

Oregon Area World Service Committee Meeting
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Albany, Oregon
June 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Bunny G, Acting Chairman, followed by the Serenity Prayer
The Traditions were read by Katie W., District Representative, District 16
The Concepts and Warranties were read by Donelda H., Communicator Editor.
Microphone and Voting Statements: Bunny G., Acting Chair.

It was noted there would be elections at the July Assembly to fill the positions of Assembly Chair and Literature Coordinator.

Roll Call: Mary Lynn J., Secretary

Excused: Sue B., Alternate Delegate; Dorena G., District 13, DR; Barb B., Audit Budget; Catrina O., Eugene AIS Liaison; Jan D., Archives; Tama S., Public Information.

Absent: Elaine E., District 8 DR; Loretta P., Audit Budget; Caralynn W., Portland AIS; Kate R., Group Records.

Minutes of February 20, 2016 AWSC Meeting were approved as corrected by motion, second and vote.

Housekeeping details were announced by Katie W., District Representative, District 16.

Treasurer's Report: Dawn K., Area Treasurer, asked District Representatives to remind all Group Representatives to include Group Name, Group Number and District Number on all Area contributions. She reminded all AWSC Members who receive reimbursement from the Area to turn in requests the day of the events for which they are being reimbursed. Mileage rate for AWSC is \$0.13/mile. Cash available as of 6/16/16 is \$5,473.03.

2016 SSM Report: Claudia, Alternate District Representative, District 17 read a report prepared by Caralynn W. See "Reports" at the end of the minutes.

2017 SSM Discussion Donelda H.: There was no bid to hold an SSM for 2017. There was discussion of the importance of continuing to hold State Speakers' Meeting for the fellowship it provides members versus the amount of work and cost that are required. It was felt that the requirements listed in the Oregon Area Handbook may need to be revised. Judy J., Past Delegate, Panel 41, and Regis P., Website Coordinator, will put together a Pro and Con list to present to the July Assembly for a decision to be made about how to proceed. There will still be an opportunity at the July Assembly for a District to come forward with a bid. It was noted that bids for the 2018 SSM are also due in July.

Flyer Committee – Who Can Participate: It was decided by a show of hands to comply with the Oregon Area Handbook, Section VI, Page 21 that members of the Flyer Committee must already be a member of the AWSC. Angel K., District Representative, District 16, volunteered to serve as the third member of the Flyer Committee. No one volunteered to chair the committee.

Delegate's Report, Cindy E., Oregon Area Delegate to the World Service Conference: Cindy thanked the members for their support and encouragement. See "Reports" at the end of the minutes. Cindy ended her report with a Power Point presentation on Anonymity in Social Media.

Public Outreach Grant Extension, Scott R., CPC Coordinator: It was planned by the Public Outreach Action Committee to continue the Grant Program initiated in a prior panel. Grant requests were due May 1. Grant proposals were received by two districts. Do we want to extend the deadline to the July Assembly? By a show of hands, it was indicated that the deadline would be extended. Judy J., Past Delegate, Panel 41, spoke to the

minority. She said by extending the deadline we are enabling groups. There was more discussion and a second vote taken to determine if the minority voice had changed the opinion. **It was voted 9 for and 13 against extending the deadline.** The focus of Public Outreach will be at the Area level.

Ask-It-Basket Questions, Katie W., Thought Force Chairman: The full report is in the “Reports” section at the end of the minutes. The proposal recommended by the Thought Force is:

- The AIB should be announced at the beginning of an event so people are aware of it
- Questions should be answered each day
- Past delegates continue to answer the questions until a vote is taken to change that
- It should be announced that questions posed 30 min. before the end of the event will not be answered at the event, but you can find answers to them in the next Communicator or possibly on the state website in the future

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the recommendation of the committee as written, with past delegates answering the Ask-It-Basket questions.

Lunch 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

In remembrance of all deceased Oregon Area Past Delegates, Acting Chair, Bunny G., called for a Moment of Silence.

Web Coordinator Report/Discussion, Regis P., Website Coordinator, discussed the high number of documents attached to the Area website, many of which were no longer needed. **A motion** was made, seconded and approved to:

Remove older files and save to disk. Give disk to Archive Coordinator.

- Definition of “Older Files”
- o Event flyers and Communicator archived after 1 year
- o Minutes & Agendas archived after 5 years

This is an ongoing motion.

