

**Oregon Area Assembly
4090 Commercial St SE, Salem, OR 97302
March 19-20, 2016
Host District 4**

Saturday

Meeting opened at 8:35 am by Chair, Barbara S. with the Serenity Prayer

Traditions were read by **Dianne L., District 4**

General Assembly Instructions, per Oregon Area Handbook, were read by **Chair, Barbara S.**

Housekeeping Information by **Helen M.**, District Representative, District 4

Roll Call: Excused Sue B., Alternate Delegate; Lainey J., Forum Coordinator

77 Voting Group Representatives present.

Minutes of November 2015 Assembly were approved by motion, second and vote.

Treasurer, Dawn K. gave instructions for completing Expense Reimbursement Forms: blue form is for GRs to use to apply to group for reimbursement of assembly expenses. Area will pay mileage if groups are unable to pay. Area reimburses GRs' expense for gas only. A mathematical equation is used to determine the average cost of gas. For this Assembly it is 10 cents per mile. There is a chart indicating mileage to Assembly from cities represented. Google Maps or MapQuest can be used for mileage for cities not on list. The white form is used for actual expenses incurred on behalf of Assembly. Yellow form is used by AWSC Members for hotel and meals.

The Area purchased a new projector for less than the budgeted amount. There is currently \$12,636.61 in bank, less Reserves. Available to spend \$4,656.44. Use Dawn's address and not past treasurer when sending contributions to the Area. Checks should be made to Oregon Area AFG and should include District Number, Group ID and Group Name.

Treasurer's Report was approved.

Delegate's Report: Cindy E., Area Delegate. Thank you. Thank you for electing me your delegate and to represent this group consciousness at the World Service Conference in April. I am so blessed to be elected as your delegate. 2016.....This year's theme is "Realizing our Spiritual Potential".....

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 5th 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?

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How many of you read my article in the Communicator about my service time in Al-Anon? 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.

Group Rep

District Secretary

Alternate DR

DR

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.

TASK FORCE SPIRITUALITY IN AREA DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING MONEY

Why are we talking about this?

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Board Vision Statement

All people affected by someone else's drinking will find help and recovery in every community.

Board Mission Statement

Anticipate the future and Al-Anon's place in it and ensure that the necessary resources are available.

Board of Trustees and Executive Committee -= snowzilla

The goal of the Board Strategic Plan is: The AFG Inc Board of Trustees will raise the fellowship's awareness of the Trustees' relationship to the Al-Anon groups and WSC, while articulating and expressing the "why" of the Board's work.

One of the ways that they accomplish this is with the "Meet the Board" event.

What is our area doing to celebrate Al-Anon Family Group's 65th Anniversary?

What is your district doing? What is your group doing? Here is a partial list that I've taken from some of the emails I've received. Do you want to do anything?

Policy update – Purpose of quarterly update from the Policy Committee Chair is to inform members of current discussions being held at policy meeting.

Memorial Contributions

Announcing Events at Meetings

Financial Matters

Open/closed meetings

Topics discussed at the Policy Committee are raised by either an Al-Anon member or a group seeking clarification of any matter relating to the fellowship. Any member who has not received sufficient clarification through his or her links of service is encouraged to write to the World Service Office, requesting that the idea or question be sent to the Policy Committee for consideration.

Finance update – The General Fund recorded a loss of \$361,033 for this year compared to a loss of \$16,195 last year. In large part, due to continued decline in literature sales. More numbers are in the report such as contributions, etc. Expenses only increased 1.34% over last year. There is a reserve fund.

The World Service Office is operating with a deficit. Looking into the future, we are already seeing that people purchasing ebooks or getting them through Amazon, Nook or ? create a dilemma for us. Our WSO has basically been funded through Literature Sales. Well those are decreasing as our "technology awareness" is showing. People in groups are still giving a \$1.00 which is what we gave back in the 50's and 60's and..... We have addressed this a couple of times since I've been involved in service work. Why can't we get groups and members to see that \$1.00 funded everything 40 years ago, but it doesn't now. \$1 = \$9.51 Nothing costs the same as it did 40 years ago. Our spiritual potential?

How do we expand our spiritual potential with the vision of our World Service Office? The people that staff it are not overpaid, they're paid in line with everyone else in the state of Virginia. They don't have heavy overhead, their strategic plan for owning vs renting is still a sound decision. They only focus on keeping Al-Anon Al-Anon and increasing awareness of it nationwide. They are having to resolve issues with other countries taking the trademark, Al-

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Anon, and putting it on their revised literature. They are servicing our groups with keeping us informed, united and well informed.

What other issues do we see in the future that will impact our World Service Office?

Every group would pay \$27 more, no deficit

60% of groups pay

Participation

Gratitude

Appeal letter

Do you know what the WSO spends on you? Does your group at least cover that?

Did your group purchase a forum to replace the free one?

How do we see us handling this information in a spiritual way? Our potential? What does this look like?

What is the WSC? What does it matter to me as a GR? 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 open minded 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.

Things included to share with you regarding my trip back to the WSC are:

One of the first meetings I will have is getting together with all the Delegates from everywhere in the United States and we'll be sharing our Area Highlights. I guess this started off as being goods and bad, but people didn't share their bads, so it just became Area Highlights. To me, I think that's a shame. I would love to share concerns we have as an area and get other people's experience, strength and hope. Oh well, what I did share was our action committees have been active, vibrant, stimulating for at least 15 years and still going strong. I commented on looking at the concerns that I received from several members at the beginning of the year; such as, looking at Area Assemblies being inclusive to all districts in our State; of keeping Al-Anon and Alateen alive and thriving for multiple generations coming after us. I mentioned that our past delegate brought back the idea of electronic voting and we will be looking into that.

This meeting will have copies of all the delegates Area Highlights and will distribute them to all of us. So, I'll be able to come back with many more ideas of value to our area.

I've been assigned my mentor – her name is Jinkie and she is from Little Rock, Arkansas – she says she has to sit by me opening and closing dinners whether I want to or not! I don't think that's going to be a problem. I have been assigned a Regional Trustee to help me with things and her name is Marilyn Massey. She says positively positive things about Colleen.

What am I going to be doing?

