

**Minutes November 16-17, 2013 Assembly
Grants Pass High School
Host District 7**

Saturday

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Roland C who reviewed Assembly procedures. Only GRs have voice and vote; AWSC members have voice only.

Roll call :

District 3	Float	not represented
District 8	Michelle W	absent
District 11	Brenda B	excused
District 15	Sue E	absent
District 17	Barb L	excused / represented by Judy J
Communicator	Mary W	excused
Literature	vacant	represented by outgoing Coordinator, Carol M

Minutes:

The minutes of the July 2013 Assembly were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's report:

See attachment #1

Audit/Budget Report:

There are Reserve fund Guidelines (G-41) on the WSO website: <http://al-Anon.org/members/pdf/guidelines/G41.pdf>.

See attachment #3 for full report.

Announcements by Delegate Colleen C:

The Tennessee Area is now using PSAs in theaters following the Oregon model.

Please encourage continued collection of pennies for donation to World Service Office (WSO). The goal is for each group to collect at least \$15. in pennies which will be given to Penny R, the regional trustee, when she visits the Oregon Area at the March Assembly, then be donated to WSO.

The spiritual goals of World Service Conference (WSC) apply to this weekend's Assembly. The role of our GRs is to be the voice of our fellowship and we need to hear that voice. Presume goodwill and behave respectfully. We will strive to maintain a spiritual tone. Try using, "from my perspective" instead of, "in my opinion". Ask ourselves, is it accurate, does it provide clarity, can we live with it? Use these questions during the upcoming breakout sessions to consider Chosen Agenda Items (CAI).

Conference Goals Adapted for Assembly:

1. The spiritual tone of the Assembly will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members.
2. Assembly members will understand the purpose of the Assembly, relationships within the structure and be able to articulate Assembly decisions.
3. Knowing that our HP is present in the expression of our group conscience, Assembly members will presume goodwill.

See attachment #2

Chosen Agenda Items (CAI):

There were five proposed CAIs submitted to Colleen for consideration. We will have five breakout group and each group will consider one of these proposed CAIs. Members counted off by five and were divided into groups for these discussions. Each group will report back tomorrow.

Literature Coordinator:

Carol M has resigned as Literature Coordinator. Roland C read the position description from the Oregon Area Handbook (OAH). Past Literature Coordinators described working in the position and the benefits of doing it.

Radiant G stood for Literature Coordinator position. She is from District 6 and has seven years in our program. She feels safe using literature and has defended the literature. She knows how long it takes to produce literature through the WSO process. Members were offered an opportunity to speak to her qualifications for this position. She was elected by substantial unanimity.

Proposed Budget for 2014:

Dawn presented the proposed budget for 2014. Our budget is prepared based on past history. The District hosting the SSM gets \$1500. advance which is later returned. WSO Equalized Travel Fund (ETF) is the expected expense for all delegates, divided by the number of areas so each area pays an equal amount. The line item for the Communicator has

been reduced because we are now distributing the publication electronically. Unexpected expenses are brought before the Assembly in the form of a proposal and a decision is made by vote of the GRs. See attachment #4

Motion 1

We approve the 2014 budget presented on the screen with additional comments regarding the budget shortfall to be added by the Audit/Budget Committee.

Voting was by ballot. 72 yes; 2 no; 1 abstention. Motion carried.

Drawing / Past Delegate Name to Attend NWRDC:

Roland's name was drawn to attend the next North West Regional Delegates Conference in March of 2014 at Area expense.

Action Committees:

Breakout sessions were held.

DR Breakout/Coordinators Breakout/GR Breakout:

Breakout sessions were held.

Coordinators Skit:

During the Coordinators breakout Coordinators learned the Cup game. They demonstrated the Cup game for the Assembly. Lessons learned were:

- Willingness to learn and participate
- Cooperation
- Team Work
- Perfection not required

Fellowship Communication Action Committee Raffle:

The Fellowship Communication Action Committee raffled off four copies of *How Al-Anon Works* and two subscriptions to *The Forum*.