The second proposal made by the Website Coordinator was to allow districts to have sub-domains on the Oregon Area Website. After discussion, it was decided to put up sub-domains for Districts 7 and 11, as well as Alateen on a trial basis, with a report due at the October AWSC Meeting. *Complete proposals were sent to all AWSC members prior to meeting.*

AAPP Report, Joanne C., Area Alateen Process Person: The new system being used for certification is working well. Annual re-certification is complete. See “Reports” at end of minutes for full report.

October AWSC Meeting: There was some confusion about the date of the October Area World Service Committee Meeting. It is October 15th.

Thought Force-Publishing Meetings on Website: Dawn B., past Group Records Coordinator, gave some background on the issue of whether meetings held in private residences should be published on the Area website. This issue will go back to the Action Committee to establish a Thought Force.

2017 Budgets for Action Committees, Dawn K., Treasurer: Reminder to Action Committees to start preparing for 2017 Action Committee Budgets.

Ask-It-Basket Questions:

- Q. Where are the guidelines for conducting a Task/Thought Force?**
 A. The Area has no specific guidelines on Task/Thought Forces. There is information on Ideas and/or Proposed Motions in a Knowledge-Based Environment, of which Thought and Task Forces are a part. See Oregon Area Handbook, Section VII, Page 3 and Page 9. (Judy J., Past Delegate, Panel 41.)
- Q. Can the District Treasurer who is not a GR or DR or Alternate vote at District Meetings?**
 A. Districts follow the same principle as the Areas in having one vote per group. District autonomy applies; each district may determine who is eligible to vote by taking a group conscience. Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017, pp. 150 and 156. (Judy J., Past Delegate, Panel 41.)
- Q. Our district has a question about financial audits. The handbook page IV15, #10 mentions an audit as part of turning over the position to a new treasurer. (I assume this is at Area level. What is the process of conducting the audit at a District level?)**
 A. Those are suggestions for groups/districts to follow. As an example, District 17 has the outgoing and incoming treasurers and at least one additional member meet to look over bank statements, cancelled checks and treasurer's reports to make sure everything is in order. These precautions are taken for the benefit of both incoming and outgoing treasurers. (Judy J., Past Delegate, Panel 41.)
- Q. Can an AA member be involved in any way with Alateen?**
 A. Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. and meet their Area's certification requirements may sponsor Alateen meetings by virtue of their Al-Anon membership. Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017, p. 31. (Susan H., Past Delegate, Panel 44.)

Action Committee Breakouts

To prepare agenda for July Assembly Action Committees.

Handbook Review of Position Descriptions, Bunny G., Acting Chairman: Sue B., Alternate Delegate, would like to have the descriptions she sent out approved so they can be incorporated into the Oregon Area Handbook. A consensus was taken to approve the changes as submitted by Sue. Any future changes should be submitted on the required form.

AWSC Evaluation, Judy J., Past Delegate, Panel 41, led the discussion on the evaluation. Some of the suggestions that came from the discussion follow:

- We need to be more nurturing to newcomers to service;
- Change "Job Descriptions" to "Recovery Descriptions";
- More communication between Action Committees between Assemblies;
- Greeters at Assembly;
- Extra copies of agenda;
- Training on Friday night for new DRs.

Write down thoughts on any of the questions on the evaluation. Email or hand to Bunny G., Sue B. or Cindy E. Cindy will send the forms to Julie Painter, Washington Delegate, to compile the results.

Agenda Items for July Agenda

- Opening
- Steps, Traditions
- New GR Orientation (Sue B., Alternate Delegate)/DR Meeting (Mary W., District 9 DR)/Coordinator Meeting (Scott R., CPC Coordinator)
- Elections: Chairman and Literature Coordinator

- Final SSM Report
- Action Committee Breakouts 1:00-2:30 pm
- Treasurer's Report
- Delegate's Report
- Bid for 2017 SSM
- Bid for 2018 SSM
- KBDM Power Point
- Communicator
- Guided Tour of WSO and Oregon Area Websites (Regis)
- Skit from WSC (Cindy)

District Representatives were reminded to send in new GRs names and group names for name badges.

Fellowship Communication has challenged districts to hold writing workshops. Information is on the WSO website on sharings needed for new literature. Drawings will be held from districts that hold workshops.

Deanna McC., DR District 10, went over details for the July Assembly.

Dawn K., Area Treasurer, made an announcement for the Oregon Alateen Conference (OAC) to be held August 5, 6 & 7.