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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

Discussing the **chosen agenda items**

Participate in Thought or Task Forces

NWRDM

Can you imagine? – Remet Kathleen from Alaska

3 C's

I can't control Al-Anon

I can't ruin Al-Anon

I can't save it either

KBDM is the WHY question of motions and proposals

Spiritual principle of KBDM – every voice gets to be heard – it's about equality – we're all equals

Networked and found other delegates using “Go to meeting”, “Join me”, etc.

Got invited to share a TEAM meeting with Washington

How a discussion will look at the WSC

Memorial Contributions – change the text in the Service Manual to say – non Al-Anon family members can give 1 time a memorial contribution

1. have to identify who “family” is

2. people are putting things in obituaries

3. how many “family” members can give?

4. should there be a dollar limit?

5. how many times can non-Al-Anon members give to family members in memory

You should have seen the trying to get a consensus on the guidelines for the NWRDM

We met from 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm on Friday

We met from 8:00 am – working lunch and all the way through to 9:30 Saturday

We met from 8:00 am to 11:30 am on Sunday

GOD – gratitude opens doors

My greatest asset that presents itself in a heartbeat is passion. I am extremely passionate about Al-Anon. Sometimes my passion clouds my vision – sometimes I believe what I'm seeing here and now is the best it can ever be....

But when I step outside of me and specifically look at what Al-Anon could look like in 5 yrs, 10 yrs 65 MORE years – I get excited and ideas for new implementation come to mind. What if?

What if we had an assembly and at roll call, every district said “here”? What if? What if every district was represented but a few were physically in different parts of the state? We would be united by visually seeing each other and hearing everyone's voice. What would we need to make this happen?

Webcam – (\$5 - \$70)

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Internet

Computer

What if we held assemblies once a year? Don't panic! Breathe! Past delegates, breathe! What if we put specific business items on the agenda for 1 assembly a year? Voting, elections, expanded action committee time, coordinators reports, etc. More people would be willing to drive, per our surveys done in the past. Less money would be spent by groups and districts, per surveys done in the past. The area itself would spend less money on accommodations, travel, room and board. I know it's blasphemy but if we're expanding our vision, in every aspect of our lives, technology is becoming our path. So why not use this gift for a better purpose.

Assemblies could be replaced by many different methods. TEAM events, NWRSSs, AI-Athons, (for lack of a better word, this word was used by California South I believe); or mobile groups of past delegates, officers, coordinators giving timely information in small groups. It's just what if? Nothing in AI-Anon goes fast. It's just a vision of using our spiritual principles in our everyday lives.

TEAM events, NWRSSs or AI-Athons are fun, open to everyone. What if they had workshops on Public Outreach, Literature, the Forum, Group Services, Membership Outreach, Alateen? We could have speakers. The action committees would plan this event at the assembly and everyone could come and be included? We may get more people involved in service! We may get more people interested in serving!

We've had in the past, discussion regarding a technology person to become a coordinator. If technology is going to be our future, doesn't it make sense to talk about this some more. Talk about it with a vision for expanding our reach to everyone in our state? As we truly believe, we walk in faith and not in fear expanding our vision together.

Anyway, I'm going back to Virginia Beach in a couple of weeks. I'll be thinking of you with every idea, every topic, every prayer. I hope you'll think of me also. I'm your voice. I'm your ears. I'm also charged with looking at the world wide good of AI-Anon. Just saying this makes me get queasy. The address for sending me notes or love gifts or chocolate.....is posted on the wall. Please use my return address. If the mail gets to the Conference too late, I'll still get it!

Ever try to measure
The power of a dream?
Ever sit and wonder
Where water becomes a stream?
In ways there is no difference
From nothing it begins
The pieces come together
And it ebbs and flows and spins
In time it becomes power
No force may stop its flow
None may know its beginning
But all may see it grow
A tiny drop of water

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Or a simple little thought
Can change the world we live in
Rewriting rules we're taught

By Robert Longley

State Speakers' Meeting, Caralynn W., Chair. We received 3 checks, as well as contributions from top hat banks. There are sale items for SSM benefit and raffle items on display. The flyer is online. Registration form is on the back of the flyer. Dates are May 13, 14, 15. This is the only fundraiser that the Area has. SSM will include skits, workshops, panels, talent show.

Reminder: It was previously voted that all Assemblies and AWSC meetings are to be fragrance free.

Breakouts were held according to service positions: Group Representatives Meeting, chaired by Dawn B. and Chris K., District Representatives, chaired by Brenda G., and all other service positions, chaired by Joanne C.

Audit Budget Report, Dawn K. Final Report from last year's Audit Budget Committee. Met in January to go over final books from last year. Everything is in order. Members of Audit Budget Committee can be any member of AI-Anon. There are openings for two members. The committee meets to go over the books prepared by the Treasurer, verify things are done correctly; set budget in September. Audit Budget Committee are members of AWSC and Assembly. They should have a knack for numbers and an understanding of checkbooks.

Election for Web Coordinator: Barb S., Chair, read description of Website Coordinator position from the Oregon Area Handbook. Rick C., past coordinator, was asked to share his experience with the position. Regis P. is willing to serve. She read her Trusted Servant Profile, which included serving as temporary Website Coordinator. Election was held. Regis was elected by majority.

District Reports:

District 17, Brenda G, DR. District 17 includes part of Clackamas County, Milwaukie, east of the Willamette River, the towns of Willamette and West Linn.

We have 18 meetings, which include 2 Alateen meetings and 1 Spanish speaking meeting and, as a new DR, I am attempting to attend them all. There are presently 14 group reps and most attend our District Meetings. Our Newcomer's Meeting before a regular Monday night meeting is well attended. Our group sign up to rotate to facilitate the meetings and many have speakers to share on various topics, Steps, Traditions and Concepts. We have an AA liaison who attends local AA meetings, distributes our flyers and brings back news about what they are doing. The AA

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meetings appreciate having our meeting lists for AA members and also the liaison to provide support and information.

The District has a workshop committee that has produced workshops throughout the year for all members which included Conflict Resolution, Knowledge Based Decision Making, Service and Meditation. They also have been holding workshops for the group reps with dinner before our District meeting where the new group reps can get to know each other and find out more about their service commitment.

We will be having our annual fundraiser for the AIS office which is the Spring Fling on April 16th from 12-2:30 and will be great fun. The theme is “Why Do I Keep Coming Back” and will have a panel of 4 speakers, an auction and plant sale with lunch. Flyers are on the table and also on the Oregon Area website.

