

**Oregon Area World Service Committee Meeting  
St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Eugene, Oregon  
February 20, 2016**

**The meeting was called to order** at 8:35 AM by Barb S., Area Chair, followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.

The Chair read a statement of purpose of Area World Service Committee Meetings that includes – plan for assembly, hear the delegate’s report, handle the business of the area, and submit questions to WSO that cannot be resolved at the district or assembly level.

**The Traditions** were read by Kate R, Group Records Coordinator; **The Concepts** by Barbara Ann, GR from District 6; and **The General Warranties** by Scott R., CPC Coordinator.

**Microphone and Voting Statement:** Barbara S., Chair.

**Roll Call** by Secretary, Mary Lynn J:

**Excused:** Mary W., DR District 9, Stone C., DR District 11, Caralynn W., Literature Coordinator

**Absent:** Angel K., DR District 15

**Minutes of October 2015 AWSC Meeting** were approved by motion, second and unanimous vote.

**Housekeeping** details were given by Kate R., District 6 Alternate DR.

**Treasurers Report** presented by Dawn K., Area Treasurer. She gave an explanation of the form used for reimbursement of expenses by the Area. Dawn reported that she purchased new projector for less than the budgeted amount. \$400 was budgeted; projector cost under \$300. The Treasurer asked that groups be informed to put Group Name, District Number, WSO ID Number on all checks, which should then be written to **Oregon Area AFG**.

**Delegate’s Report**, Cindy E.

Good morning

I am so blessed to be elected as your delegate. Thank you. My job is to listen to each of you, listen to our area and listen to what the entire conference says about how Al-Anon is doing? Are we meeting the needs of the fellowship? Are we practicing our 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition and welcoming all who are affected by the disease of alcoholism in a relative or friend? What ideas are out there that we need to consider? Am I **listening** well enough?

I am new to many of you. I’d like to share today part of my Trusted Servant Profile. You’ll get to know more of me as we walk this journey of a thousand miles together.

1989 – 1997 went in and out of Al-Anon.

Fall of 1997, committed to staying in Al-Anon, getting a sponsor and working the steps. Increased my meetings to 2/week. Committed to a home group.

Keyholder

ISR

Newsletter Editor

AIS Literature Chair

AIS Chair

Helped lead our District into creating our own literature depot.

Spring of 1999, started a morning meeting with another Al-Anon friend.

Key holder

Group Rep

District Secretary

Alternate DR

DR

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Helped start a Spanish speaking meeting in District 6  
Helped lead our district through several controversial subjects to positive solutions. Chaired 2 State Speaker Meetings.

Fall of 1999, attended my first assembly  
Attended every assembly from 1999 through 2010  
Took over lead for Fellowship Communication breakout group  
Elected Public Information Coordinator

January – June 2010 elected Alternate Delegate

I have been receiving a lot of information regarding what other areas are dealing with:

- Do not refer policy
- A History of their area in a book
- LDC's
- Fundraising
- Open and closed meetings
- Excursions connected with conferences

Things going on in our area that have been brought to my attention are:

- Filling positions – Public Outreach
- Budgets
- Keeping Al-Anon and Alateen alive
- Having inclusiveness in our area by trying technology to include the outlying districts that have a hardship with getting here.

Things done in other areas for us to consider are:

- Having area inventories and having an outside area compile the information
- Service structure changes to allow more groups to participate
- Traveling workshops for group reps and district reps presented by past delegates
- Hosting conference calls with the delegate between assemblies creating a way to deliver timely information to GRs
- Discuss a written process for those struggling in a position
- Holding annual weekend service event and forming thought and task forces chaired by area officers and coordinators as ways for more members to serve
- Adopting staggered terms for grs

Things I'm working on from the World Service Office are:

What is the WSC? What does it matter to me as a DR? As a coordinator? Way back when Al-Anon first started..." The conference quickly became the practical means by which Al-Anon's group conscience could speak."