Mary W., DR District 9, went over details of the November Assembly to be held at the Embassy Suites near Washington Square. To receive the Al-Anon block rates, reservations must be made before October 18th. If reservations are made and not cancelled before the October 18th deadline, full charges will be assessed to your credit card. There is a flyer on the website.

District 16 was thanked for the facility as well as the large amount of food they provided.

Katie W., DR District 16, hosting district, thanked AWSC members for being at the meeting.

Everyone thanked Bunny G., Past Delegate, Panel 38, for stepping up to chair the meeting.

Coming Events:

- July 15-17, Area Assembly, Alder Creek Middle School, Milwaukie, District 10, Deanna McC, District Representative
- August 5-7, OAC, Molalla Retreat Center
- October 15, AWSC, District 11, Stone C., District Representative
- November 18-20, Area Assembly, Embassy Suites Hotel, Portland, District 9, Mary W., District Representative.

5:00 pm Meeting adjourned. Closed with the Serenity Prayer and the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lynn J.
Oregon Area Secretary, Panel 56

Motions:

Motion #1: To extend Grant Proposal deadline to July Assembly.

Motion Failed: 9 For, 13 Against

One-time motion.

Motion #2: To accept the recommendations of the Ask-It-Basket Thought Force:

- The AIB should be announced at the beginning of an event so people are aware of it
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- Past delegates continue to answer the questions until a vote is taken to change that
- It should be announced that questions posed 30 min. before the end of the event will not be answered at the event, but you can find answers to them in the next Communicator or possibly on the state website in the future

This is an on-going motion.

Motion #3: Remove older files and save to disk. Give disk to Archive Coordinator.

- Definition of “Older Files”
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This is an on-going motion.

REPORTS

2016 State Speakers’ Meeting

We had an amazing 2016 State Speakers Meeting in District 17 this year.

The event included a sharing meeting Friday night about keeping the Al-Anon principles alive after “a while” in the program. Then we had an ice cream social, a skit and a very creative 7th tradition!

Saturday was filled with a Diversity Panel, an Alateen Panel, a wonderful lunch, a Service in Al-Anon speaker/workshop, a Families in Recovery Panel, dinner, our speakers (Al S – Portland – was our AA speaker, and Beverly B – Texas – our Al-Anon speaker). They were both the BEST!

This was followed by a dessert auction and a talent show. Can you imagine how much fun that was! We have so many talented people in Al-Anon!

Sunday we had a workshop by Beverly B on our theme “The Magic of Recovery” followed by our spiritual speaker, Sue O (Portland).

The basket and quilt raffle winners were announced; the center pieces were auctioned. It’s over.

For those of you who came, what a great State Speakers Meeting! For those of you who missed it, hope you can come to the next one.

The 2016 SSM event, hosted by District 17, will have a nice check for the Area at the July Assembly. We don’t know yet exactly how nice, but nice!

Thank you District 17 for the opportunity to Chair this event!

Caralynn W

2016 SSM Chair

Treasurer’s Report

Remember to include all three things on checks: District Number, WSO Group Number and Group Name. Make donations payable to Oregon Area AFG.

			Jan 1 - Jun 16, 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget
1	Income				
2		Group Contributions	8,151.38	13,000.00	-4,848.62
3		Assembly Registrations	710.00	2,200.00	-1,490.00
4		State Speaker Meeting	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
5		Advances	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
6		Cash Carried Forward	13,583.69	12,500.00	1,083.69
7	Total Income		23,945.07	33,200.00	-9,254.93
8	Expense				
9	Delegate Fund				
10		WSO ETF	1,965.00	1,965.00	0.00
11		Extra Day	134.00	200.00	-66.00
12		Delegate Meeting	298.72	350.00	-51.28
13		Delegate Travel	231.94	800.00	-568.06
14		Delegate Miscellaneous	185.83	350.00	-164.17
15	Total Delegate Fund		2,815.49	3,665.00	-849.51
16	Working Fund Expense				
17		Archive Rent	578.90	850.00	-271.10
18		Area Travel Fund	350.07	2,000.00	-1,649.93
19		Communicator	49.27	200.00	-150.73
20		SSM Advance	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
21		Assembly/AWSC Rent	2,316.00	3,000.00	-684.00
22		Insurance	759.00	800.00	-41.00
23	Total Working Fund Expense		4,053.24	8,350.00	-4,296.76
24	Assembly Allowance/Meal/Lodging				
25		Officers	266.23	2,075.00	-1,808.77
26		Audit/Budget	56.20	900.00	-843.80
27		Coordinators	727.49	2,225.00	-1,497.51
28		Past Delegates	425.11	900.00	-474.89
29		Regional Trustee	319.45	900.00	-580.55
30	Total Assembly Allowance/Meal/Lodging		1,794.48	7,000.00	-5,205.52
31	Officers Expenses				
32		Alternate Delegate	0.00	50.00	-50.00
33		Chairperson	33.96	100.00	-66.04
34		Secretary	0.00	50.00	-50.00
35		Treasurer	177.45	200.00	-22.55
36		AAPP Expenses	34.29	50.00	-15.71