This year we are honored to host the State Speakers’ Meeting and had a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser with speakers from Al-Anon, AA and Alateen. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed the raffle of baskets donated from our meetings. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the State Speakers’ Meeting and Caralynn and her crew have put together a great program with lots of fun activities. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending, don’t miss the fun, fellowship and laughter.

Our district also sponsors a Service Manual book study on the 1st Saturday of every month and is informative and well attended by many members from various districts of Al-Anon.

District 14, Ruby W., DR District 14 is from Klamath Falls to Lake View and Chilaquin. We are just back from a Health Fair at Sky Lakes to spread the word about Al-Anon. We had a variety show as an SSM fundraiser. The district sponsored a Chili Cook Off, participated in a Pow Wow and Stand Down, which is held by a Veterans association. Lake View has a new meeting on WSO listing, but they haven’t joined in District events

District 8, Elaine R., DR. Hi, my name is Elaine R. I am for the next 3 years District 8 Rep from Brookings to Coos Bay/Reedsport. We haven’t had anyone in this position for over 3 years. I just completed a 2-3 year term as Group Representative of Next Step Group in Brookings and currently hold the position of Treasurer for District 8. Since I lost my husband of 37 years last April 2015, I started thinking about ways I could be of service, and eventually decided to stand for District 8 Representative. I don’t know what I’m doing. It’s a good thing this is Al-Anon – we can make mistakes.

I believe you must give service by giving the program away to be able to keep your program and receive the gift of serenity in life.

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I felt my 1st role as a District 8 Representative was to go on the road to visit some meetings to introduce myself. I set up ahead of time with the contact person to have 15 minutes of their meeting. So I planned a road trip with my little traveling buddy name Penny, my Chihuahua dog.

On November 4, 2015 I traveled to Coos Bay for a Wednesday 7:00 p.m Wednesday CBNB AFG meeting, then to Florence to the Florence Acceptance AFG meeting – Thursday, November 5th for a 12:00 p.m. meeting, back to Coos Bay for the Friday Empire AFG meeting on November 6th at a 10:00 a.m. meeting, then to North Bend to the Live and Let Live meeting at 12:00 p.m., then to the Experience, Strength and Hope meeting in North Bend that evening at 7:00 p.m. I met up with some old friends and made some new ones.

At our group “Next Step” February 2016 Business Meeting, I presented a draft of a Potluck Flyer for all the groups in District 8. We would have an Al-Anon speaker, Alateen speaker and an AA speaker. Food – A Dessert Auction – Door prizes. They all were in favor of having this potluck in Bandon because it is in the middle of Brookings and Coos Bay.

On February 28, 2016, I arrived in Bandon at 12. I went straight to the Chamber of Commerce Office. I received all the information I want to know about Bandon, listing of Churches I can call on for places to have the Potluck.

That Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. I attended the Bandon AFG meeting. At the last 15 minutes I had a Business meeting and presented the Potluck Flyer. They all were in favor of it. They loved the idea. They said let us know what we can do to help. So District 8 will be holding a Potluck in the near future.

In the next couple of weeks, I will be visiting the rest of the meetings in District 8. Since I love Al-Anon – it has helped me make my life what it is today, this is a wonderful way for me to give my program away. The adventure will be to be the best I can in this new position. Growth – Isn't that what we are here for? Connection to those we love and growth.

District 15, Angel K, DR. Waiting on Report.

District 10, Deanna McC., DR. District 10 majority of Washington County.

23 Al-Anon groups, 3 Spanish Speaking groups, 4 Alateen,

As for our district. We are organizing a fundraiser for the district in April and following that up with hosting the July Assembly. We have created sub-committees to organize these. Last panel they voted to have a budget at the district level. That two was proposed via a subcommittee and approved as proposed. We have about 23 active groups in our district and an average (between two meetings) of 18 members. Some have been multiples from the same but there is a lot of conversation and I feel that many are participating in discussions. Our Agenda these first few months has been quite full so keeping on tract and moving with decisions being made is a must.

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So far we have accomplished that. We have had a few issues/concerns. First there was the budget and treasurers reports that had some missing/incorrect data. Luckily one of the past GRs kept everything and was able to help reconcile the missing information. Second there is a newcomers meeting in our district that a member had concern on the help to the newcomer by attending. It was proposed that the GR's attend the meeting and bring back their view on the helpfulness to the newcomer.

At the end of the last district meeting we were able to express group concerns and successes for the last 10 minutes. It was incredible. Everyone spoke even if they were only saying everything is going good.

- Working with Church on continuing their meeting there and working out some issues they had with the church.
- Took Group Inventory and found many members don't have sponsors. To work on this, they have chosen to add sponsorship as a monthly topic in their group • Needing a secretary, not having people step up for service • 1st time having a GR in about 20 years, have a Birthday meeting, Developing Al-Anon Procedures • Anniversary for their group celebration, open to public, they work close with AA to have food, music and fun. Will bring flyer once one is available. Encouraged anyone to come even if you don't speak Spanish.
- Started a group phone list and made note of which are willing to be sponsors • Attended NW Delegate Meeting, GR is new to area level service but in program for 30 years. Didn't have a GR for a while and now they do.
- Putting together a fundraiser to bring Ellen C in October of 2016 to speak. Topic Checklist for Maturity • All service positions filled, Doing Group Inventory 1 question at a meeting.

District 11, Stone C., DR. The tiny but mighty District 11 is happy to be here! We have 12 active English speaking meetings and 2 Spanish speaking meetings. Currently we have 7 Group Representatives serving with ambitions to build on this. Most of our GRs are new to service above the group level! We're getting comfortable with our new roles and getting excited about our hopes for the new panel. Our most recent victory was moving our District meeting to a wheelchair accessible location to support more participation. Our annual Chili Cook-off is coming up April 23 with a jewelry sale, a hugging booth, a 50/50 raffle and 3 speakers - Al-anon, Alateen and AA! Come spice up your recovery!

District 1, Chris K., Floating DR. Waiting on Report

District 12, Judy L., DR. District 12 continues to struggle with issues of viability. Participation is low but those of us here today are passionate.

We are beginning with small steps to increase participation and a sense of connection.