Alateen Presentation:

Carolyn H showed an audio/video presentation of activities and participation at Oregon Alateen Conference (OAC) held in August 2013. Next year's conference will be held Aug 1-3, 2014, at the Molalla Retreat Center. She created a QR code for the WSO Alateen page.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Sunday

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Roland C

Action Committees reported on their Saturday meetings

See attachment #5 for full reports.

CAI Breakout Groups reported on their Saturday meetings.

See attachment #6 for full reports.

Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM):

Roland C presented information about KBDM. KBDM was first used at WSC in 2006 as a way to introduce more spirituality into WSC proceedings. KBDM takes emotion out of decision making. God is still in charge. In the past, when an agenda was first available at a meeting, people did not have full access to all information...a situation which sometimes led to an uninformed group conscience. KBDM provides full background information, dialog before deliberation and allows us to come prepared to discuss the topic with as much knowledge as the person who wants to talk about it. All decision makers have access to all information. It is a way get to an informed group conscience. Talk to each other and reason things out. We exist in a culture of trust. Information is distributed before discussion. Sometimes the result of KBDM is that there is no motion. We need means of order but we can do this in a spiritual fashion and we don't need Robert's Rules. How will this work in the Oregon Area? By following this process a Thought Force or a Task Force will be given a specific charge. Members will consider the answers to the five KBDM questions.

- (1) What do we know about our members' or perspective members' needs that is relevant to this discussion?
- (2) What do we know about the resources and our vision for our organization that is relevant to this discussion (finances, membership participation)?

- (3) What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture) evolving dynamics of the world and our fellowship's environment (technology, our Legacies and spiritual principles) that is relevant to this discussion? What are the pros and cons?
- (4) What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)? In other words, will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?
- (5) What do we wish we know, but don't?

This helps us keep the focus on what the focus should be on. How is this related to personal recovery for members? How is it related to the way decisions are made in an alcoholic home? Use of this process calms one down.

Roland C will email the handouts for today's presentation to allAWSC.

Business Services Presentation:

Business Services Action Committee presented a skit demonstrating the multiple services provided by WSO to groups. The WSO office structure has the following divisions: *Fellowship Communication; Business services; Public Outreach; Membership Outreach; Group Services* and each section provides many services that benefit groups and individuals.

WSO spends about \$250 year per group to cover 'costs' of service to individual groups.

Thought Forces OAH/Assembly Procedures and Spanish Speaking:

Individuals interested in being on the Thought Force should give their names to Roland C in person today and then email Roland C to confirm their interest. In addition, Roland C will be forming a Spanish speaking Thought Force. How can we better serve Spanish speaking groups in the Oregon Area?

2013 SSM/District 14:

Donelda H thanked everyone for their help and participation. Nancy presented a check for \$85. from a garage sale to the 2014 SSM. She also presented an additional check for \$90. from the sale of blankets, to the 2014 SSM.

District 17 Donation:

District 17 presented a check for \$810. from their Pancake Breakfast to the 2014 SSM.

Raffle:

Tickets were drawn and raffle prizes were awarded. All proceeds go to support the 2014 SSM.

Agenda for Assembly:

The agenda for Assembly is determined at AWSC. If you have an agenda idea, have your DR bring the topic to AWSC for consideration.

Use of the Lord's Prayer to Close Assembly:

There was a motion in September 1995 that the chair be allowed to close Assembly with Lords prayer or Serenity prayer. You can find this motion in the Ongoing Motions portion of the Oregon Area Handbook.

Upcoming Events

2014 March Assembly:

Joanne C announced that the Assembly will be held March 15-16, 2014 at the Shilo Inn on Canyon Road in Beaverton. The theme is Recovery - It Makes Cents. There will be a no-host luncheon buffet.

2014 SSM/District 6:

Debee B. The 2014 SSM will be in Eugene April 4-6 at the Eugene Hilton. The theme is Ready, Set, Action!!! Be a Star in your own recovery.

2014 Oregon Alateen Conference (OAC):

Next year's OAC will be held Aug 1-3, 2014 at the Molalla Retreat Center.