37		Total Officers Expenses	245.70	450.00	-204.30
38		Assembly Expenses			
39		Assembly Workshops	0.00	50.00	-50.00
40		Business Services A.C.	0.00	50.00	-50.00
41		Membership Outreach A.C.	625.00	800.00	-175.00
42		Group Services A.C.	0.00	500.00	-500.00
43		Fellowship Communication A.C.	110.00	650.00	-540.00
44		Public Outreach A.C.	136.50	4,000.00	-3,863.50
45		Audit Budget Extra Day + Exp	66.66	300.00	-233.34
46		Total Assembly Expenses	938.16	6,350.00	-5,411.84
47		Coordinator and Other Expenses			
48		Alateen Coordinator and Standing Committee Expenses	2.00	125.00	-123.00
49		Archives	0.00	300.00	-300.00
50		CPC	0.00	50.00	-50.00
51		Forum	0.00	50.00	-50.00
52		Group Records	0.00	50.00	-50.00
53		Literature	0.00	50.00	-50.00
54		Public Information	0.00	50.00	-50.00
55		Web Coordinator	180.97	330.00	-149.03
56		Total Coordinator and Other Expenses	182.97	1,005.00	-822.03
57		Delegate Meeting			
58		Alternate Delegate	0.00	350.00	-350.00
59		Past Delegates	171.84	350.00	-178.16
60		Donation as support of NWDM	0.00	300.00	-300.00
61		Total Delegate Meeting	171.84	1,000.00	-828.16
62		Other			
63		Alateen Sponsor Workshop	0.00	400.00	-400.00
64		Contingency Fund	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
65		Equipment Supplies	289.99	600.00	-310.01
66		Handbook Update	0.00	50.00	-50.00
67		Transition Fund	0.00	733.00	-733.00
68		Total Other	289.99	2,783.00	-2,493.01
69		Total Expense	10,491.87	30,603.00	-20,111.13
70		Cash Balance as of 6/16/16	13,453.20		
71		Reserves	7,980.17	7,802.00	178.17
72		Cash Available as of 6/16/16	5,473.03		

Delegate's Report

Hi,

My name is Cindy, a grateful member of Al-Anon. I am your delegate to the World Service Office and my main job is to be the link between you and the World Service Office. I am truly grateful you've trusted me with this position.

I'd like to ask - Did we enter this business room and drop outside these doors those obstacles and anxieties we may have that prevent us from good spiritual practice? Have we brought in qualities of love, tolerance, integrity and whatever else we need to trust this path our Higher Powers have placed us on?

Oh my gosh!

What have I been up to?

Attended the World Service Conference – Thank you

Attended the State Speakers Meeting in Milwaukee

Read over 276 emails again from around the United States and Puerto Rico.

Moment of Silence

Why have a conference?

Unity among the groups would benefit Al-Anon as a whole.

Our groups are the building blocks of the fellowship. They carry the final responsibility and authority for Al-Anon. If we don't have strong services at the group level & always expect the World Service Office to handle things, we endanger our existence.

Saturday, I'm waiting for my flight from Chicago to Virginia Beach when I hear 2 women across from me talking. I say to myself, "...hmmm, they could be". Then one of them ask me if my name is JoAnn. No, sorry. A short time later from what they're saying, I asked, "are you going to the WSC?" Yep! I meet Virginia from Iowa and Karen from Missouri. When we get to Virginia, we meet Diane from New York north. It's all about easy conversation. Chit chat about the weather, families, meetings back home. We share the shuttle with 5 other people going to our hotel. It's 6:00 pm eastern time and I'm exhausted. But I think, I'm okay, they're just like me.

Sunday morning I wake up in a panic attack! Fear sets in, what if? Why do I think I? What if no one...? How can I socialize for an entire week?! This isn't me! Then the phone rings and someone is asking me to go for a walk on the beach....I'm okay.