Why have a conference today? It provided a venue for our cofounders to be openminded towards all values and virtues... The pioneers demonstrated this by the creation of Conference Approved Literature, matters of Policy and Sharing, that unity amongst the groups would benefit Al-Anon as a whole.

Spiritual Principal

The Spiritual Principal of delegated authority has allowed the World Service Conference to deal openly with obstacles, conflict and opportunities in a way that promotes listening, understanding of differing perspectives and constructively working toward a solution.

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What am I going to be doing?

Descriptive text on Concept 11 – our past delegate had a profound question as she worked on descriptive text in Concept 8, “is this opening the way for gender changes in our literature?” In reading the proposed changes for Concept 11, I wonder that too.

Using KBDM on the topic of deleting, editing or leaving the Prayer for Today on the bookmark and in How Al-Anon Works

Voting on the budget

Participate in Thought or Task Forces

Can we?

Something done at a previous conference resonated with me. It seemed like one of the biggest spiritual tasks we could do each time we’re in an Al-Anon meeting. Every time before we enter this business room can we drop Outside these doors those obstacles and anxieties we may have that prevent us from good spiritual practice. Bring in qualities of love, tolerance, integrity and whatever else we need to trust this path our Higher Powers have placed on us.

I believe I can be successful as your delegate because I have all of you to help me. I love the slogan from 2013, changing me to we. I am also blessed to be surrounded by many past delegates in our Assemblies. I welcome all of your ideas, all of your concerns, all of your hopes for Al-Anon in Oregon as well as in the worldwide group of Al-Anon. My idea of a good delegate is to listen. I am sooooo excited to be walking this path of a thousand steps with all of you. Thank you for allowing me to be your delegate, your voice at the World Service Conference. I am truly humbled. Thank you

**Committee Assignments:** Barbara S., Chair. There are three committees that need to be filled: The Flyer Committee, Audit Budget Committee and the Alateen Standing Committee. Lainey J. volunteered to serve on the Flyer Committee. Two more are needed. The Audit Budget Committee is composed of three members. Barabara B. and Kay S., have volunteered to continue serving on this committee. One additional is needed. The Alateen Standing Committee is comprised of the AAPP, Joanne C., Alateen Coordinator, Linda S., one member of Audit Budget, Barbara B., and a DR. Anyone interested in serving on these committees should contact Barbara S.

**Communicator Report:** Donelda H., Communicator Editor described the function of The Communicator as one of the major communication tools to the membership and what’s in The Communicator (from Communicator Extra). Donelda is working with Group Records Coordinator to have correct email addresses for groups and CMA’s email addresses. If individual members would like to subscribe they should send Donelda an email with “Communicator Subscribe” in subject line. She would like to receive sharings on service as well as suggestions of what the members would like to have in The Communicator.

**March Assembly:** Helen M., DR, District 4, reported she had walked through the facility and it is more than adequate to meet our needs, with a large room for Action Committee breakouts. Our Regional Trustee, Donna E. from Helena, MT, will conduct a workshop during Assembly and will speak following the Potato/Chili Feed and the award-winning “Committee in Bob’s Head” performance.

**State Speakers Meeting:** Judy J., Past Delegate, Panel 41 passed out Top Hat Fundraiser Banks in conjunction with the theme, “Celebrate The Magic of Recovery”. She encouraged groups to bring baskets to March Assembly for raffle. There will be a quilt raffle, an ice cream social on Friday night, skits on Saturday. The out-of-town speaker will be Beverly B. from Lewisville, Texas. Mark your calendars for May 13, 14, 15 for a weekend of recovery.

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**Alateen:** Linda S., Coordinator, reported Salem Alateens will be hosting an Alateen meeting on Saturday night of the March Assembly; April 23 the Portland Roundup in Clackamas from 2:00 until 9:00; May 6-8 is the Rogue Roundup with an Alateen meeting; August 5-7 is the Oregon Alateen Conference. The first OAC committee meeting was held in January with about 15 Alateens and sponsors. It was decided to hold one major fund raiser this year. New meetings have been requested in Port Orford, McMinnville, Portland and Salem Sunday meeting is thinking of changing the meeting to Saturday. There non-appeal appeal letter can be found in the Communicator. She said her main focus this year is to help educate others on "What Alateen Is."