2015 SSM:

District 5 offered to host the 2015 SSM. Their offer was accepted by substantial unanimity.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Ask-It-Basket Questions:

This is an opportunity for members to submit questions. Most often they will be answered by past delegates.

Some additional Ask-It-Basket questions came in but there is not time to respond to them at this Assembly. They will be addressed at next assembly. There was an Ask-It-Basket question from last assembly about the Lord's prayer and can we discuss that at next Assembly.

There was mention of the comment, used in some meetings that newcomers don't need to contribute. The suggestion is to talk about this at your group business meeting. The Service Manual says the it is an informed group conscience that determines what readings are used in each group.

Ask It Basket Question # 1

Is it acceptable to have one GR represent 2 small groups? Currently, one GR can represent 2 actual meetings that are registered under one name, so why can't one GR represent 2 meetings even if they are registered under 2 separate names? "Each group sets its own guidelines for how they will reach group conscience (time to allow for discussion, when they will vote, what percentage will reflect unanimity and a majority, etc.)." From *Al-Anon Service Manual* pg 50. "Each GR is chosen by members of the group and may serve as GR in no more than one group at a time." From *Al-Anon Service Manual* pg 133. More than just voting, every group ought to be fully self supporting, and having and financially supporting a GR is part of being self-supporting.

Ask It Basket Question # 2

If a group has no GR are they allowed to send someone to the District Meeting if they want to vote on a particular topic? Yes. Each group gets one vote. I've heard it said many times here today...."Only the GR, the Alternate GR, or someone representing the group may vote" When there is a district meeting, and the GR is unable to attend we always ask, "Can someone go and represent this group to vote and bring back information".

Ask It Basket Question # 3

A group meets in a building owned by the county. The facility cannot accept rent. Members are concerned about not following Tradition 7. What options do they have? The group can donate literature to the county in an appropriate location, such as one providing support to families in crisis or to a similar organization outside of the county system.

See *Al-Anon Service Manual* pg 96

Ask It Basket Question # 4

I am a DR and I have reason to believe that there might be a problem with the books kept by our last district treasurer. How do I proceed? "All the Warranties counsel prudence - prudence in personal relations, prudence in money matters and prudence in our contact with the world around us. For Al-Anon prudence is a middle ground, a channel between fear on the one hand and recklessness on the other." Approach this person humbly and lovingly. Say we notice some discrepancies, can you help me understand what we see?

See *Al-Anon Service Manual* pg 207

Ask It Basket Question # 5

If a member is a DR and GR how do they handle reimbursement? The group pays for the individual's assembly expenses.

See *Al-Anon Service Manual* pg 139-140

Ask It Basket Question # 6

Is having Christmas basket at our raffle endorsing a specific religion? No.

See *Al-Anon Service Manual* pg 94-95

Ask It Basket Question # 7

How can I as a group rep from a district lacking a DR get email announcements? Ask someone to forward emails to you; go to another district meeting; use the area website to get info.

Ask It Basket Question # 8

One of the groups in our district, when welcoming the newcomers, asks the following, "Will all willing to speak with the newcomers after the meeting please raise your hands." A long time member of this group feels this statement divides the group. Any thoughts? Bring this up at a group business meeting and reach an informed group conscience. Let the whole group decide what is to be read. The Service Manual says other readings should be voted on by the group See *Al-Anon Service Manual* pg 8.

Ask It Basket Question # 9

Would it be feasible to have debit cards issued to the Coordinators for the amount they are budgeted? Issuing Debit Card is a new idea. Roland C referred this question to the Business Services Action Committee for further review.

Ask It Basket Question # 10

Where in our "CAL" does it say we cannot use 'outside' publication in our "business" meetings? (Above group level such as district or area or beyond?) NOT at group meetings - definitely, I get that but beyond. "To keep Al-Anons message in focus...only...CAL...used at Al-Anon and Alateen meetings...including conferences and conventions." See full text Al-Anon Service Manual pg 101.

Ask It Basket Question # 11

I thought it was against principles to photograph Al-Anon members. Is that correct? Photographs may be taken as long the person(s) being photographed has/have given consent and care is taken to avoid inadvertently including others in the picture. A person's full picture and name must not be associated with their membership in Al-Anon.

