, to name a few.
- ◆ Thanks to all the support Alateen is receiving; however, Alateen meetings are struggling statewide, so continued and expanded support is appreciated. We need help by announcing Alateen in every single Al-Anon meeting and stressing this is a family disease that takes family recovery. Please make sure all local AA meetings have access to the information as well.
- ◆ Here is a highlight of an Alateen pamphlet: Alateen Newcomer Packet K-18, a great packet to have available at ALL Al-Anon and Alateen meetings! The packet welcomes new Alateen members with helpful leaflets assembled in a booklet, including “Alateen Do’s and Don’ts” (M-9), “Youth and the Alcoholic Parent” (P-21), “Facts About Alateen” (P-41), “Alateens Share with Adults in Their Lives” (P-67), and “Has Your Life Been Affected by Someone Else’s Drinking?” (S-20). While this is for Alateen, it would be great to have at Al-Anon meetings for family or a friend to take and share when needed. <https://ecomm.alanon.org/ICommerce/Shop/ICommerce/Store/StoreLayouts/Home.aspx?hkey=ce378d32-c015-4a7a-8eba-f68fe1127526>
- ◆ Area Safety and Behavioral Requirements are moving ahead, hopeful timeline is:
 - a. Louisiana lawyer must review them, goal is July.
 - b. AWSC for a vote, goal is August.
 - c. WSO for approval, goal is August.
 - d. Louisiana lawyer must review changes.
 - e. Assembly for a vote, goal is November.
- ◆ We still have a unique opportunity for local AMIAS, to “bring” teens to the Louisiana Alateen Zoom meetings to help build up a local meeting. Reminder: any Alateen in LA Area 22 can attend any LA Alateen electronic meeting. However, no Alateen from outside of the state will be allowed to attend Alateen meetings in LA Area 22 even with their AMIAS.
- ◆ From Randy W., our AAPP: I am addressing the Area 22 required recurring 3-year background check to bring current as well as including a national check. Finally, the WSO-required Annual Alateen Recertification is currently underway and must be completed by 6/15/2021. However, it should be fully completed prior to this Assembly.

Archives: Rebecca P., Archives Coordinator

Thank you so much for reviewing the knowledge-based decision making (KBDM) document on having an Archive Section on our Area 22 website where we can show our collection and celebrate our Louisiana Al-Anon activities past and present, and to enable us to build upon these for the future. In looking at the WSO website, I did not find much attention drawn to or

much reference to Archives. I realize that Stepping Stones serves as the main repository for most of the Al-Anon (and AA) memorabilia. Our Louisiana version of Stepping Stones is our Archives Room in the Baton Rouge Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) Office. It can be viewed virtually in the slide show presented at last Assembly/AWSC and will run as a loop during the May Assembly and AWSC.

We have pulled together an informal Thought Force/Task Force working on the following actions/improvements to the Archives display area:

- ◆ Improvements as needed on the already beautiful power point presentation of the collection in photos. – photography donated by Jay P., past Delegate, and presentation donated by GW, Website Coordinator
- ◆ Addition of professionally designed cards to be placed with every piece of Conference Approved Literature (CAL) in the display case identifying it and dating it – signage donated by Steve G., Area Alateen Coordinator.
- ◆ Addition of professionally designed signage naming the room itself and outlining the restrictions in place for viewing, not touching, the displays – signage donated by Steve G.
- ◆ Addition of means for safely and temporarily affixing the donated posters and signs to the Archives Room walls – volunteers/ideas welcomed
- ◆ Addition of shelving for bound *The Forum* magazines so they may be easily examined by Archives Room visitors who may be searching for past contributions or looking for moderation ideas.
- ◆ Addition of a small round table and a couple of chairs for resting while examining the Archives that are touchable – three shelves and brackets donated already but looking for a wooden bookshelf to accommodate the bound *Forum* magazines if anyone has one that they wish to donate.
- ◆ Utilization of the current display tables in the window area to serve as work spaces for sorting through and organizing the boxes of materials which are currently stacked in the corner, but which will eventually be scanned and/or filed.
- ◆ Reviewing, categorizing, organizing, and labeling the folders currently housed in the two filing cabinets located in the Archives room to gain an understanding of the current system to continue and build on it.
- ◆ Developing a schedule for scanning the documents once they are inventoried, categorized, and evaluated.