**Break**

**Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP):** Joanne C., reported on changes in the procedure for certifying AI-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS). Background checks will no longer be done by the state police, but by the Department of Human Services. She explained the process that DRs will follow when an AI-Anon member is interested in becoming an Alateen sponsor or other service to Alateen. She will be advised whether an applicant has been approved, approved with restrictions or denied. An approved with restrictions or a denial can be appealed by the applicant at his/her own expense. Once WSO sends the card with an AMIAS number, that card must be carried at all times in the presence of Alateens. Digital fingerprints will now be used. The new process should take less time and cost less. It was noted that Alateens can approve group sponsors. See Oregon Area website for Area Alateen Guidelines.

**Discussion on Ask-It-Basket Purpose and Process, Cindy E., Delegate**

Starting a conversation – last assembly there were questions in the Ask It Basket that were not read and answered due to time and commotion of groups needing to leave early. This topic of not getting to them was sent out to all Delegates in all areas for their experience, strength and hope. We received many emails regarding this topic. Ask It Basket questions are done at many sites the same as we do here in Oregon. If someone has a question, it is given to someone and they look the answer up in the Area Handbook and/or the Service Manual. At some point in the Assembly, the answer is given. What we found is:

1. Getting Ask It Basket questions during the last half hour of the assembly doesn't lead to having enough time to respond to them during the assembly.
2. Some areas post the answer in their newsletter or at the next assembly
3. Some areas have different people find the answers and report on them.
4. Some areas had their DR's answer the questions, some had Chairpersons answering them, we can do what Oregon Area wants to do.

Talking with Barb, our Area Chairperson, she and I both want to include as many people in service as possible, including answering the Ask It Basket questions. Oregon Area has traditionally had the past Delegates do this. What if we wanted to change? What if new people to the Assembly as well as longtimers got to find the answer, stand up to the microphone and announce what they've found. To us, this is practicing our principal of everyone is equal, that newcomers as well as longtimers each may have something important to hear.

We propose:

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1. Adding to the statement read by the chair at the beginning of AWSC and Assemblies, “The Oregon Area uses the Ask It Basket (chair wave in the air) as a way to address concerns of interest to everyone. Any member can ask any question.”
2. Give the questions sporadically to the DR’s around the room. They will work with their table to find the answer and have someone from the table stand at the microphone and give the answer. We encourage that the answers be from the Oregon Area Handbook and/or the Service Manual. Written copy is given to the Area secretary for minutes.
3. Other people will be asked if there is anything else that needs to be added to the answer as time permits.
4. Any questions given during the last hour of the assembly will be answered via the Area Chair will take them home and distribute to DRs for response – to be printed in the Communicator. This builds interest in the Communicator and strengthens the idea of DRs handling it with the membership.

Now for conversation.....

**Discussion followed** with differing opinions about whether the process should be changed with some favoring continuing to have Past Delegates answer the questions, while some felt different members should be responsible for researching and answering questions. The discussion ended with the Chair inviting members interested in serving on a Thought Force to contact her.

**Discussion of Guidelines for publishing meetings on website:** Kate R., Group Records Coordinator, and Dawn B., previous Group Records Coordinator. The discussion centered around whether there were circumstances which would prohibit publishing meeting information on the Area website. A Thought Force will be appointed. It was suggested that it include a member from each Action Committee. Anyone wishing to serve on this Thought Force should contact Barbara S., Chair.

**Potluck Lunch 11:50 – 12:50**

**Spiritual Moment:** Leanne C., Keep It Simple AFG in Springfield read from *As We Understood*, p. 214.

**Action Committee Discussion:** Cindy E., Delegate

When I came for my first couple of assemblies – the Action Committees were boring! No one seemed to do anything. They just talked about personal stuff. I remember leaving the facility for the time they designated for them. I don’t remember any action, fun, activities, nothing. Then Judy introduced Action Committee Breakout Groups. That was 15 years ago I believe.