Ask It Basket Question # 12

Is it valid to not accept a repeating (3 times/year) disruption by someone because they are not in their home group? The disruptions are "valid" but presented aggressively and demand we vote FORMALLY as in #yea, #nay, instead of casually. Remember that the minority has a right to speak. The group may decide by informed group conscience how to deal with disruptions. See pg 49-50 of the Al-Anon Service Manual.

Ask It Basket Question # 13

If you are not authorized as a GR or alternate GR for a group can you come to assembly and vote for your group even though your group has not authorized you to do so? There is no set answer to this question although one would reasonably expect to have the group's authorization before casting a vote. My experience is we need to ask the group first IF they want me to represent them, I am willing. The group needs to be responsible for the expenses and the member needs to be accountable to report back to the group. . Some groups do not have the funds and some do not want to hear the business.

Ask It Basket Question # 14

In the Eleventh Tradition, "please guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members" how does this apply to a dual member saying in a share, "I am a member of another program,"? Does it dilute the Al-Anon program when a dual member brings their AA experience into a meeting? Yes. "AA and outside material can distort the Al-Anon approach." See Al-Anon Service Manual pg 101 What is Appropriate to share in Al-Anon Meetings? Also see pg 7 in *Al-Anon Spoken Here*.

Ask It Basket Question # 15

I have to opportunity to be on a local radio show. From all that I have read I cannot talk about Alateen/Al-Anon because I will be introduced and seen on a webcam. Or is this correct? Also, are there PSAs specific to Alateen? I am a sponsor for a new Alateen group and would like to get the "word" out. You may not talk about Al-Anon or Alateen if you are introduced by full name or visible when identified by full name. See Al-Anon Service Manual pg 88-89;108.

Attachments begin on the following page.

**Attachment #1
Treasurer's Report**

Attachment #2 Audit/Budget Report

Audit/Budget Report:

The Audit/Budget Committee met after the October AWSC to audit the 3rd quarter books, and found everything in order.

We also audited the 2013 State Speakers Meeting books at our budget meeting in September. Everything appeared to be in order, but there was not enough backup information provided for us to perform a complete audit. Based on this finding, the Audit/Budget Committee has decided to provide an outline of what documentation is expected for an audit. This will help special events coordinators and treasurers in setting up their record keeping systems. We have been in touch with the 2014 SSM committee, and will work through the outline with them.

There are Reserve fund Guidelines (G-41) on the WSO website: <http://al-Anon.org/members/pdf/guidelines/G41.pdf>.

Attachment #3 Delegate's Report FOR ASSEMBLY - NOVEMBER 16 – 17, 2013 DISTRICT 5 – GRANTS PASS. OR

The Spiritual Journey of Changing “ME” to “WE”

- Our bid for the **MEET THE BOARD EVENT** was well received at WSO. All of the applications are being reviewed and our yes or no notification will come in December.
- **NORTHWEST REGIONAL TRUSTEE**

Penny R our Regional Trustee and the Treasurer for Al-Anon Family Groups Inc. will be here for our March Assembly.

In my travels to districts and groups, it has been fun seeing the Penny Bank Jars in place and watching the contents grow. In remembering the purpose *“IF each group in the Structure of WSO who does not, at this time donate would donate \$12.00 there would be an increase in income of \$75,000.00 annually. AND if those groups who already donate would add \$12.00 to their current donations, an increase in income would total \$113.000 annually.* Hopefully we will have 100% participation from Oregon Area Groups for this year and for next year. That would move us from the # 5 position in the WSO Structure to **NUMBER ONE!** Remember as little (\$1.00) or as big (\$??) as the groups can donate will get us in that first place position!!

Penny will be able to take our Group contributions (in check form from your groups) back to Virginia Beach

- The **2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual** (P-24/27) is NOW AVAILABLE on the Members' Web site and available sometime after the first of next year. The *2014-2017 Service Manual* will be postal-mailed to each registered Al-Anon and Alateen group in the U.S. and Canada with a **Current Mailing Address (CMA)** in early 2014. This will be available in English, Spanish and French at no charge to the groups. Be sure to have your group registered through our Group Records coordinator with your current CMA.

