

AWSC

Meeting Minutes
AFG Area 22_LA
Sunday, January 19, 2020

****UNAPPROVED MINUTES****

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Louisiana Area World Service Committee (AWSC) was held at the Alexandria Convention Center on Sunday, January 19, 2020, at 9:00 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. Volunteers read Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service, including the General Warranties, and Al-Anon's Three Obstacles to Success.

Alyson announced the remaining 2020 Assembly weekend dates in Alexandria: April 4-5, August 15-16, and November 7-8.

Rachel B., Area Secretary, called the roll of AWSC members. She then asked for any corrections to the minutes from the November 3, 2019 AWSC meeting. A motion to accept the November 3, 2019 AWSC minutes as submitted was made by Danielle H., District 15 Representative and Hispanic Public Outreach Coordinator, and seconded by Mary F., District 8 Representative and Group Records Coordinator. Minutes were approved as submitted.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Alateen: position vacant; report given by Danielle H., immediate past Alateen Coordinator

Archives: Rebecca P., Archives Coordinator

I am happy to serve as the Area 22 Archives Coordinator/Archivist for Panel 60. My plans include the following:

- 1) I will pull and read and the WSO Guidelines for Archivist.
- 2) I will reach out to the out-going Archivist to get her thoughts and ideas.
- 3) I will visit the Baton Rouge AIS and inspect the storage area and the items that can be easily observed.
- 4) I will reach out to the Archivist at WSO for tips and advice.

Thanks for the opportunity to be of service.

Budget & Finance: Lisa A., Budget & Finance Coordinator—absent; report given by Tammy M., Delegate

Lisa A. just accepted this position; she will be contacting Dave K., our immediate past Budget & Finance Coordinator.

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.

The Forum: Paula D., *Forum* Coordinator—absent; no report

Group Records: Mary F., Group Records Coordinator; report given by Heidi H., immediate past Group Records Coordinator

- ◆ Yesterday, I passed out group details to each District Representative (DR) in attendance. According to the World Service Office (WSO), there are four groups that are bouncing back through the mail, one group reported not meeting and one bouncing back through email.
- ◆ Many groups have changed Group Representatives (GR) with the new term and the DRs and I are working to get that all fixed.
- ◆ Nothing new to report about records from the WSO, since the November Assembly.
- ◆ I will send an email to any new GR that was here yesterday and gave me their info with the link to the website forms to update those groups. If I missed anyone, please let me know.
- ◆ If any officers need the group info in the next few weeks, please let me know and I'll send you the most current list. It'll be evolving as we get it all straight.

Hispanic Outreach: Danielle H., Hispanic Public Outreach Coordinator

Literature: Ann B.—absent; no report

La Treasure Chest (LATC): Erika R., LATC Newsletter Editor

Public Outreach: Patsy G., Public Outreach Coordinator—absent; no report

Website Coordinator: GW, Website Coordinator

If you are listed on the AWSC roll call – you have a position assigned email address. An email of your choice is then attached as a forwarding address. The one catch in this system is that any email you respond to is coming from your personal email address. I suggest members in service to create an Al-Anon specific email address that does not contain your last name or is attached to a particular service position.

Email has become a larger part of my transition into the position than I expected. I sent out test emails to all the position emails. I have not gotten responses from everyone I emailed. If you are not sure if you are connected, send an email to your position email which is listed on the Members website at la-al-anon.org. If you don't get a response, email me at webmaster@la-al-anon.org so we can get you properly connected.

I suggest adding the position emails to your contacts, you can do this gradually as you find the need to email AWSC members. If you put webmaster@la-al-anon.org in your contacts you will be able to contact whoever is filling that position beyond the current occupant. Check out the website.

The HOME page has three buttons right under the header. The 1st is Area Assembly, this is public and contains upcoming Assembly dates as they become available and hotel room booking information. Before each Assembly the schedule and Action Committee grid will be placed at the top of this page.

The second button is Member Resources, it requires a password which is serenity (all lower case).

When I start to receive documents before each Assembly, I will place a button to access all these documents in one place. This Assembly the page contained the Schedule and Committee document, the current Treasurer report, and the current LA Treasure Chest. I would like to open discussions to maximize the amount of Assembly documents that may be place on this page. After each Assembly this page goes away until the next Assembly is approaching.

When I arrive at Assembly I place the schedule for Assembly as the wallpaper on my phone so I always know where I am supposed to be.

OFFICER REPORTS

Alternate Delegate: Eric N., Alternate Delegate

Still need a speaker and a workshop leader for the April Area Assembly. Duke H. volunteered to speak, and Rebecca P. volunteered to lead a workshop. Thanks to Angelique C. for sharing her story the night before.

Delegate: 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 it Members, and Group to Group?

Or do we stay isolated in our blindness and denials?
What do we wish we knew but don't?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tammy M., Delegate

A prototype for a possible fundraising 2021 Area calendar was presented by Alyson M. The AWSC decided that Charlotte B., with the help of Allan L. and Duke H., will begin a Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) document to present to the April Assembly to produce a fundraising calendar by the Area, for the Area.

NEW BUSINESS: Alyson M., Alternate Chair

- ◆ Allan L. asked for clarification about the Area checking account: Eric N. will begin a KBDM document
- ◆ Angelique L. asked if it were possible for Area coordinators to attend the Officers Meeting held on Friday nights of Assembly weekend; Alyson M. said the officers would consider it
- ◆ There was a discussion about when to hold the newcomer meeting, as it was the same time as the GR meeting. Specific meeting times are determined by the Alternate Chairperson and any changes to the schedule will be made by Alyson M.

Alternate Chairperson: Alyson M., Alternate Chair

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

NEW BUSINESS: Tammy M., Chair

- ◆ Area fund-raising calendar: The AWSC voted to allow Alyson M. to present a prototype for a calendar at the next AWSC meeting in January
- ◆ Jane S. wants a conversation to start about passwords and websites
- ◆ Tammy sold copies of the 2019 WSC Summary (P-46) for \$5 each

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Al-Anon Declaration.