As your Archivist I am also charged with the responsibility of keeping up to date as to the discussions taking place on the AFG Connects thread for Area Archivists. Currently there are on-going discussions of the following:

- ◆ Disposition of paper items once they are digitized/scanned – keep, shred, etc.
- ◆ Disposition of old *Forum* magazines – keep them all or only the ones with articles from members in Louisiana.

As your Archivist I also stay in touch with the WSO Archivist, Joe T., as to any updates on the revision of the G-30 Guidelines for Archivists.

- ◆ The G-30 Guidelines are still being looked at.
- ◆ I have asked if WSO features any of its own archives online or just refers everyone to Stepping Stones website.

My goals remain as follows:

- ◆ Clearly identify material with the date of origin and photos with names and dates written on the back. I will be sure to date everything to make it easier for future Archivists.
- ◆ Interview Area pioneers as soon as possible, preferably face-to-face during Assembly and Convention and record their recollections of early group development and their personal recovery stories
- ◆ After the Archives are organized, research possible search systems for organizing the collection and install a search system to locate material in the collection, building on what already exists and enhancing it as appropriate.
- ◆ Anonymity regarding members will always be kept top of mind. I have read and understand our *Service Manual*'s guidance on anonymity.

I am again extending the invitation to any AI-Anon member with expertise in library science or digital archives to assist me as a member of the Area 22 Archives Committee, so let me know if you or any of your group members have such expertise and are willing to join the committee.

Thanks so much for the opportunity and privilege to serve as Archivist for Area 22. Although the task sometimes seems a bit daunting, in this fellowship we learn to take one day at a time and to pause, pray, prepare, plan, and proceed.

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

- ◆ Completed 2020 Budget Tracker Expenses is posted on website
- ◆ Completed 2021 1st Quarter Budget Tracker (January thru March), both Revenue and Expense, is posted on website
- ◆ Completed audit of 2020 LA AFG Audit
 - ♣ Group/individual Contributions were \$5,104.91
 - ♣ Expenses were total of \$1,934.06
 - ♠ Virtual expenses \$547.94
 - ♠ Donation to WSO \$1,152.30
 - ♠ Office supplies \$66.06
 - ♠ Online Registration platform \$61.75
 - ♠ PO Box rental \$106.00
 - ♣ Net income was \$3,170.86
- ◆ As the Treasurer for the Deep-South Alateen Conference (D-SAC), I asked Danny C. to conduct the 2020 audit of the D-SAC financials to avoid a conflict of interest; Danny C. can present findings from this audit
- ◆ Sorted through all the motions in our Procedures Digest from 1963 through 2016 and the minutes from 2017 through 2020, finding all motions that are active financial motions that the Area Assembly should be following. There are active motions that address money that our Delegate should be provided at the beginning of year for his/her expenses to include attending the South Central Regional Delegates Meeting (SCRDM) which has not been provided as the motion states for several terms. The Delegate is responsible to provide an itemized report for expenditures to the treasurer at the end of each year.

- ♣ Motion 12-03, 08/19/12: To increase the funds budgeted for the Delegate's expenses to an amount not to exceed \$1500 per year effective immediately. (made when Sylvia G. was Delegate)
- ♣ Motion 07-02, 04/15/07: That the Delegate submit to the Treasurer, annually, an itemized report for the Delegate's expense fund with receipts for any one item over \$25.00. (made when Clara E. was Delegate)
- ♣ Motion #17-01 was made by Pebble B. to move for LA Assembly Inc. to subscribe to QuickBooks Online Plus. Motion passed (43 yes 0 no); we are not using this online platform so this motion needs to be amended or adhered to.
- ♦ From LA Area Assembly AFG, Inc. By-Laws: has this been adhered to?
 - ♣ 1.10 Approval of Contracts: Any contract, expense, or obligation incurred on behalf of the corporation in excess of \$750 must have prior approval of the Board of Directors or membership of the corporation. Two officers of the corporation must execute every written contract entered into on behalf of the corporation in excess of \$750; one officer of the corporation must execute every written contract entered into on behalf of the corporation for \$750 or less.

