

AWSC

Meeting Minutes
AFG Area 22_LA
Sunday, August 16, 2020

****UNAPPROVED MINUTES****

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Louisiana Area World Service Committee (AWSC) was held online using the video conference program Zoom, on Sunday, January 19, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. Angela A., Chairperson, 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).” She then read the description of AWSC meetings from page 155 of the *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*: “The primary function of the AWSC is to plan for the general improvement of both the Assembly and the groups.”

Volunteers read Al-Anon’s Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service, including the General Warranties. Angela made pertinent clarifications for the meeting, including an explanation of which members have a voice and/or a vote.

Rachel B., Area Secretary, called the roll of AWSC members. She then asked for any corrections to the minutes from the January 19, 2020 AWSC meeting. Tammy M., Delegate, requested that the Delegate’s report in the minutes be replaced by the report she submitted to the Secretary a few days before. A motion to accept the January 19, 2020 AWSC minutes with this change was made by Lucy W., Acadiana Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) Liaison, and seconded by Tammy M. Minutes were approved with the amendment.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Special Note: All coordinator reports were submitted in writing prior to the AWSC meeting and posted on the Area website, and were not given orally, as usual, during the meeting. AWSC members and attendees were asked to read the reports before the meeting and have any questions about the Coordinator Reports ready to be asked at this time.

Alateen: position vacant; report submitted by Randy W., Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) in writing and posted to the Area website

Area 22 Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) recertification for 2020 was completed. Area 22 has 33 certified AMIAS; the following is a breakdown of AMIAS per district:

- District 1 – 3
- District 4 – 4
- District 5 – 1
- District 6 – 1

District 8 – 3
 District 9 – 1
 District 10 – 11
 District 12 – 1
 District 14 – 2
 District 15 – 2
 District 16 – 1
 District 17 – 2
 District 22 – 1

Total = 33

Area 22 currently has 5 active Alateen Groups. Two groups are meeting face to face, two groups are meeting on Zoom, and the fifth group is working towards meeting on Zoom. The groups are averaging around three Alateens per meeting. District 1 has one group, District 10 has two groups, and District 15 has two groups.

Archives: Rebecca P., Archives Coordinator; report submitted in writing and posted to Area website

I visited the archives room at the Baton Rouge AIS office in February and found that the space has been encroached upon because of a leak in the AIS office in an adjacent room. Everything had been consolidated and there was little room to work.

I took photographs and I intended to come back in March and monthly thereafter to check progress on the repair of the leak in the other room so that we could have full use of our room. And then COVID came and I have not been back to the archives office since.

I will schedule a visit in September and one in October and another one in early November to get a better handle on what we have in the archives and what needs to be done with it.

Budget & Finance: Lisa A., Budget & Finance Coordinator; a “budget tracker” chart with notes was posted on the website, but no report was submitted

Convention: Duke H., Convention Chair; full report submitted in writing and posted to Area website, the following is the first two sections of the report

- ◆ Directives: Panel 57’s Membership Outreach Action Committee requested the following changes for the Convention:
 - ♣ Make money, or break even, but stop losing money. The convention fund is low.
 - ♣ Include members from as many locales as possible to serve on the committee.
 - ♣ Move workshops away from a lecture format and toward a participatory format.

- ◆ Accomplishments: Initially, the greatest accomplishment by the Committee was being ready to host a convention by the time of the Assembly that was scheduled for March 28th, despite being formed only two months earlier. Remarkably, the Committee shaved \$3,500 in costs from the Convention, moved the hospitality suite beside the main speaker space, replaced one workshop with eight breakout sessions, streamlined the schedule so that attendees no longer needed to rush to and from the elevators, improved the banquet, and included artwork and skits from AFG members from across the Area. In time, the most significant accomplishment was the ability to adapt as circumstances changed (and kept changing) after

COVID-19 arrived. As numerous authorities offered recommendations, the Committee continued its work. Even after it became apparent that a physical convention was no longer feasible, Committee members continued to serve in the hope of bringing a virtual (aka remote) convention to members of our Area. This devotion is reflected in the three Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) documents that the Committee produced. The crowning achievement of Committee members is their loving commitment to serving the fellowship. This was commented upon by numerous members from other areas who interacted with the Committee. The Convention Coordinator hopes that the Assembly will allow the Convention Committee to fulfill its primary purpose of hosting a convention for members throughout our Area and beyond.

