

AWSC

Meeting Minutes
AFG Area 22_LA
Saturday, September 19, 2020

****UNAPPROVED MINUTES****

A special interim meeting of the Louisiana Area World Service Committee (AWSC) was held online using the video conference program Zoom, at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, 2020. 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).”

Volunteers read Al-Anon’s Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service, including the General Warranties. Angela read the first paragraph of the section “Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon,” and reminding us to avoid discussions of religion, gossip, and dominance. She then made pertinent announcements and clarifications for the meeting, and asked if there were any questions or suggestions for the meeting’s agenda.

Rachel B., Area Secretary, called the roll of AWSC members. She then asked for any corrections to the minutes from the virtual August 16, 2020 AWSC meeting. Under the Alateen Coordinator report, “District 22” needed to be changed to “District 2”, and the date of the meeting needed to be change in the first paragraph. A motion to accept the January 19, 2020 AWSC minutes with these changes was made by Danny C., District 2 Representative, and seconded by Lucy W., Acadiana Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) Liaison. Minutes were approved as amended.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Special Note: Coordinator reports were deferred for this special interim meeting, and will be given at the regularly scheduled AWSC meeting on November 8, 2020. However, Angela did request an update from the Convention Coordinator regarding the virtual State Convention to be held this fall.

Convention: Duke H., Convention Chair

The State Convention will be held on a single day: Saturday, October 17, 2020, using the online meeting platform Zoom. It will start with “early-bird” Al-Anon and AA meetings at 7:30 a.m., and a flyer will be posted to our website soon with the complete schedule of events.

OFFICER REPORTS

Alternate Delegate: Eric N., Alternate Delegate

- ◆ Duke H. will be our Saturday night speaker at the November Assembly.
- ◆ Rebecca P. and an assistant will present a workshop about holding District meetings.
- ◆ Tammy M. has posted two possible workshop topics on the website under the heading “Information and Announcements from WSO.” One of the topics concerns reaching out to members in remote or large geographic areas. The other topic concerns service roles and roadblocks to members participating in service.

Alternate Chairperson: Susan A., Alternate Chair

- ◆ I confirmed with AA that they will have their first in-person Assembly in March 2021, and that LA AFG has no financial obligations to them or to the hotel for going virtual in November 2020.
- ◆ Dates for 2021 Assembly weekends: March 27-28, May 22-23, August 21-22, and November 6-7. The dates for 2022: January 15-16, April 9-10, August 20-21, and November 5-6. All dates are subject to change.
- ◆ District Assignments for the November Assembly (but since we are going virtual, we won’t need all these services):
 - Saturday morning meeting: Rebecca P.– District 6
 - Saturday morning registration: Susan A. – District 10
 - Salts: Patti V.– 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: Clara E.– District 4

Delegate: Tammy M., Delegate

- ◆ The latest Chairperson of the Board (COB) letter has been posted on the World Service Office (WSO) website in French, Spanish, and English
- ◆ Regarding temporary online meetings:
 - ♣ WSO requests that, if your meeting has resumed face-to-face meetings, and if your temporary online meeting information is displayed on www.al-anon.org, that a member of your group please submit the change of information to remove the temporary online meeting information (this does not mean that your group cannot meet in person in addition to continuing with an online platform)
 - ♣ Members are encouraged to check their group’s information on www.al-anon.org and decide there how to proceed; reach out to groupservices@al-anon.org for any other questions.
- ◆ Membership Outreach: The Board of Trustees (BOT) will be holding virtual town halls where we can “talk to each other and reason things out.”
- ◆ Electronical Meeting Work Group (EMWG) update: Electronic meetings are Al-Anon groups and are asked to adhere to the same policies that apply to all Al-Anon groups

- ◆ WSC is scheduled tentatively for Monday, April 12 through Friday, April 16, 2021, in Terrytown, New York. Conference members will be visiting Stepping Stones. The 2021 WSC theme is “Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance”.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Angela A., Chairperson

- ◆ Budget & Finance Committee population requirements: this committee is to be populated by the Area Chairperson; Angela is still putting it together, and if anyone wants to volunteer to be on the committee, or knows any other members who would like to volunteer, please reach out at chair@la-al-anon.org
- ◆ Trial Schedule: AWSC decided to recommend to the Assembly to adopt the new (current) schedule. However, it may be good if a new Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) document was presented to the Group Representatives (GRs) so that they all have the same information. Therefore, the Membership Outreach Action Committee agreed to take care of that (specifically, Sylvia G. and Susan A.).
- ◆ The November Assembly will be held virtually using Zoom
- ◆ Email Service: this is still being worked on for the La Treasure Chest (LATC) newsletter distribution
- ◆ Area Donations: Members can still be mailed to Hope L., Area Treasurer. She is working on getting a P.O. Box for us in Lafayette. The possibility of making electronic donations in the future will be considered by the Budget & Finance Committee.
- ◆ Technology Team (Tech Team): the AWSC, at some point, will consider the suggestion of creating a standing Tech Committee, chaired by a Tech Coordinator (possibly encompassing the position of Website Coordinator). Angela encouraged GW, Area Website Coordinator, to consider formalizing this suggestion into a KBDM document for future consideration.
- ◆ LA AFG, Inc., incorporation documents: Angela requested that any member with any certified public accountant experience to serve as a consultant for the Area, concerning updating our by-laws. Allan L., District 14 Representative, volunteered to help.
- ◆ South Central Regional Delegates Meeting (SCRDM): Our Area is hosting this event in March, and our active past Delegates are making the arrangements.
- ◆ Alateen update: Steve G. is our new Area Alateen Coordinator. Steve G.: our Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements are out of date, and need to include guidelines for electronic Alateen meetings, so we'd like to get a group together to start updating that; we'd also like to start having Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) training sessions; and to increase outreach across the Area to Alateens.

NEW BUSINESS: Angela A., Chairperson

- ◆ 2020 WSC Delegate's Expenses reimbursement from WSO: Since the 2020 WSC was virtual, funds for delegates to attend were not spent, and the WSO has set a deadline for Areas to respond (October 31st) if they would like the funds to be 1) reimbursed to the Area, 2) allocated for our Delegate's use for next year's WSC, or 3) donated to the WSO. The

AWSC voted unanimously to respond to the WSO by the deadline; the majority then voted to receive a reimbursement to allow the Area 22 GRs to make the decision on how to spend the money.

- ◆ 2021 Assembly dates: AA has set the dates for the first two Assembly weekends in 2021 to be held in March and May, which may be problematic for some of our members to attend. Angela asked for thoughts on whether the Assembly should stick with AA's scheduled dates, or set our own dates using virtual meetings, or possibly having an extra Assembly in January via Zoom. No decision was made at this time, and this discussion will be continued.
- ◆ KBDM template: Eric N. created a template for Assembly members to use when starting a KBDM document; the template is available to download on our Area website: la-al-anon.org/kbdm.html (password: serenity)
- ◆ Area 22 Fundraising Calendar: there wasn't much time for discussion, but it was decided to continue the discussion on creating a calendar to sell to Al-Anon members to raise funds for the Area at another time (i.e., no decision was made at this time).

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