The Forum: Paula D., *Forum* Coordinator

Louisiana January thru March 2021 Sales Report

	Group Subscriptions	Group Copies	Other* Subscriptions	Other Copies	Total subscriptions	Total copies
Jan	16	17	173	177	189	194
Feb	14	15	174	178	188	193
Mar	14	15	165	170	179	185
Apr	13	16	165	170	180	186
May	13	14	159	164	172	178
Total	70	77	836	859	908	936

* Other subscriptions include individuals, districts, Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) offices, and Literature Distribution Centers

I've provided the totals for the last five months.

We have new and exciting information to share this session. We have a new Magazine Editor and administrator of the AFG Connects, Carol C. She introduced herself to the Area *Forum* Coordinators using AFG Connects and provided us with her contact information as well as sending welcome to the new *Forum* Coordinators. She encouraged all of us to review and use the Area *Forum* Coordinator (G-32) Guideline and ask that we not hesitate to reach out with questions and concerns.

Carol promises updates periodically: sharing articles, sending out calls for submissions and offering the latest *Forum* news and sneak peeks of articles in hopes that this information is passed along at our Assemblies.

Her final request was that we pass along to our groups and Assembly the need for sharings of all kinds, but we especially need sharings on our three Legacies.

Group Records: Rosey A., Group Records Coordinator

The WSO is currently making improvements to the Group Records database and the database has not been accessible to make changes received in the past week. As soon as it does become accessible, those changes will be recorded.

All DRs were sent an updated, detailed list of the meetings in their district so that the information can be updated. Right now, many meetings are going from virtual status to in-person status so this will probably be a time when many changes and questions will come up.

An Area Assembly reminder was sent out last week to all GRs to encourage participation in this coming Assembly.

I learned that the Group Records Coordinator cannot make changes to Alateen meeting information in the database. Only the AAPP can make those changes. I made sure that Randy and Steve were aware of that and they are aware.

Hispanic Outreach: position vacant, no reportLiterature: Ann B., Literature Coordinator—absent; report was submitted and posted on the website

The following are excerpts of the Literature Coordinators' Digest from AFG Connects (WSO) since the March 2021 Assembly:

April 2021 Literature Coordinator Update

Dear Literature Coordinators,

Here's the latest update of literature news. Please feel free to pass this info on at Assemblies and via e-mail to DRs, Information Services/Intergroups, Website Coordinators, and Newsletter Editors. Establishing an e-mail list of these members/service arms makes it easy to forward this information.

- ◆ Electronic *Welcome, Newcomer!* (eK-10) Is Coming Soon: The newly revised and re-formatted electronic version of the *Al-Anon Newcomer Packet* (K-10) is in the final stages of production. More details will be announced soon, when it will be available through a variety of vendors, just as our current eBooks are. In the meantime, electronic meetings can provide the following URL to newcomers so they can sign up to receive an email with newcomer information: al-anon.org/welcome. The newcomer will be prompted to enter a personal email address and the digital information will be immediately delivered. Members may wish to share this in their meetings and include it in their meeting formats when welcoming new members. (Please note that the revised paper version of *Welcome, Newcomer!* will not be available until inventory of the current version is depleted.)
- ◆ New Literature Motions from the 2021 WSC: The 2021 WSC carried three motions regarding CAL, which were based on recommendations from the Literature Committee.
 - ♣ The first was for development of a new Alateen bookmark based on the *Just for Tonight* Al-Anon Bookmark (M-81). Like the *Just for Today* Alateen Bookmark (M-13), its contents will come from the teens themselves.
 - ♣ The second motion was to add a new preface to the book, *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* (B-4), that would place it in historical perspective and to develop a booklet made up of "gems" from the original, possibly including some new material.
 - ♣ The final literature motion discussion was to create a new introduction to our first daily reader, *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* (B-6) from 1968. This will provide a

historical perspective on the book, and at the same time emphasize the timeless nature of Al-Anon's spiritual principles that the book so wonderfully exemplifies.