Chris, GR from Faith and Freedom, has put her heart and soul into getting a public outreach project up and running at Rule 62 once a month speakers meeting. Thanks to her we have a well-stocked literature table and are hoping to get volunteers from our groups to staff the table on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Tonight will be our second month at this event.

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We are also working towards forming an Alateen meeting for youth of north and northeast Portland. We have 3 potential sponsors and our meeting room secured. Right now we are working to complete the paperwork and move forward with the certification process.

After the Assembly we plan to send emails to our groups to inform members what is happening at the district and state level. We hope to follow up by contacting the groups to insure we have the correct contact info and perhaps set up future visits.

District 9, Mary W., DR. District 9 will be putting on the November Assembly, We were unable to coordinate it with the AA assembly since the Red Lion Inn, where the AA Assembly will be, did not have a large room available. We have 3 potential locations that we are now looking at that meet the specified requirements in the Oregon Area handbook. We have a great group of GRs, who have stepped up to fill positions at the district level. About 1/2 of the groups in District 9 have GRs, who have attended the district meeting. Bill W, the district 9 treasurer, and I will be visiting all of the groups to encourage participation at the district level and to see what support the groups need from the district.

District 13, Linda C., Alternate DR. Six meetings in Douglas County, 2 in Myrtle Creek, 1 in Yoncalla and 3 in Roseburg. We held our 5th Annual Sweet Valentine Potluck and Speaker Meeting with AA participation, attended by about 50 people. We had a District Fund Raiser Dessert and Plant Auction, raising about \$250. We try to have a couple speak, Dorena, our new District Rep and her husband from AA were the speakers this year. We honored a couple married 54 years and a couple married the shortest time with 10 years. We have our big fund raiser coming up in June at Winston City which is a garage sale.

Lunch Break 12:00 – 1:30

Meeting re-opened with Serenity Prayer, Chair, Barbara S.

July Area Assembly, Deanna Mc C., District 10 DR, gave information on July Assembly. It will be held at Alder Creek Middle School in Milwaukie, July 16th and 17th, 8:30 – 5:00 on Saturday; 8:30 to noon on Sunday. There will be continental breakfast and snacks provided. The theme is Unity through Service.

Alateen Report, Linda S., Alateen Coordinator. One of my goals this year is to educate the general Al-Anon population about Alateen. I couldn't think of a better way of doing just that than to have some Alateen's tell a brief part of their story, what got them to Alateen, and how Alateen has helped them.

3 Alateens volunteered to speak. Ana R, Devon B, and Mark shared their stories, letting the Al-Anon Assembly understand just a bit of where they came from and why Alateen is so important to them.

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Mark is the OAC (Oregon Alateen Conference) chair this year. He reported on the 3 important functions that are coming up for Alateens:

Alateen Roundup for 2016 “Keep it Simple”. A gathering of Alateens and newcomers for pizza, crafts, and sharing. April 23rd at 2:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Location is Eastridge Church, 14100 SE Sunnyside Road, Clackamas, OR 97015.

OAC Annual Fundraiser for 2016 (this is the only fundraising that Alateen will do for OAC). Baked Potato Bar & Auction on April 30th at 5:00 pm. Location is Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, 11695 SW Park Way, Portland, OR 97225.

Oregon Alateen Conference 2016. This will be the 5th Annual Conference for Oregon. August 5, 6, & 7th at the Molalla Retreat Center, 36208 S. Molalla Forest Road, Molalla, OR 97038

Action Committees, Judy J., Past Delegate, Panel 41, introduced Action Committees, with instructions for breakout room locations.

Regional Trustee, Donna E., was introduced by Cindy E., Delegate. Donna’s workshop focused on Strategic Planning in relation to her position on the Board of Trustees, with emphasis on how this can be used in all service areas. Some of the highlights from her presentation included:

What do Trustees do?

Increase confidence in thinking differently.

Look to the future of Al-Anon.

Think about the conversation, not the outcome.

There is no right or wrong.

Gives everyone an opportunity for future planning.

The difference between “Challenge” and “Change” is LLE. (lotsa little excuses)

People don’t buy what you do; they buy why you do it.

Talk about what you believe in. Take the cause and make it your own.

Thinking out of the box – short video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPQN0qrQ0AI>

Simon Senek – video. <http://youtu.be/qp0HIF3SfI4>

Even Eagles Need a Push – video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ob3Vpi1u_0

Group breakouts using handouts provided by Donna for discussion. Report backs were optional.

Reports included:

Group 3

Change the message of Al-Anon

Currently it's negative, lead with the positive

Sell Al-Anon on the positive

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Our lives are getting better. Do you want to try this?

Create a new book mark/sign....

Not everyone who dies from alcoholism is an alcoholic. Find Al-Anon, Find Help!

Create quirky stick figures that are happy joyous and free. This is you with Al-Anon! Not the depressed people hiding from the camera for anonymity covering their face.

Al-Anon it can get better

A Jingle that would stick in people's head

Have you been robbed of your serenity?

If you are miserable we can help - Negative

Create videos - personal sharings, no pictures of people.

Create a characters for Al-Anon and stick with it so there is "brand recognition" crazy road

Put q-code in high school books

Stickers in bar bathrooms or back of cabs

Encourage liking on Facebook WSO has a Facebook page

Inform AA about Al-Anon, participate even more with Al-Anon

Teach all members/ GR's the difference between attraction and promotion.

Group 8

World Service Office is already thinking differently than 10 years ago with integrating more electronically.

Prioritize speaking to the gut/the middle of the circle.

How to share the feeling we get in meetings with the world?

Make newcomers feel welcome:

Welcome packet.

Let them know they don't have to speak.

No judgement.

How to approach and relax on the "Cross talk" ban with newcomers.

Equality in people and people's stories.

How do we use the program tools to make positive changes?

Person to person contact is important.

Thinking about why you kept coming back.

How does anonymity work with sharing that you're a member?

Fellowship Communication Drawing Forum Subscription

Groups drawn for *Forum* subscriptions:

District	Group Name	Group ID
4	Paths to Recovery	#11795
4	Women's Tuesday Night	#502013
4	Hope for Today AFG	#60810
4	Monday Brown Bag	#33362
5	Women's Writing & Discussion	#503105
7	Sunday Night AFG	#45557
7	Monday Morning AFG	#30644930

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10	Tuesday North Plains	#30528508
10	Serenidad En Accion	#30571543
13	Chrysalis AFG	#40790

District 4, Helen M., DR. We have completed two major outreach projects with the assistance of Area grants. They are the tablecloth you can see, and a banner to be used for public outreach, health fairs, etc.