The Forum: Paula D., *Forum* Coordinator; report submitted in writing and posted to Area website

Louisiana January thru July 2020 Sales Report

	Group Subscriptions	Group Copies	Other* Subscriptions	Other Copies	Total subscriptions	Total copies
Jan	20	21	195	201	215	222
Feb	19	20	198	204	217	224
Mar	18	19	197	203	215	222
Apr	15	15	190	196	205	211
May	15	16	196	202	211	218
Jun	16	17	194	200	210	217
Jul	15	16	199	205	214	221

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

I decided to list all of this year's monthly totals to show the slight fluctuations in our overall sales for the year so far.

Al-Anon's first official mobile APP was announced in *The Forum* in July. For more information and links to download the app in iTunes and Google Play visit www.al-anon.org/mobileapp

Group Records: Mary F., Group Records Coordinator; report submitted in writing and posted to Area website

Mostly quiet on the records front, during these interesting times. A reminder to members to update records with any new information like: Group Representative (GR)/Current Mailing Address (CMA) info, meeting time and location changes, electronic meeting info (if any). If any District Representatives (DRs) need the record info for their groups, please reach out to Heidi for the most current info.

Hispanic Outreach: position vacant, no report

Literature: Ann B.; report submitted in writing and posted to the Area website

- ◆ The following are excerpts of the Literature Coordinators' Digest from AFG Connects. These items may be of general interest to the Assembly, especially the updates from July 6, 2020.
- ♣ April 20--In response to a question asking if the Newcomers Packet was available in a digital version for Zoom meeting newcomers, the World Service Office (WSO) replied:

The WSO does not produce an electronic version of the Newcomer Packet. Rather, a special vanity URL has been created and provided to the Electronic Meeting CMAs to share with their meetings and members. Whenever a newcomer attends an electronic meeting for their very first Al-Anon meeting, they will be provided with the URL. The newcomer will be asked to enter an email address and an electronic welcome email is generated to that member. It is not an electronic copy of the pamphlets included in the Packet. Instead, it provides a warm introduction to the newcomer and links to numerous resources tailored for newcomers that are found on the Al-Anon website, al-anon.org. The email is also in the process of being translated into Spanish and French. Prior to this being created, there was no information to provide a newcomer to Al-Anon attending an electronic meeting.

Again, the URL is only provided to the CMAs (members who serve as the current mailing address) for the electronic meetings. Here are some resources that are available on al-anon.org to share with newcomers to the temporary electronic meetings:

- ♠ Sample chapters of CAL: [al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/...](http://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/)
- ♠ Free downloadable options: [al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/...](http://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/)
- ♠ Slogans page: [al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/...](http://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/)
- ♠ Member Blog: al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/member-blog which is also available for use for any Al-Anon meeting.
- ♠ *The Forum* magazine excerpts: "The Forum" Magazine Stories
- ♠ The *2020 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* magazine: [al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/...](http://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/)

Please feel free to share this information through your links of service.

- ♣ May 14--In response to a question asking whether buying books from outside vendors benefits AFG, the WSO replied:

As far as what Area Literature Coordinators can report to your Areas, please remind your Area groups and members that:

- ♠ Purchasing eBooks and other electronic literature through the outside entities listed with links on our online store supports Al-Anon Family Groups.
- ♠ Purchasing printed literature through the WSO or your local LDC supports Al-Anon Family Groups, including local Al-Anon services.
- ♠ Purchasing new printed literature through outside entities has a very high markup to support the outside entities.
- ♠ Purchasing used printed literature through outside entities may save you money, but it supports the outside entities.

Groups and members all have a choice—they can support local Al-Anon services and the Al-Anon fellowship or they can support outside entities. We remain obedient to the unenforceable, but when groups and members are aware, many will choose to help Al-Anon be self-supporting.

- ♣ July 6--A general update provided by the WSO Literature Chair:

Here's the latest update of literature news. Please feel free to pass this info on at Assemblies and via e-mail to District Representatives, 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.