- ◆ *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31): Celebrate Al-Anon's 70th Anniversary and learn about our rich history by purchasing this book at the reduced price of \$8.00 plus shipping, through June 30, 2021. Find it on our website at al-anon.org/onlinestore.
- ◆ NEW DAILY READER (working title): The WSO continues to receive questions from the fellowship regarding whether additional sharings are needed for the new daily reader. As previously announced, the deadline for submissions was June 2020. *Please* share the news that the volunteer Literature Committee has just completed review of the near final draft. Much more work lies ahead so that the book can be ready for what we hope will be its debut in English, French, and Spanish at the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention in New Mexico.
- ◆ Members Blog: Have you read or written a sharing for the Member Blog? Have you encouraged other members to do so? Please check it out at al-anon.org/member-blog. Each month there are new topics added, including the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service.
- ◆ "CAL Corner" Topics: This department is featured each month in *The Forum* magazine. It contains members' sharings on how a particular piece of our literature has enhanced their recovery. April's topic is *Reaching for Personal Freedom* (P-92). In May, the department will focus on *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31), and in June on the 60th anniversary of *Alcoholism, the Family Disease* (P-4).
- ◆ Sharings needed for "CAL Corner": Please urge members to share in writing about how a piece of CAL has helped them with their recovery. We are currently looking for sharings about *Al-Anon's Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions* (B-8), *Living Today in Alateen* (B-26), *Discovering Choices* (B-20), and *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* (B-29). Please see the writing guideline for "CAL Corner" in the Guidelines & Procedures folder under the "Library" folder in the Literature Coordinator community of AFG Connects or at: al-anon.org/pdf/CALcornerSharingRevised%202018.pdf.
- ◆ Writing about CAL for Area Newsletters: Please use your Area newsletter to share how local members are spreading the word about CAL or to publish their reviews of various CAL.
- ◆ Because your Assembly or AWSC meetings might not coincide with my postings on AFG Connects, please contact me anytime you need more information or have questions about literature content.

La Treasure Chest (LATC): Danielle H., LATC Newsletter Editor

Public Outreach: Gina R., Public Outreach Coordinator

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA) – Electronic Distribution is encouraged for all Public Outreach materials, especially AFA: Human Resources Departments, Community Counseling Centers (Government, Private and Spiritual/Religious Centers)

- ◆ Al-Anon PSAs – distribution process
- ◆ New public service announcements (PSAs) for 2021-2022 – production
- ◆ WSO provision of poster templates – for localization and distribution

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 Outreach tools on al-anon.org Public Outreach and Professionals headings (brochures in English, Spanish and French)

We are encouraged to reach out to radio stations for PSA airtime. The WSO website provides production quality downloads to distribute for radio and television.

Website Coordinator: GW, Website Coordinator

To date, the daily unique page visits to the la-al-anon.org website are 67.2 unique visits per day. One of the main functions of the la-al-anon.org website is to provide information necessary for AWSC members and GRs to be fully prepared to participate in our Area Assemblies. For this reason, there is a wide range of data for daily page visits that peaks just before and during each of our Area Assembly Weekends. The most recent bump occurred after a clump of documents were placed on the website.

Since the beginning of our virtual Assemblies there has been a concerted effort to have all documents needed for the Assembly Weekends to be available on the website for a full week before that weekend. We are continuing to stress that all reports and presentations pertaining to that weekend be emailed to webmaster@la-al-anon.org and secretary@la-al-anon.org. This way, members planning to attend the Assembly will have the ability to review the information before the actual event. I am asking that, if at all possible, please submit your reports to be posted on the website in either Word or .pdf format. I have been having trouble converting some of the formats that the reports have been provided to me.

The Area 22 Tech Team has been having a series of meetings since the last Assembly to have open discussions on many of the technical issues facing LA AFG Assembly, Inc. As with any type of committee, the purpose of these meeting is to provide suggestions and options for the Area Assembly to consider and act upon. It is not this body's purpose to unilaterally make decisions that affect the Area Assembly as a whole. Part of these discussions involve updating the job description of what is currently known as the Website Coordinator. A KBDM will be introduced at this weekend's AWSC meeting along with a prototype for what an updated job description might look like.