Then – somewhere along the line, the groups decided to become active.

We started having contests, give aways, skits, challenges – For me that’s when I really got involved.

3 highlights:

1. Fireman hats – “On Fire for Literature”
2. BM’s – Surveys for groups. Do you have BM’s? When do you have them? How many people attend your BM’s?
3. Public Outreach – from a couple hundred dollars to several thousand dollars – billboards, movie theatres, etc.

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Currently Judy does:

- Brings the signs
- Brings the notebooks
- Updates the books
- Holds up the signs
- Yells for people to go to their groups
- Tells them what room they're in
- Directs people that hang around and don't know where to go
- Gathers the signs and notebooks up at the end of the session
- Takes the signs home

Judy, I'm not wanting to take anything away from you, you've done a fabulous job over the past 9-15 years. We just want to have a conversation regarding all that you do for the breakout groups and see if anyone would like to help, practice rotation of service.

What if?

What if the Chair announced – we're now going to take 90 minutes for Action Committees. What if past delegates or whomever the group decided had found out what rooms they were going to be in from the hosting district, went to individual areas of the main room, took the sign and notebook and held them up for people to go to on their own? After so many minutes, the past delegate would walk to their designated room.

People that didn't know where to go would go to their DR – what an amazing concept of people being self-supporting.

Someone still needs to take the signs and notebooks home and bring them to AWSC and Assemblies. Do we have ideas from the AWSC?

We may have the best solution and if it's not, why fix it? But have we let the fellowship have a say in how we facilitate our Action Committees?

**It was agreed that Judy J.,** Past Delegate, Panel 41, would continue to handle signs, etc. for Action Committee break outs. Suggestions were made to put signs at designated rooms earlier; to have fire maps from facilities and mark beforehand where meetings would be held. Action Committee assignments were made as below:

Position	Group Services	Member ship Outreach	Fellowship Communication	Public Outreach	Business Services
Coordinator (1)	Linda S Alateen	Donelda H Communi cator	Laney J Forum	Tama S Public Info	Barbara B Audit Budget
Coordinator (2)	Jan D Archivist	Regis P Website	Caralynn W Literature	Scott CPC	Kay S Audit Budget
Coordinator (3)	Kate R Group Records	--	--	--	Audit Budget
Officer/Coordinator	Joanne C AAPP	--	--	--	--
Officer	Barbara S Chairman	Mary Lynn Secretary	--	--	Dawn K Treasurer
Past Delegate	Colleen G	--	Judy J	--	Bunny G

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District Representative (1)	Helen M District 4	Chris K District 1	Stone C District 11	Michael B District 7	Dawn B District 6
District Representative (2)	Elaine R District 8	Judy L. District 12	Ruby W District 14	Mary W District 9	Deanna McC District 10
District Representative (3)	--	Angel K District 15	Katie W District 16	Dorena G District 13	--
District Representative (4)	--	Brenda G District 17	--	--	--
AIS Liaison	Catrina Eugene	--	Portland	--	--

**Action Committee Breakouts 1:35 PM to 2:40 PM**

**Area Handbook:** Sue B., Alternate Delegate. She will be updating the Oregon Area Handbook using Google Docs. Sections of the handbook will be sent to members involved in that section who will all work in Google Docs at the same time. New handbooks will be reprinted after revisions are made. Anyone holding a position with a description that needs to be changed should contact Sue. There will be some handbooks printed in the current form for the March Assembly.

**Reimbursement Forms:** Dawn K., Treasurer. The Area Travel Expense Form is to be filled out by

Officers, Coordinators, Past Delegates, Audit Budget Committee. Mileage charts are provided for each Assembly with mileage rate. One check is written for all AWSC members sharing a single vehicle. Meals and lodging from the back of the form are added to the mileage expense for reimbursement. White expense forms are used for expenses incurred for each position. Receipts need to be attached.