Lead in to Chosen Agenda Items Workshop
DISPLAY - CONFERENCE GOALS:

- **Conference Goals:**
 - **1. The spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members**

This reminded us that we are all equal. That we each have a voice and that voice is to be respected. We were told “no question is unimportant” and a system to honor questions was established. If we had a question, we would take our Service Manual to the line and hold it up so the Chair could see it. We then would be called to the head of the line. This was not a time to make any other comments. And this didn’t take away from our 2 minutes at the mike if we did have more to share.

- **2. Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationships within the structure, and be able to articulate Conference decisions.**

The purpose of the Conference Structure is found in our Service Manual in the Conference Charter.

So to abbreviate a little, my take on this was: The purpose is to conduct the business of World Wide Al-Anon . To understand the relationships within the structure... Who was chair and co chair, who were members of the Executive Committees (and their positions) What was their relationship to the Conference Agenda. i.e., Penny R, is AFG Inc Treasurer and Dave Z is head of the Business Services Department. So we knew they would be presenting on finances. After hearing the reports and discussion, it was our charge to be able to carry an informed report back to our Areas.

- **3. Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, Conference members will presume goodwill.**

When I was new to Al-Anon my groups always started the meetings with “Let’s pause for a moment to reflect on why we are here, followed by the Serenity Prayer.” I grew to know this was a moment to acknowledge a power greater than myself and to also understand that the Group Conscience is Higher Power’s vote. I was also assured that nothing is set in conceit and what I have learned over my years in program is we have revolving door issues that keep coming back. The blessing for me is that each time this happens, WE get to look at things from a little different perspective with possibly more information. New technology... Updated language, an ever changing world that through this program I am finally able to make my adjustments rather than to be ridged or just go with the flow. Knowing that Our Higher Power is present, allows me the freedom to speak my thoughts and not feel condemned for them. It allows me to be more flexible and receptive to newer ideas. It allows me to be true to myself.

In the conflict resolution segment I learned to use the phrase: “from my perspective” instead of ” IN MY OPINION!” How gentle that has become for me.

- *In discussion which brought more insight to the policy we were asked to look for our answer to these three questions.*
- *1. Is it accurate,*
- *2. Does it provide clarity?*
- *3. Can you live with it?*

So as you go into your groups for the workshop, please keep in mind the tools that are offered and the opportunity of changing Me to We in this process.

Inviting in Spiritual Principles, we heard often, “We Want You To Succeed”, and also “You Did Good!”

We practiced “Presume Goodwill” on a moment to moment basis. Thank you Roland and Bette for bringing this idea home to me during your terms as Delegate. And to our other past delegates and Assembly members, for demonstrating how this works in a diversified group of people.

- **Chosen Agenda Items**

There are 5 items submitted. Bunny, Judy J., Barbara S, Roland, and Paula J, will be facilitating a workshop today. This workshop will be conducted in a similar manner as those at WSC. So in order to help set the Spiritual tone, I want to present some of the ideas from World Service Conference that were provided for us.

- Nearing the end of my first year is so settling. I know there is more to be learned and more information to be brought to the Area. I want you to know WE have had a successful journey this year and that We all DID VERY GOOD!

Thanks to all of you for your love, support and acceptance of the “ME” I used to be and the “WE” I continue to become.