We meet the first Saturday of every month at the hospital. Attendance is sporadic, hoping to get more GR's involved and coming to meetings. Hospital doesn't charge us, but we are self-supporting through a donation to the hospital.

We have 17 meetings and all GR positions have been filled except one.

We are planning a fundraiser called winter doldrums which will occur every year. The men's group came up with the idea and it was a blast last year. We will ask for donations when the District takes charge. The skit presented last year is the one you will see today.

My alternate is Loretta – she is also Alateen sponsor for Detention Center for juveniles in Salem, and has been doing that for over 16 years.

We are lucky to have Linda S. as our District Alateen coordinator as well as area. She has been responsible for District 4's success with her enthusiasm, love for her kids, and her ability to encourage Al-Anon members to become Alateen sponsors. Two men have recently joined, one will be working with Loretta at the detention center.

We are lucky to have a liaison with the Hispanic community who interprets when Spanish GRs come to our meetings. One of our goals is to encourage more involvement with the Spanish community. We also have a liaison with Willamette AA Intergroup. She goes to their monthly meetings, takes meeting lists, and District 4 participates with Soberfest, an AA event. Al-Anon has its own registration forms and receives funds from Soberfest. We are excited to have a bilingual speaker at Soberfest this year, Magdalena E. from Seattle, Washington.

Our goals for this panel are:
Keep supporting Alateen
Encourage more participation with Spanish groups
Have at least one workshop

Ask-It-Basket Questions: All Ask-It-Basket questions were answered by **Bunny G., Past Delegate Panel 38**, unless otherwise indicated.

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AIB #1: Is the registration/donation money voluntary? Oregon Area Handbook, Sec. IV-PG 13, “Group Operating Expenses: Rent, liability insurance (if not included in rent), literature, reimbursement for the Group Representative’s expenses in traveling to assemblies and district meetings including gas, motel, meals and **suggested \$10 donation** to each assembly.” It is up to each GR to decide if they want to personally make that contribution.

AIB #2: In my district we are experiencing many openings in our service department! We had someone step forward to be a GR at the urging of their group, without knowing what being a GR entailed. It’s become very apparent (since last year) that this GR is unable to attend group meetings, district meetings and assemblies. She says she is too busy. It’s also become apparent that she does not pass on any information from the DR to the group. What now? (The group urged her to stand because they are all dual members.) Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017, page 47 lists responsibilities of Group Representative. Al-Anon Guideline G-11 also lists duties of Group Representative. Oregon Area Handbook, Sec 1, PG 2, “Statement of Attendance.” While this describes attendance of Area Officers and Coordinators, it can also be used for Group Representatives.

AIB #3: What are outside entities? Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017, page 123. **Outside the Fellowship.** Al-Anon does not affiliate with other organizations; neither endorses nor opposes any other philosophies or spiritual programs. The Al-Anon/Alateen name, therefore, cannot properly be used to identify or publicize retreats or activities sponsored by others.Our experience suggests that confusion arises when such events are announced in Area newsletters, Al-Anon/Alateen local bulletins and at group meetings.”

AIB #4: We had a double winner in a group and wanted to be GR and was not aware of the policy of AA not be above group level. She was very resentful and asked whether any other 12-Step programs could hold office like N.A., O.E. Any suggestions? Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017, page 82 bottom of page, continuing to page 126. “This policy on service participation by members of Al-Anon who are also A.A. members protects Al-Anon’s viability as a program dedicated to helping the families and friends of alcoholics. It ensures that Al-Anon’s service structure represents the unique perspective of families and friends of alcoholics, recognizing that the alcoholic’s perspective is represented in A.A.’s service structure. Members honor this policy out of respect for Al-Anon unity and the group conscience process, in accordance with Tradition One and Tradition Two.” See also, page 150, bottom of page.

Closed with Al-Anon Declaration, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

Meeting opened at 8:30 with the Serenity Prayer, by Barbara S., Chair

District 4 was thanked for hosting Area Assembly and the dinner and skit presentation.

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Donelda H., District 6 read the Concepts of Service

Dawn K., Treasurer, District 4 made Announcements

District Representative Reports, Continued:

District 6 Dawn B., DR: This report is a result of a discussion at the March district meeting last Sunday. We want the Oregon Area to know that District 6 is a very welcoming district. If you move to our district, like one group representative from Indiana, you will be welcomed wholeheartedly. District 6 embraces the slogan, “Participation is the key to Harmony”, as demonstrated by hosting the February Area World Service Committee, the November 2015 Assembly, and the 2014 State Speaker Meeting.

Not only do we participate, but we are willing to talk about hard issues respectfully – we embrace conflict as a natural part of problem-solving. In February, we had a challenging discussion about dispersing funds – we practiced “principles above personalities” and came to a decision that we can all support.

District 6 participates with passion; we care a lot about our personal and collective recovery and about upholding Al-Anon three legacies of **Recovery** through the 12 Steps, **Unity** through the 12 Traditions and **Service** through the 12 Concepts of Service.

We want the Oregon Area to know that District 6 has monthly opportunities to co-operate with Alcoholics Anonymous. Monthly, the district and one group host a breakfast meeting that typically has both an Al-Anon and AA speaker. Through our local Al-Anon Information Service, we provide a speaker to an AA monthly speaker meeting.

Did you know that District 6 has its own local literature depot that is operated through our Al-Anon Information Service? Volunteers staff the office 11 – 1, Monday – Friday and by appointment. This awesome group of service ninjas got the Al-Anon public service announcement into 2 local theaters 1,400 times last November – January. District 6, AIS - carrying the message!

District 6, located in Lane County, concentrated in Eugene/Springfield has 28 active meetings; all of whom contributed to at least one service arm (District, AIS, Area, WSO) in 2015. As a district, we support more meetings than most of the districts in the Oregon Area. We have something for everyone including a newcomer and a men’s meeting.