- ♠ **NEW DAILY READER (working title):** Many thanks for getting out the word about our last call for sharings for this project. We had many responses and now have

- plenty of sharings to choose from, so we are no longer accepting additional sharings. We will gladly accept sharings for *The Forum* and *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*.
- ♣ **Members Blog:** Please encourage members to read and write on the Member Blog at al-anon.org/member-blog. Each month there are new topics added, so today we have choices! You can also share about the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service too!
 - ♣ **"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. July's articles are about *As We Understood...* (B-11). August's focus is on celebrating the 50th anniversary of *Three Views of Al-Anon* (P-15), and September's will be on *Hope for Today* (B-27).
 - ♣ **Sharings needed for "CAL Corner":** We always need more sharings about how CAL has helped members with their recovery. Please urge members to write about *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* (B-29), *Courage to Be Me* (B-23), *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* (B-33), and *Reaching for Personal Freedom* (P-93). Please see the writing guideline for "CAL Corner" in the Guidelines & Procedures folder under the "Library" folders 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.
 - ◆ I do have one question for the Assembly. When I hear of time-sensitive issues such as requests for members to submit their stories by a certain deadline, how can I share that information with members between Assembly meetings?
 - ◆ Please contact me if there are any specific questions you would like me to ask the WSO Literature staff (literature@la-al-anon.org).

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

I have stepped down from Hispanic Public Outreach and picked up the paper. I just did this, so there is not the possibility of getting a paper out in time for Assembly. I will try to get a little something out, but no promises. I need however for anyone who would like to send me articles for the paper please. I would like to have your submissions by November 1st please. One article I would like to have in the paper is where we highlight a book each issue. For the November issue I want to highlight *How Al-Anon Works for Family and Friends of Alcoholics* (B-22 & B-32). Please send in your sharings about this book please. I also need to know who normally receives the paper and who would like to receive the paper. I will set up a group email and everyone will receive the paper. I want to have the paper in your hands a week before assembly. If this is not how it has worked or you would prefer a different date please let me know. I want any suggestion or story for the paper please. My email address is latreasurechest@la-al-anon.org. I am looking forward to an awesome paper and awesome ideas.

Public Outreach: position vacant; report submitted by Jane S., Associate Public Outreach Coordinator; report submitted in writing and posted to Area website

- ◆ The WSO now has public outreach announcements and discussion opportunities for public outreach coordinators, associate coordinators and others interested. The website has many public outreach resources for groups to access.
- ◆ The 2019 Annual Report is available in English, French and Spanish. To view, go to al-anon.org, click on members tab, WSO, then Annual Report.
- ◆ There have been many online meetings throughout the state which have given people the ability to stay connected to their recovery groups and participate in meetings they may not have been able to attend before due to travel, expense, scheduling, work or home obligations, etc. We encourage groups to update websites and listings of meetings so current members and newcomers know which groups are meeting online and which groups are now meeting face-to-face or are meeting at alternate locations temporarily.

Website Coordinator: GW, Website Coordinator; report submitted in writing and posted to Area website

From January 22 to March 30, 2020, the Area 22 Website Coordinator upgraded and redesigned the state website. As the COVID-19 pandemic spread, local websites have taken the forefront in the dissemination of local meeting information as the State sites and WSO site could not possibly keep up with the almost daily changes that were occurring. It is becoming clear that the main function of the LA State website is to make available to our members the documents and information needed to conduct the business of the Assembly. For this reason, the reports to be presented at the August Assembly have been placed under the Members section of la-al-anon.org, in much the same manner as the minutes and financial reports have been made available.

Beginning in March, when the focus became on virtual meetings for groups, the next natural step for Areas was the planning of Virtual Assemblies. A pattern developed that Area Website Coordinators absorbed this responsibility. At the end of June, the Area 22 Chair appointed the Website Coordinator to form a planning committee for Louisiana's first virtual Area Assembly. That planning committee came to be referred to as the Area 22 Tech Team. On July 1st, the Team opened a Zoom Pro account for \$16 per month. Two weeks later, the Team opened a second Pro account as a backup so that two individuals could schedule and start meetings for Louisiana AFG. It was generally agreed upon in committee that in the future the second license may only be needed during Assembly months. I would suggest to Assembly that the main Pro account be maintained year-round and that Assembly look for ways to achieve its maximum usage for such things as Action Committee Meetings, Officer Meetings, and such.