Colleen G.
Oregon Area Delegate/P53

**Attachment # 4
Proposed Budget**

Attachment #5
Action Committee Reports Back

Business Services Action Committee...Dawn K

- We reviewed the presentation that will be given on Sunday at the Assembly;
- We discussed the ongoing project we have taken on - to create a bookmark and/or tent card to raise awareness of the need for larger contributions to help support all the service arms;
- A thought force was established to work on putting together ideas to present to the A. Conference Approved Literature
- We discussed how to present this information and what our message is;
- We are looking at trying to come up with a dollar amount for individuals to know that they are being fully self supporting of all service arms, WSO, Area, district and group.
- Further discussion occurred on how we can educate the area about the necessity of contributing more;
- Ideas included - creating talking points for GRs, providing fundraising idea (chili/spaghetti/pancake feeds, auctions, etc.)
- Sue B informed us that of the approximately 230 groups in the area, 133 have contributed to the area this year;
- The BSAC is challenging each district to have a fundraiser for WSO in the next year. Districts will report back to the Assembly next November. We would like to hear how much was raised, how it was done and any other information they would like to share. It was mentioned that many districts already have fundraisers for SSM or the Area;
- A taskforce was appointed to work on updating Section VI of the Oregon Area Handbook.

Fellowship Communications Action Committee...Paula J

Welcome to Radiant G from District 6 who is our new Literature Coordinator. A few members of our group had had some difficulties and it was discussed and settled in the group.

Topics for our continued work

- 2014 is the 60th Anniversary of *The Forum*, and our committee agreed to celebrate next year with special projects relating to *The Forum* in 2014.
- We agreed to have a contest next year regarding how many pieces of literature read at each meeting, includes Forum, pamphlets and books. Give them to the DR.
- The start date will be determined by the first AWSC meeting in 2014.
- We will need to make up a flyer to promote this.
- We have an additional \$200. in our budget for continuing with our "How Al-Anon Works" paperback and copies of *The Forum*.

Group Services Action Committee...Kathy

The Action Committee is working on bookmarks and tent cards. The Archives Coordinator is scanning documents and all Group Histories have been scanned.

Membership Outreach Action Committee...Caralynn W

We discussed The Communicator.

At the October 2013 AWSC meeting we voted to distribute *The Communicator* via website and email to DRs. This is a trial for one year beginning February 2014. Also, one paper copy will be brought to each AWSC meeting for each DR.

We, as a committee, and the DRs, will be collecting feedback throughout the year trial. This information will be presented as received at each AWSC and Assembly. The following are questions we thought would be helpful:

Is *The Communicator* a valuable program tool?

Is *The Communicator* necessary?

Has *The Communicator* outlived its usefulness?

Should *The Communicator* be shorter?

DR's are more than welcome to ask those and any other questions that want. The Action Committee welcomes all input!

We discussed the website.

We need to find ways to make sure Al-Anon members are aware of what is available on the website. The information needs to be clearly available. For example, it would be nice to have a "list" of events where one could "click" once to see the flyer. On our calendar, it is quite a process. We also suggest that the AWSC and Assembly agendas be on the website.

Newcomers

We are working on ways to retain newcomers. There is a central person collecting information for us, which we will review and work towards some solid ideas.

Alateen

We are looking at whether our Action Committee should be involved in trying assist with helping Alateens feel more a part of AI-Anon and making sure the November AMIAS training at A.I.S. in Portland is on the July Assembly agenda and the October AWSC agenda every year. Caralynn W will speak to Carolyn H about these two issues.

How to help more groups have GRs

Donelda (doneldagh@gmail.com) volunteered to head the endeavor. Send your ideas to her please.

Public Outreach Action Committee...Marvalee M

We reviewed the Grant Project – each district had a chance to submit a Public Outreach project plan and ask for Area funds to help support this project. Some part of the project needed to be on going. 11 groups submitted project (Districts 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17) and all were granted money after being approved by the sub committee. Checks have been mailed. Grants ranged from \$150 to \$680 and the grand total was \$3670.66.

The committee felt this project was a success and we would like to do it again in 2014. We discussed ideas for improvements. We discussed having a follow up report to the Assembly in March 2014. This report will be in the form of a written table with project descriptions, costs, how successful the project was, responses to the projects and lessons learned. There will also be an oral presentation from a few of the Districts.

We discussed our plans for 2014. We want to repeat the grant project and many other ideas flew across the table as well. We still need to narrow this down. We want something that can encourage and support each District to increase their Public Outreach. If your District doesn't have a Public Outreach coordinator this would be a good time to get one. The *Best of Public Outreach* is available on WSO website.