Conference was one long ride and we're having meetings as we drive. Have you had this experience? A bunch of you get in a car and drive somewhere to a function and you have this marvelous meeting while you're driving. That's what I'd say conference is like. There's a bunch more to it, but in a nutshell, that's how I'd describe it. It was marvelous!

Now for some meat and potatoes so you'll know we're well connected to the WSO.

There's so much to tell you! I have information on 60 hours of conversation. Some of my information I've asked other people to present. I have placed copies of my agenda on your tables if you want to follow along.

To start my first day, I was in an Orientation Meeting. They go over what the different roles are of each member of the conference, what voting looks like, why we have a seating motion, stuff like this. 1/3 of the WSC is brand new (like me), 1/3 of the conference was there last year as newbies and 1/3 of the conference have been there for 2 years before this year. That helps with continuity of information, Task Forces and Thought Forces. What if our Assemblies were run this way? 1/3 GR's rotating each year. For one, our action committees wouldn't have to start over from square one every 3 years.

The Task Force I was assigned to was, "Spirituality in Money Discussions: Area" I volunteered to be the recorder for the group. The 2015 WSC Thought Force asked us to "Review the barriers & strategies described in the handout and power point: Create strategies to show the importance of Abundance and spirituality in money discussions and develop a presentation for an Area Assembly that incorporates spiritual principles (i.e. gratitude,

abundance, etc.) in financial matters and discussions. Incorporate realistic financial situations that would aid members in relating to the financial discussion.

First question was - do any of us have experience regarding talking about money in our areas?

Second question was – what are the spiritual principles of money?

What do you think the spiritual principles of money are?

Let's take 5 minutes

After we were done, we listed the KBDM questions and we'll be having a telephone conference call Monday to work on more details.

From there – we had a meeting on Sharing Area Highlights by answering these questions on Encouraging Area Participation

What strategies do you use to encourage area participation of inactive groups & districts in your Area?

How do you connect with and encourage participation of member in remote rural areas?

What strategies do you employ to encourage members to fill service positions?

How does your Area encourage financial contributions to the Area?

What happens at your AWSC meetings

What is the timeframe for AWSC and Assembly meetings?

Who attends your AWSC? Who attends Assemblies?

Are you still using Action Committees?

I've left copies of the questions and the answers from different areas on your tables.

Any questions?

On our 2nd day, We started off with information on the Alateen survey. Don't know about the survey.... Well the survey showed some really unique information. I've started a simple newsletter for the Alateens and called it, "Delegate Delivers..." I've put copies of it on your tables.

292 people responded to the Alateen Survey. Of those, 58 were not members of Al-Anon; 44 did not go past question 3; 20 were over 21.

Of the 171 actual Alateens—50% said AMIAS (parental support) was very important—majority said technology was the least important—10 years old was the lowest age—18.74 was the average age— 19% have a personal sponsor—84% said Alateen helped—65% said they had a support group—68% said they support Alateen financially—70% heard about Alateen from parents—10% heard about it from counselors, school—87% heard about it from a friend—80% do not attend chat meetings— 56% are interested in chat meetings. 61% of Alateens say Literature is a success - 43% said public out-reach is needed for support of Alateen

The most common way a member heard about Alateen was through AA.

From there we went to approving new language on Concept 11 and Memorial Contributions. I'll talk about this more at the July Assembly.

New PSA's have been released. Al-Anon's media spots were rated in the top 1% of the Nielson's ratings. We need to be calling, emailing and snail mailing our thank you's. It has been researched & proven they run the PSA's more often when we do.

WSO has a facebook page! Did you know that? Have you liked them yet? Their goal is to get 100,000 likes this year. There are ready to use messages that you can share that are conference approved.

I've asked the Public Outreach coordinators to show you the current PSA's.

Any questions?

Day 3 was long. It was intense, long – we worked through our lunch. The topics were hard.

First of all in the Finance discussion- on your tables is an updated list of the area contributions as well as the Finance document we received.

Go to Finance sheet.

Income:

Money was transferred from the reserve fund to make the budget. The reserve fund is below the needed “1 year’s expense’s”.

Concept 1 – groups have the ultimate responsibility for the WSO services. WSO spends a minimum of \$263 on each group. Iowa instead of bringing love gifts made a donation in each delegates name and gave the WSO a check for \$3000.