During July, the Tech Team which began with six members began to design the August Assembly. On July 28th, the Team began a series of training sessions to preview the Assembly schedule and to let members become more comfortable with using the Zoom platform.

The Website Coordinator would like to suggest that the Tech Team become a standing committee charged with addressing all present and future digital strategy issues facing the Area.

Special Note: Angela asked for questions about the posted Coordinator reports; at this time, Sylvia G., Newcomer's Orientation Coordinator and past Delegate, requested that the

Newcomer's Meeting be named and referred to as "Newcomers to Area Assembly Meeting" to reduce confusion for those who need to attend.

OFFICER REPORTS

Alternate Delegate: Eric N., Alternate Delegate

Thank you to Erica F. for telling her story last night. Duke H. will be Saturday night speaker at the November assembly, and Rebecca P. and Mary F. will present a workshop in November about conducting a district meeting.

Alternate Chairperson: Alyson M., Alternate Chair

New Alternate Chair, Susan from District 10, was voted on and accepted to finish with Panel 60! The trial schedule will continue throughout 2020. Assembly will need to choose whether to continue, revert, or make changes in November 2020. The November Assembly is currently scheduled for in person at the Wyndham Garden Lafayette Hotel for November 7-8th, 2020.

Assignments for next assembly were taken up by Districts 2, 4,6,7, 8, 10, 15, and 19.

Saturday morning meeting: Rebecca P. – District 6

Saturday morning registration: Susan A. -- District 10

Salts: District 7

Sweets: Mary F. – District 8

Sweets: Danielle H. – District 15

Saturday Night Owl Meeting: Jane S. – District 19

Sunday Morning Meeting: Danny C. – District 2

Sunday Morning Registration: Terry C. – District 4

Delegate: Tammy M., Delegate

- ◆ I attended an online meeting for Area Alateen Coordinators and Area Alateen Processing People (AAPP); the deadline for AI-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) re-certification was extended to August 31st; our Area has already completed this process
- ◆ we may have someone who wants to step up into the Area Alateen Coordinator position
- ◆ I'm willing to do workshops around the Area via Zoom
- ◆ Angela and I will start getting in touch with the coordinators soon

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Angela A., Chairperson

- ◆ Checking account signatures: a Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) document was started; this will be assigned to the Budget & Finance Committee
- ◆ Budget & Finance Committee composition: Angela asked for volunteers to populate this committee
- ◆ Attendance at officers' meeting: officers are willing to open up attendance to DRs once per panel who may be interested in standing for office

NEW BUSINESS: Angela A., Chairperson

- ◆ Action Committees: there was a question about how long they should meet, how long the meetings should be, who attends, etc. Each committee decides how often they need to meet, and for how long. Zoom is available to use for video conferencing through the Area's account for Action Committees, whenever is convenient for them
- ◆ Trial schedule for Assembly weekends: GRs need to make a decision in November whether to keep the new schedule, go back to the previous schedule, or to continue the trial; discussion about the pros and cons of the new schedule. The majority of the AWSC would like to recommend to the Assembly to adopt the new schedule.
- ◆ November 2020 Assembly weekend: what do we want to communicate to AA about how/where we will be meeting? Should we plan to meet in person, meet over Zoom, or attempt a combination/hybrid of both? After discussion, the Area Officers will gather more information to make a decision by October
- ◆ Email service for the Area for LATC distribution update: an account was created with Mail Chimp, and information will be provided to the new LATC Editor to begin using it to distribute future issues of the newsletter
- ◆ Online donations to the Area: task to be assigned to the Budget & Finance Committee
- ◆ Area Technology: individual position vs. technological team/committee; a standing tech committee may be helpful to the Website Coordinator. No decision was made at this time; discussion to be continued.
- ◆ Placement of incorporation documents and by-laws on the Area website: we're still looking into this
- ◆ 2021 South Central Regional Delegates Meeting (SCRDM): our Area is hosting the next SCRDM in March 2021. The planning committee of past delegates is working on this.
- ◆ There are two KBDM documents on the website concerning Alateen safety; if you authored them, please contact Angela (chair@la-al-anon.org).

Meeting was closed with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer and the Al-Anon Declaration.