Attachment #6

Chosen Agenda Items / Reports Back

In response to Colleen G's call for Chosen Agenda Items (CAI), five topics were submitted. Members at Assembly counted off by fives and were randomly assigned to subgroups to discuss the potential CAIs. The proposed CAIs and the notes from the subgroup discussions follow.

CAI Request #1

Let's focus on attraction, rather than promotions, but let's attract with some creative ideas and projects. In so doing, we do not discourage, but rather encourage creative participation by those willing to give of their talents and ideas.

Let's discuss the difference between attraction and promotion in more detail. The internet is posing challenges in this regard as well.

No report submitted.

CAI Request #2

I'm in favor of moving away from a masculine god to the neuter one. I know that old usage was that one use he to mean any member of the human race. And that has now been changed in some areas to s/he. However, my old idea of God was the old greybeard in the sky, pointing at me and enumerating all my transgressions. A neuter God would not conjure up that old image. However, in the meantime, I recognize that I can just live with the wording and try to change my internal imaging.

Proposing this discussion at the WSC level is of little merit because any such change to the Legacies requires written consent of three-quarters of the AI-Anon Family Groups, and such approval of this magnitude is highly unlikely, (See p 164 of the Service Manual.)

I suggest that this member submit sharings to the WSO for consideration for publication in the Forum and any future publications. Having more CAL on a vital, effective spirituality shared with gender neutral language would be a real service to the fellowship because sharing ever wider ESH will relate to a wider population of suffering people who need Recovery.

CAI Request #3

Does the wording and emphasis at WSO level need to be changed regarding "at the level of press, radio...//"? We believe more explicit wording is needed because young people are so willing to expose themselves via Facebook, Twitter, texting...

The subgroup said, no, a change in wording is not required.

CAI Request #4

Anonymity. Do we need more information, something more concise and easily available to distribute, such as the "Anonymity" pages 88-89 in the service manual?

We decided against passing to WSO as a Chosen Agenda Item because the question really goes in several directions and it was unclear. For example, it asks for concise and more [information]. However it raised a lot of valid issues and discussions.

Our recommendations

- 1) Bookmark.
 - two sided bookmark
 - concise definition
 - examples
 - emphasize right to break our own anonymity with the awareness that doing so could easily affect someone else's reputation.
- 2) Anonymity pamphlet from 1991 (p-65) could use revision to include social media.

CAI Request #5

Treatment centers who are treating drug/narcotic addicts direct family members to Al-Anon for help. Our Service Manual states "only occasional discussion" of drug related problems is acceptable in Al-Anon meetings. What needs to change to reflect the reality of the times?

Families suffering from the effects of drug/narcotic addiction in a relative or friend deserve the same participation in Al-Anon meeting as those families who have a loved one dependent on alcohol. It is a matter of terminology in the literature. Surely there can be a way to reconcile this issue.

Our group discussed Item #5 dealing with perhaps changing Al-Anon's treatment of family members having drug addictions rather than alcohol addictions.

During research on this issue, it was discovered that there was no mention of drug addiction in any of our literature that we could find except in the Service Manual on page 118, in the paragraphs titled "Drugs/Narcotics/Prescription Medications" and "Families with Related Problems".

There was discussion in the group heavily leaning to the viewpoint that although drug addition is way more prevalent in our society now than when Al-Anon and AA were founded, there is still no need to change our discussions to include this obvious fact. Al-Anon is for families; we should not be discussing our family members' addictions. When the subject comes up in our meetings, we, as Al-Anons, should gently steer the sharing/conversation back to the Al-Anon response, not the "qualifiers" addiction.

Our committee unanimously agreed that no change be made in our literature or in our approach to addiction.

We would also add that meetings that feel that this subject should be addressed should read "3 Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon", noted on page 24 in the Service Manual.

Motion #1

We approve the 2014 budget presented on the screen with additional comments regarding the budget shortfall to be added by the Audit/Budget Committee. Motion carried.

Other Decisions

Elected Radiant G as Literature Coordinator.

Roland C was chosen by lot to attend the NWRDC at Area expense.

District 5 will host the 2015 SSM.