Several of us Delegates borrowed this to use again. If you’d like one, take it from the table. There should be plenty of them.

If every Al-Anon member would give \$15 to the Annual Appeal Fund

Expenses

Postage – cost of annual appeal costs \$30,000 to mail envelopes. It brings in \$500,000.

Delegates are 2/3 of the conference so they pay 2/3 thirds of the cost of the conference. The WSO staff, Executive Board and Trustees are the other 1/3, so they pay 1/3 of the conference.

Are there questions?

Let’s have a break

Stand up if you have a service manual

Stand up if you have an Oregon Area Handbook

Stand up if you like dogs

Stand up if you have grandchildren

Stand up if you’re in AWSC

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism – Scott and Tama -----

We voted on several Regional Trustees.

Literature Committee Report

Forum sales were up 45% - though remember, the free copy is no longer being sent. This is still down from several years ago and drastically down from the 80’s and 90’s. The Forum is not designed to make money, just to cover the cost of making it. The WSO saved \$100,000 by not giving away the free copy to the groups this year.

There are 20 new calendar quotes ready for the 2017 calendars

When are we going to publish our new books? I ask you because you create the sharings in the books. Currently we have:

Intimacy book has 109 writings and 40 freelance writings

Parents & Grandparents have 190 writing and 12 freelance writings

The focus on the Parents and Grandparents book should be the challenges and rewards of each step we use in dealing with our children and grandchildren affected by alcoholism.

New daily readers need at least 1200 sharings in order to be ready to select up to 680 to print. They should be 200-300 words including use of Al-Anon principles in challenging situations. There will be a 4 page section in the July and August Forums. A full page ad will be posted on the member’s website and EGroup News.

Prayer for Today

The concern that was expressed is that it speaks of religious tenets of Catholicism. After long lines of each delegate sharing for 2 minutes and different perspectives all over the map, Tom Coffey was really surprised and didn’t know it would be such a hot topic. We voted to bring it back next year for discussion again before anything was done.

Thursday – I’m dragging. I’m socialized out – but everything is so interesting, it gives me the strength to go on.

Our first topic was Meeting Types. I’ve asked Membership Outreach to help me present this.

In the 2013 survey, they found that changes in our environment are creating changes in our meetings. Many groups are lacking the flexibility to keep their groups healthy.

TEAM –

A TEAM Event is a nimble, innovative, and flexible event customized to the interest of local members. One or more Areas partner with the World Service Office (WSO) to create this unique service event.

From our *Service Manual* on p. 73, “a TEAM event is a partnership between an Area(s) and the World Service Office with the aim of providing an opportunity for Al-Anon and Alateen members to learn more about service and the Al-Anon program.” TEAM Events are designed to energize members’ spiritual quest, activate members’ creativity, and expand members’ understanding of Al-Anon. TEAM events are also an opportunity to meet World Service Office staff and Trustees.

Let’s play a **TEAM** game –

I would like us to consider going in with the state of Washington and having a combined TEAM event in the Portland/Vancouver area – what are your thoughts?

Task Force: Communication and Strengthening the Links of Service

Again there’s a power point and workshop to do. In a couple words, if we leave everything for the WSO to fix, there eventually won’t be a WSO.

End of day – any questions?

Last day – are you still with me?

Task Force – Acceptance of Communities, Cultures and Beliefs

It’s not just gay, lesbian, agnostics, it can also be people wearing leathers, piercings, tattoos everywhere. One delegate had a girl in her meeting that asked her to be her sponsor. She had a real problem until she asked the girl why she had so many tattoos – her answer, “it’s the only thing no one can take away from me”. She’d already lost everything several times due to alcoholism in her family.

I have a power point and workshop we can show and do if you all are interested in this.

Chosen Agenda Item #5:

CAI:

How do we adapt and evolve to attract and retain younger members (under 40) while staying true to our purpose, traditions and concepts?

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape Al-Anon as a whole:

The importance of attracting and retaining the younger members is we are an aging group, and we need the younger focus. It is also very important to stay true to our traditions and concepts as they have worked for 65 years.

CAI:

Are we as inclusive as we could be whether potential newcomer or member has religious belief or not (the agnostic)?

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape Al-Anon as a whole:

We have specific literature for several diverse groups within our fellowship. Does our literature stress the difference between spiritual ideas and religious beliefs for the newcomer? Should we have literature about how the agnostic works a spiritual program?

CAI:

How can we attract and retain more members under the age of 50?