District 6 will continue to flourish as we apply the principles of **unity** expressed in Tradition One. Closing with a quote from Paths to Recovery, page 138

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“So far, we have found that if each of us seeks our best personal understanding of unity, accepts our diverse backgrounds and keeps faith with ground rules established by the group conscience, the program works”.

District 3, Jan D., Acting DR: 11 Active meetings. Large, rural District with small meetings, and not a lot of interaction compared to the more urban districts where meetings are not as far apart/isolated. See District map in Area Handbook; The northern portion of District 3 runs E-W from the ID border to Arlington (currently no active meeting) and N-S from the WA border to the NV border. This part of the District includes Ontario, whose members choose to associate with the Boise District of ID, which is much closer for them for purposes of attending Area functions, and the Burns area, which currently has no active meetings.

At one of the two-three get togethers currently a tradition of several years in the District, there is an ongoing discussion regarding how to best serve the District at Area level as well as an effort to inventory meetings in the District to assure correct contact information and meeting times/days is provided to people looking for a meeting.

Currently several members are attending a District social function sponsored by the Cove AFG, where this discussion is being held.

District 16, Katie W., DR: We currently have 8 groups that meet faithfully in Albany, Corvallis and Lebanon. We are working on getting a meeting restarted in Sweet Home and hope to have the doors open by summer.

District 16 has seen a large influx of newcomers at all of our meetings since January. We have received numerous email inquiries through the state website and phone calls on our district voice mail. It is an exciting time in Linn and Benton Counties as people are either hearing about Al-Anon for the first time or acting on previous knowledge because the timing is right. In Albany alone we have seen over 25 newcomers in the last few months and at least 10 of those folks are continuing to attend meetings.

At the end of Panel 53 we had a number of GRs complete their term of service and in favor of rotation of leadership we are focusing on identifying new members who are willing to serve in Panel 56. We have one new GR from Lebanon representing a group that has never had a GR before! We also have a member who stepped forward to be our local public information liaison when WSO issues press releases for radio and television. In addition, we are 6 months in to sponsorship of a NE Portland billboard on Glisan Street with our state grant funds. Momentum is building in our rural district and we're thrilled to be making an impact in Portland as well. To top it all off, we are also hosting the June AWSC in Albany, and we look forward to serving Al-Anon in this way.

Good things are happening in District 16! If you happen down the I-5 corridor and enter our jurisdiction, come and attend a meeting with us. You are welcome!

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District 7, Michael B., DR: I. Acknowledgments:

Support of the District 7 Representative Support Committee Support of the District 7 GR's for their support of DR's service.

2. District 7 has 23 active groups.

3. District 7 currently has 10 GRs.

4. 5 GR's attending the March Assembly.

II. Financial Summary:

District 7 is solvent: Our wants are many, but are needs are few.

District 7 group's average donations for 2015:

a. Donations to the District: \$161.86(3722.79) b. Donations to the Area: \$90.41(2079.41) c.

Donations to the W.S.O.: 134.70(3098.07)

III. District 7 has adopted a district vision statement for this panel:

Honoring the past

Engaging the present

Supporting the future

Our vision statement helps us to focus activities in our district meetings.

IV. District 7 is copying (where possible) the Area in regards to the use of action committees in district meetings.

Public Outreach: professional mailings, health fairs, recovery center speakers.

Membership Outreach: new meetings, fundraisers, member communication systems.

Group Records

Fellowship Communication: S.O.L.D.- literature sales that are vital to our district financially and member's recovery.

Group/ Business Services Combined: treasurer and Alateen Coordinator.

AA liaison is making meaningful connections with our local AA district leadership.

District Thought Force: Reggie, membership outreach coordinator, is leading a thought force regarding the viability of linking our website to our Area website.

Alateen: we have 1 meeting in the district that is well attended

Donelda H., Communicator Editor, Communicator deadline is June 1st. Written report by District Representatives will be included in the next issue. Everyone is encouraged to send in articles on what service has done for you; how did you get into service, etc. Personal subscriptions are available. Email Donelda with your request.

Ask-It-Basket Questions Continued:

AIB #5: Please explain how AWSC is different from Assembly. Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017, page 65. **Area Assembly.** The Area Assembly is the business meeting where the groups send their representatives to express a voice and vote on behalf of the group. During an Assembly, the Delegate reports the activities of the World Service Conference. Page 66, **Area World Service Committee.** In between Assemblies, Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings are held, attended by the Assembly officers, all District Representatives and

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Al-Anon Information Service Liaisons, and the Area Coordinators of special services. At these meetings, the Assembly agenda is planned. Information and reports are conveyed and decisions may be made that cannot wait until the next Assembly.

Thought and Task Forces, Barbara S., Chair. Issues may be complex and need preparation in order to present to Assembly. Before bringing issues to Assembly, we use Thought and Task Forces. Thought Forces generate ideas. Task Forces generate the plan. Donna E. serves on 4 Task Forces on board. This discussion and work can add the spiritual principle into language. Works until project is done. Thought force uses KBDM. We ask what more information we need. All trustees are on task forces. Anybody can participate in Thought and Task Forces. Groups make decisions. A handout taken from the Kansas website on Thought Forces and Task Forces is available near the mailbox. There are still openings on the Audit Budget Committee and Flyer Committee. Information on these positions is on the reverse of the Thought Force and Task Force Guidelines.

Donelda H. had another suggestion for learning the difference between Assembly and AWSC. She issued an invitation to all member to come to AWSC meeting to see what goes on. You would have no voice or vote, but can always have voice through the links of service. The next AWSC Meeting will be in Albany in June.

Chris K., Rotating DR, District 1, Membership Outreach Action Committee, was asked to share her thoughts on Action Committee work. She described the process the Membership Outreach Action Committee went through to produce the flip books for new GRs from its initial conception to the final product, which took about three years. The first printing was so successful that a second, updated flip book was presented to new GRs at this Assembly. Projects don't happen overnight. Action Committees are not about skills or what you already know. It's learning how to use Traditions and Concepts to work together on projects.

Action Committee Reports:

Group Services, Kate K., Reporter, Kate R. Chair. Our work as a Committee centers around the use of the Links of Service-really use them to connect our members to our groups, then our groups to districts, then the districts to the Area and the Area to the WSO. Email addresses needed for each group so that members can access information to stay connected. This address is important so that the WSO can connect with us. (our groups)

Set up an Agenda for the July Assembly-move our groups into the Electronic Age by asking to silence cell phones and other electronic devices. How could we use electronic devices to unite us? CAL/notes/SKYPE.