**Bids for 2017 State Speakers Meeting will be taken at the March Assembly**

**Action Committee Reports**

**Group Services: Kate R., Chair; Helen M., Reporter**

Chair position will rotate annually. Discussed:

- Using Skype for Assemblies when conditions/weather prevent attendance
- Video and audio, other medium like e-com
- Reprinting Links of Service bookmark
- Adjust handbook to reflect internet
- Amount of budget; what to do with budget
- Have agenda for next Assembly.

**Membership Outreach: Donelda H., Chair; Regis P., Reporter**

Items discussed included:

- What Action Committees are and specifically what Membership Outreach does
- Reviewed past projects by this committee
- Chris demonstrated flip charts designed to help new GRs at Assembly
- Brainstorming on the following:

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- Member's Only page (password protected) for Area Website
- Promote participation at the International Convention in 2018 in Baltimore, MD
- Welcoming sheet that describes this Action Committee
- Agenda for March Assembly.

**Fellowship Communication: Judy J., Chair; Judy J., Reporter**

Judy J. will serve as committee chair for one year.

Items discussed:

- Purpose of the Action Committees and reviewed the goals
- 5-minute writing workshop during Action Committee meeting at March Assembly
- Continue the practice of Literature and Forum raffles at Assembly
- Agenda for March Assembly

**Public Outreach: Tama S., Dorena G., Reporter**

The committee discussed ways to increase public outreach effectiveness with active participation of committee members. Agenda items for Assembly discussed:

- Give Public Outreach members something to take back from each Assembly.
- How to pay for *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*
- Give a proposal for reallocating funds in the budget, with possible motion.
- Give information for Guidelines for committee meetings at Assembly.

**Business Services: Deanna McC., Reporter**

The committee reviewed ongoing business from previous year:

- Reimbursement for Area Officers/Coordinators maximum
- New Business for future agendas:
  - Explain guidelines, mileage and expense reimbursements
  - Review and clean up Oregon Area Handbook Section 6
  - Electronic voting and associated costs
  - Skype meetings
  - Training on Power Point
  - Technology person
  - Who brings what

**March Agenda Items:**

- 1 ½ hour allowed for Trustee workshop
- District Representatives give oral reports
- Fellowship Communication drawings
- Bid for 2017 State Speakers Meeting
- Action Committee Breakouts Saturday/Report back Sunday
- New GR Orientation, Sue/DR Breakouts, Brenda/Coordinator Breakout
- Skit and Raffle for 2016 SSM
- Delegate's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Alateen/OAC
- Election of Web Coordinator

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- Ask-It-Basket
- March 2017 Assembly bids

**Ask-It-Basket Question:** Judy J., Past Delegate, Panel 41. “Does Tradition 6 ‘...never endorse, finance or lend our name to any outside enterprise...’ Mean that we cannot donate Group Tradition 7 funds that are above and beyond our expenses and prudent reserve to an anonymous fund to purchase Christmas gifts for children of parents who are at a residential alcohol treatment facility? (Group names were not shared; nor was any source of the donations – both 12-Step groups and local businesses were asked to participate in this fundraiser.) **Answer:** Service Manual, page 56-57, “In keeping with Traditions Six and Seven, the group does not provide financial aid to members in need or to any outside enterprise. Individuals are free to help others in need as they choose; however it is always without involving Al-Anon’s name or other group members.

**Northwest Regional Delegates’ Meeting:** Oregon is hosting the Regional Delegates’ for the Northwest Region March 11-13 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Portland. The purpose of the meeting is to get new Delegates ready for their first World Service Conference. Al-Anon members who are not Delegates or Past Delegates may attend.

**Coming Events:**

- NWRD Meeting, Portland, March 11-13
- Area Assembly, Salem, March 18-20
- State Speakers Meeting, Milwaukie, May 13-15
- AWSC, District 16, June 18
- Area Assembly, Milwaukie, District 10, July 16-17

**4:00 pm Meeting adjourned.** Closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lynn J.  
Oregon Area Secretary, Panel 56