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape Al-Anon as a whole:

According to the latest Al-Anon Annual Survey results, 80% of our membership is over the age of 50. The percentage of Al-Anon members rapidly declines according to their age group to less than 1% as it gets closer to the age of 24 or younger. The average age of our Al-Anon members has risen from 56 in 2009 to 60 in 2015. As the average age continues to increase, we may jeopardize our long term sustainability or solidify a perception as a fellowship for older individuals.

CAI:

How can Al-Anon attract younger, more diverse members beyond the current Al-Anon member being a 62-year-old heterosexual white woman; to maintain and increase Al-Anon’s current membership?

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape Al-Anon as a whole:

Al-Anon/Alateen may be growing internationally but here in the U.S. our membership is diminishing. Without 20 to 40-year-old diverse membership will Al-Anon/Alateen still be here for the next 65 years?

We need to be aggressively visible in the youthful eye - college campuses, young adult associations, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Cable/internet TV, Theaters, Subscription Radio, Arena venues, electronic billboards, App adds, etc.

We need to assist these medias, that they may recoup their revenues by helping Al-Anon; without breaking Our Traditions.

Literature focused on younger more diverse groups - (electronic and audio that can be used as intended)

There were 22 topics that were condensed into these

What are your thoughts? What are our hurdles to overcome?

Ours were

Treatment centers

Diversity

Decline of churchgoers – meeting in churches

Get here when we get here

When we reach our bottom

Getting younger members in service positions

Scarcity thinking vs abundance thinking

Public outreach

Anonymity

Fear

42 times you have to hear – am I the 21st? the 33rd?

Babysitting

Family meetings

Addiction is greater than alcoholism nationwide

Literature for the agnostic

Young peoples literature

There is a presentation and skit on the Task Force – AFG Inc. the Organization vs AFG the Fellowship

Let’s take a break! It’s called Salmon, Bear, and Mosquito

– oh that has malaria

Pair up into 2's

Each of you pick one of the 3 – bear, salmon, mosquito with malaria BUT DON'T tell your partner

Stand back to back

On the count of 3, you're going to turn, face your partner and growl if you're a bear, lets hear a growl

Swim if you're a salmon – let's see your swim

And do what a mosquito does if you're that – what does a mosquito do? Remember, malaria kills!

Okay – so 1,2,3

Well there you have it – we're at the end of 5 days of conference! I hope you're exhausted with all the information you've received, because believe me – I was. I slept and dragged myself for several days afterwards. But inside, I hope you're glowing with knowing all that Al-Anon is doing to help us be stronger and more versatile in our everyday changing lives.

Yours in love of service,

Cindy, Oregon, Panel 56

Now I've asked Regis to present the power point on the Task Force – Technology & Anonymity

AWSC Ask-It-Basket Thought Force Report

Oregon Area 47, June 18, 2016

Committee Members: Donelda H. Dist. 6, Deanna M. Dist. 10, Katie W. Dist. 16

Chairperson: Katie W Dist. 16

Background: At the February 2016 AWSC there was a discussion about the Ask-It-Basket (heretofore known as the AIB) led by our Delegate, Cindy E. After a discussion around the ideas our Delegate presented, it was suggested that a Thought Force be formed because we were unable to effectively make any decisions regarding the questions raised about the AIB. Three people volunteered to join the Thought Force, not really knowing what a Thought Force was.

The Thought Force Begins: On March 31, 2016 the committee was contacted for the first time by Chairperson Barb, informing us of who had signed up and what the technical aspects of the Thought Force would entail. I thought I had signed up to be part of a simple discussion, but I learned:

- 1) I had been appointed to be the chair and the chair is responsible for planning the agenda for the committee
- 2) There are explicit guidelines for conducting a Thought Force (it's a very structured process)
- 3) There must be an understanding of KBDM foundationally before a Thought Force can adequately do the assigned work
- 4) A Thought Force is one of the action arms of KBDM, as well as a Task Force – Forces are not KBDM in and of themselves
- 5) KBDM is a lifestyle choice or a mindset if you will; it's hard to apply cold turkey to one issue if you're not already thinking/living that way
- 6) I don't know KBDM well enough to lead a group in using it, and that extends to Thought Forces and Task Forces
- 7) A Thought Force needs a chair and a secretary at minimum to complete the reporting aspects – good information to know if you sign up for a committee
- 8) A Thought Force begins with a an official "Charge" which is written up by the chairperson, and will inform how the Thought Force tackles the work