Would these electronic devices help connect those who might not otherwise be able to connect? Questions texted to DR to put in Ask It Basket?

Our goal is to suggest a change to the Links of Service Bookmark – Update it. Start with the old Links of Service Bookmark that has chains on it. Look at the Service described on pages 62-69

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in Service Manual with an Inverted Triangle symbol. Two-sided bookmark with one side Links of Service, Electronic Access on the other side.

Webcams cost between \$5-\$75.

Begin to gather KBDM to move from a thought force to task force to a motion between now and July.

Questions generated included:

Anonymity Issues?

How could we promote electronic access? Restrict it?

Do we have to coordinate with website coordinator?

Do we need another officer to control back and forth? Coordinator?

Budget is \$500.

Do we need a special website?

What tools are available and how do they work?

App? Like the one in Louisiana-Baton Rouge?

How will this affect current links of service?

WSO approval needed?

Members of this committee will gather info on these questions by talking this up with our groups and putting this on our District Agenda. We will email Jan their info...jdenlinger40@gmail.com.

Symbol or brand to unite our Links of Service-ask the membership about this by Casting a Wide Net.

Alateen Challenge to submit a logo or brand or symbol of Links of Service-Linda or Joanne will promote with Alateen. Gallery of all submissions at July Assembly. Fund Raiser for all kids in OAC by participating. Assembly attendees will pay a quarter to vote on submitted logos. Most money wins!

Project is to update Links of Service Book Mark!

Fellowship Communication, Stone C., Reporter, Judy J., Chair. Coordinators on our committee: Forum Coordinator Lainey (excused) and Literature Coordinator Carolyn W.

Judy J. facilitated the meeting. She began by reviewing the purpose of the committee.

Our planned writing workshop was postponed because Lainey is out ill.

Our budget for 2016 is \$650. The last panel's action committee wanted to continue to give out literature. It was pre-planned to raffle off ten Forum subscriptions to AFGs at this Assembly.

Words to our theme song, "You are my Forum" (to the tune of "You are my Sunshine") were distributed.

Forum Cans are available for GRs to take home to their groups and can be passed out at the time of our report.

Forum is no longer available for free to groups but groups are encouraged to pay for a subscription. One district (sorry, didn't note which one) has purchased subscriptions for their AFGs.

Judy suggested we come up with a challenge for members to inspire and promote the use of and contribution to the Forum and other literature.

Challenge Ideas

How many subscriptions in a District?

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Have Forum or Literature writing workshops in a District?

Carolyn, the Literature Coordinator shared that many people are interested in what is online and how much those materials cost.

How to promote writing?

District writing workshops

Submissions on intimacy in relationships and on the ESH of parents and grandparents is being sought.

July Assembly - Writing Workshop (Forum and/or Lit)

Promote challenges or District activity with writing and literature in the Communicator, AIS Group Scoop, other AI-anon newsletters.

Ideas from previous panel:

Re-gift books you win to newcomers

Give away other literature

Give Alateen literature away

Sponsorship bookmark giveaway

Ideas from this Panel:

Every Assembly, have someone give a book report on a piece of literature and make sure the LDC or AIS offers copies of that book for sale at Assembly.

Chair meetings around specific books (possible challenge for groups)

Brainstorm other ideas about chairing meetings around literature

Book Study meetings

Distribute list of electronic books and audiobooks available through links of service

Circulate list of books (possibly on a bookmark or other simple format) to encourage people to fill in their collections, check off as their reading list, etc)

This Year's Challenge:

Every District is challenged to host a Writing Workshop. If a District has recently held a writing workshop, you can tell us about what you did and either submit writing from that workshop to the WSO or report about the number of submissions. Lainey (Forum Coordinator) and/or Carolyn W. (Literature Coordinator) are available to lead those workshops.

Prizes: We discussed giving Forum subscriptions as prizes, raffling literature or Forum subscriptions among Districts who complete the challenge or giving a piece of literature to every District that participates. No decision was made.

Other Action Items:

We will request time at the July Assembly to have a writing workshop with the whole group.

Membership Outreach, Jim N., Reporter, Donelda H., Chair. 22 members. All members were extended a warm welcome by Judy L.

Past Membership Info

Info booklets for members to know what they're doing.

2nd printing greatly improved and useful. Cost \$625 for more than 500 copies.

Communicator, 10 years to develop/no names (website)

Next 3 Years

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Guideline in Communicator
Website improvement
More people in service
State Speaker Meeting promotion
Translate Communicator in Spanish
Our present meeting ideas
We need to promote service
Website for districts who want one
Speaker meeting promotion
Learning our members' concerns
District Conscience
Info about people who attend few meetings only
Survey members in service
Advantages of beginners' meetings
The attraction of service
Education on service
More fellowship events to meet others
Proposals for Communicator pictures
Group Discussions
More email to send Communicator
Complicated to find info on website. Needs to be simpler.
Promote Communicator in home group.
Invite people personally to go to Assemblies
"Wise folks with new folks"
"Recovery is getting into service"
"What service is like to you" articles to send to Communicator.

Business Services Action Committee, Barb B., Reporter and Chair. We began the meeting with introductions and passed around signup sheet.

Dawn K Oregon Area Treasurer brought up a topic that is a carryover from the last panel - currently there is a cap of \$150.00 to cover expenses (meals, lodging) for assembly attendees reimbursed by Oregon Area (officers, coordinators, past delegates, etc.), this can be limiting to some, a barrier to service – for example it's often not possible for men to have roommates to help offset hotel costs, or members who might need special accommodations.

Dawn looked at records back to 2007, and found that attendees went over the expense cap 17% of the time. The question is what to do about this – several ideas were tossed around.

Have a place on the reimbursement form as to why they went over, this will then be reviewed by the Audit Budget Committee on a case by case basis and Audit Budget will decide whether the extra expenses will be ok'd.

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Do we do this on a trial basis? If so how long should the trial be, is one year enough?

How do we word the trial so as not to make people feel defensive, singled out? Will this discourage people to serve at group level?

How do we educate members to try to be prudent with area finances? How do we educate all members in a positive way?