Other topics discussed were how to maximize the exchange of information within and without Area Assembly including email distribution methods, maximizing use of the website and reinforcement of messaging etiquette as it pertains to our spiritual principle of anonymity.

At the time of this report, the finishing touches are being applied to an email notification delivery system that will allow members to choose which notifications they would like to subscribe to. Included in this will be a notification of when the LA Treasure Chest has been posted on the website. This system allows for email campaigns to be sent out anonymously in keeping with the guidelines for emails found under the heading of Service Communication on p. 101 in the *Service Manual*.

As a final note, the Area 22 Tech Team is actively seeking out members of varying technical skill levels to participate in this group. Any member with a desire to become more proficient in the technical aspects of the Area Assembly is welcome to participate in this group.

ON-GOING BUSINESS: Angela A., Chairperson

This is the second of a three-Assembly trial of Area Coordinators giving their reports at the Assembly rather than the AWSC, and the Budget & Finance and Action Committee chairs giving their reports at the AWSC rather than the Assembly. Please send any thoughts and feedback about the change to Angela A., Area Chairperson.

NEW BUSINESS: Angela A., Chairperson

- ◆ Hope L. stepped down as Area Treasurer, so a new Treasurer needs to be elected. Sam B. was elected as our new Area Treasurer.
- ◆ Knowledge-based decision making document (KBDM) about an Archives section on the Area website: There is already an Archives section on the Area website, so Rebecca P., Area Archives Coordinator, would like approval from the Assembly to post a slide show of photographs taken of the Area Archives office on the website, just in case anyone had any concerns about anonymity. No Assembly members objected to the idea, so she will go ahead with posting the slide show.
- ◆ KBDM regarding making online contributions to the Area Assembly:

Motion 2021-01:

Matter under consideration: Online contributions to the Area Assembly

Wording of Motion: Propose LA Area Assembly AFG, Inc. allow an online platform be used for members to make contributions

Motion made by: Pebble B., GR; *seconded by:* Allan L., GR

24 voting GRs; yes: 23, no: 1; abstain: 0

Motion passed

Alternate Chair's report: Susan A., Alternate Chair

The district assignments for 2021 Assembly in August:

Saturday Morning Meeting: District 5 – Shirley Y.

Saturday Morning Registration: District 10 – Susan A.

Salts: Districts 8 and 15 – Sarah G. and Danielle H.

Sweets: District 14 – Allan L.

Sweets: District 6 – Rebecca P.

Saturday Night Owl Meeting: District 4 – Clara E.

Sunday Morning Meeting: District 7 – Patti

Sunday Morning Registration: District 10 – Susan A.

The Next Assembly will be on August 22nd and 23rd. We are waiting on AA as to their decision about virtual versus in-person Assemblies for August and November. They are planning to be in person for those two Assemblies. They currently have three hotels chosen from three parts of the state. They will have a decision as to which hotel will get the contract

after their Assembly this weekend. At this point, I will meet with their Alternate Chair, visit the hotel and work on our contract with them.

2021 Assembly Dates: August 21st -22nd and November 6th -7th

2022 Assembly Dates: Jan 15th -16th, April 9th -10th, Aug 20th -21st, and Nov 5th -6th

Just a reminder: normally, we pass “the shoe” at Assembly. Remember that you may always mail in a contribution. All contributions are greatly appreciated. The Service Arms Contact List is on the website.

Special thanks to all who participated today; for those who worked on the Alateen skit and workshop, especially our two Alateen members; for Action Committee coordinators; and for those who volunteered to lead the Al-Anon meetings. I want to particularly thank our Tech Team for making this Assembly work so well virtually again! We could not have done it without all of you! I am always grateful to be a part of this Area Assembly as your Alternate Chair.

As many of you know in the past, the Alternate Chair gives out the spirit stick to the district that has the most people in attendance at Assembly. We have come up with a little poll to help us figure this out.

Attendance today was 53. The Spirit Stick winner is District 10 with 12 in attendance, and second place is District 14 with 8 members.

Assembly was closed at 5:30 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Al-Anon Declaration.