- 9) KBDM use is mandated in the AIB Charge, but no direction for use is given (KBDM is multifaceted, so direction is integral to a Thought Force's success)
- 10) The Charge did not match the original discussion around the AIB, so the committee did not research all of the pertinent information to AWSC
- 11) I learned more than this, but I only have 15 minutes for the report so I will end here

Our actual start date for this Thought Force was admittedly late for a committee that would be reporting at the next AWSC. We ideally should have had the full span of time from one AWSC to the next, which would have been February 20, 2016 to June 18, 2016. Instead, we had roughly from April 1, 2016 until June 1, 2016, which is when we all agreed to have the research completed by. This loss of time has impacted the committee's ability to fully research and draw conclusions regarding our Charge. We don't feel we have had adequate time to address all aspects of The Charge, and that the Charge did not include all matters that needed to be researched.

Our Agenda: This is the original agenda I created, having never done a Thought Force before:

“We need to research:

- 1) The origins of the Ask-It-Basket,
- 2) The intended purpose, and
- 3) How to effectively utilize it.

We can do this by

- a) Combing through our literature i.e. KBDM/Steps/Traditions/Concepts,
- b) Utilizing pertinent area documents i.e. meeting minutes,
- c) Seeking information from other members i.e. AFG Connects/asking groups, and
- d) Examining our own experiences with the AIB.

We should note how it's been ineffectively used in the past in our area and where our strengths currently lie with its usage.”

The work we did, distilled: We did research around the origins of the AIB and learned that:

- It was created in the 50s for the same purpose as it is used today.

We did research around the intended purpose of the AIB and learned that:

- It has always been a resource intended for any member to be able to ask questions anonymously and receive answers.

We also researched how the AIB is and can be effectively used here and in other Areas:

- 1) We asked other members in other Areas about how they use the AIB and found that many places use it the same way we do, which is true to its historical purpose.
- 2) There are deviations regarding the receptacle i.e. it's not always a basket
- 3) The members who answer the questions, vary from place to place
- 4) The number of people answering questions is typically no more than 3
- 5) There may or may not be discussion after a question is answered
- 6) Questions and answers are compiled after the event and a document is posted on the Area website
- 7) Questions and answers that were either answered or were turned in too late to be answered are compiled and included in the Area Communicator

Our committee did not directly discuss who should answer the questions, as that was not a part of the Charge. Other Areas simply offered their own experience regarding that.

Our conclusions: We were able to do some ground level research which yielded some useable information. We do not feel we covered the KBDM aspects in order to arrive at the information we discovered. We scratched the

surface. KBDM beckons us to go down the rabbit hole.

Aside from needing to be trained in KBDM (which is how *I* feel) we would like to suggest the following in the event that this Thought Force continues:

- 1) The committee requests more time to address KBDM properly and to focus on the question of who should answer AIB queries
- 2) The committee requests more members to share the workload and bring further perspective

Our final conclusion about the AIB:

We all agreed that if The Ask-It-Basket operated on a few basic rules/guidelines that were consistently followed, it would be brilliant.

- The AIB should be announced at the beginning of an event so people are aware of it
- Questions should be answered each day
- Past delegates continue to answer the questions until a vote is taken to change that
- It should be announced that questions posed 30 min. before the end of the event will not be answered at the event, but you can find answers to them in the next Communicator or possibly on the state website in the future

These are our findings – take what you like and leave the rest. Thank you for letting us serve you in our own special way.

Katie W., Chair

Deanna M. committee member

Donelda H. committee member

Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) Report

Everything is going great as the AAPP. The new process is going smoothly and I believe it is much better than the old process. The Background Check Unit is very quick and I can get a background check completed in about a week. WSO is also assigning certification numbers in about a week. They assign the numbers on Tuesday's so I can usually get the number on Wednesday. The entire process takes about 3 weeks, depending on how quickly the prospective AMIAS answers the necessary online questions.

I am guiding the prospective AMIAS through the process because there are many steps and emails back and forth. They and the DR are kept in the loop as to where in the process they are.

Since the first of the year we have seven new AMIAS and three more are in the midst of the process. I have had applications from all over the state - Bend, Roseburg, Eugene, Salem, Tillamook, and Portland. I get excited when I see people getting involved in service.

The annual recertification is almost completed. I want to thank all the DRs who did such a great job of assisting me in this task.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Joanne C., AAPP