We want to keep hotel and meal costs down so we make use of our funds in other ways.

Where and how do we budget for the possible extra expense for the special circumstances?

It was decided that Dawn K. will do a bit more research and bring some more details on this to discuss at the next AWSC, using KBDM (why, how, who, what).

The other task for the Business Services Committee is to review and update Section 6 of the Oregon Area Handbook (OAH). We have discussed that we can do this through Google docs, where committee members can review the document and make suggestions, and one person will make the suggested updates.

Business Services still does not have a chair person. We will do this at the next AWSC when we have all of the Audit Budget committee members present.

Public Outreach Action Committee, Amy D., Reporter, Tama S., Chair. Area has \$4,000 for Public Outreach Grants Funds will be dispersed using the grant process for public outreach at the district level. Area level outreach seemed to leave too many out. We decide to support grass roots efforts through grants. We would like to have three committee members for grant review; 2 members are already interested. Feedback from after project completion must be completed by 5/1/16 to be eligible for funds this year.

Each committee member was given at least 10 *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* magazines to ask group members to distribute to professionals and public spaces (doctors, hair salon/barbers, nail salons, court house, police, DHS, counselors, grocery stores, etc.) Be mindful to ask permission. Make a note of where material was delivered. Return in a few weeks to see if more literature is desired at that space. Get e-mail or contact information and start a spread sheet. Report back at July Assembly. Follow up with contacts.

Ideas:

Public restroom stall doors, apartment building lobbies, legal community – judges, attorneys, having an AA liaison, leave meeting lists along with literature or magazine.

Reaching professional community, health professionals, teachers and counselors, at a larger level during staff trainings from a state level. Committee members will research contacts for schools and health professionals at the state level.

There is a Guideline G1 for members interested in speaking.

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Alateen: Deliver Alateen literature as well as Al-Anon literature. Work with schools to provide activities after school separate from school. Contact district office. Speaker activities at schools. Media – utilize social media. Alateen in conjunction with AA meetings. Pizza meet and chat.

Scott R., CPC Coordinator, spoke about the Grant Process and getting grant applications out. He will email to district representatives. The deadline for submission is May 1st. There will be a review committee. If all districts apply for a grant, the amount distributed would be \$287 to each district. All districts may not apply, so amounts could be higher. Districts must show how much they will contribute to the project. A feedback form must be completed after completion of the project to show how the grant monies were used. There was discussion about the feasibility about putting the Grant Application Form on the website.

Regis P., Website Coordinator, gave information about the possibilities for using the website for the grant process. If there is a Members Only Site, it would be possible to have:
The entire grant process explained, with deadlines listed.
Examples of past grants for ideas
Examples of past successes and results from grants
Submission blank form and address to mail to.
She noted that the Grant Process is not currently in the Oregon Area Handbook.

After more discussion, a **Motion** was made: **Have Scott email the Grant Application Form to all District Representatives. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.**

State Speakers' Meeting: The Assembly was treated to a song by fairies from the State Speakers' Committee. There will be meetings, panels, speakers, workshops, crafts, skits, talent show and lots of fun. Please come. Flyers are available online with registration form on the back.

Chair, Barbara S., entertained bids to host the 2017 March Assembly. Kathy from District 1, North Oregon Coast, stepped up to volunteer that district. It was the only bid and was accepted unanimously.

2017 State Speakers' Meeting. The floor was opened for bids. No bids received. Bunny G., Past Delegate Panel 38, started a discussion about whether or not the membership really wants to continue having a SSM (convention). Donelda H., Communicator Editor suggested we need to ask the question sooner in the year so districts have more time to consider bidding. The State Speakers' Meeting is a chance to have more fun together. It was noted that it was offered at the November Assembly and no one bid at that time. Cindy E., Delegate, said a survey had been taken that was not well participated in. Helen M., District 4, spoke in favor or not having State Speakers' Meeting. Dawn B., District 6, asked if there is a deadline? Barbara S., Chair, said there is a clearly laid out calendar for SSM in Oregon Area Handbook. Linda C., District 13 Alternate DR, suggested 2 Assemblies and 1 Convention each year. Beth, District 9, suggested there could be a year off from SSM when a new panel comes in. Ruby W., District 14, pointed out Sec VI - Page 13 in the Oregon Area Handbook, "We believe the SSM provides an excellent

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opportunity for spiritual and service-oriented growth. For those who are already dedicate to Al-Anon service work, the SSM is a weekend of renewal. No Assembly business meetings are held, so members have a chance to revitalize and strengthen friendships as well as learn more about the program and themselves.” Roberta, District 7, said she loves the SSM even if it is out-of-pocket. Jody P., District 17, spoke as past archivist, saying there has always been a question about whether to hold the SSM or not. Kerry, District 10, thought we might look at having an SSM the second year of each panel. The issue will be discussed at the June AWSC meeting.

Ask-It-Basket Questions:

AIB #6: Our group has a literature/Forum can. People put money in with their name. When there is enough for a Forum subscription, they draw a name. The then give the person the money. They can choose a Forum subscription, apply it to literature or just take the cash. Is this okay? There is nothing in the Service Manual or the Oregon Area Handbook. We give *Forum* or literature options. No money is offered. It is left to group autonomy. They could give a subscription to a newcomer or add \$1 and buy two *Al-Anon How It Works* for newcomers. These drawings are to encourage use of the Forum and Al-Anon literature.

AIB #7: How do you know who everyone is? At one time there were copies of the AWSC Roster available at Assembly. This can be discussed at AWSC. **Note: Added by Area Secretary** – In the February 2016 edition of *The Communicator*, Page 8, “Who is Who in Oregon Area – Officers, Coordinators and Past Delegates,” is a complete list with positions, names and email addresses.

Chair, Barbara S., addressed the issue of material being used other than Conference Approved Literature at meetings as the result of someone referencing a book that was not CAL. In the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017, page 104, “To keep Al-Anon’s message in focus and encourage unity, only Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and Al-Anon/Alateen service tools are displayed, distributed, and used at Al-Anon and Alateen meetings, including meetings at conferences and conventions.” In explaining this principle, the Chair made a comment about “Hindu Sanskrit crap,” for which she later made amends.

AIB #8: Is Hindu Sanskrit crap Al-Anon speak? Just wondering. P.S. Made me not want to be here. Will that be in the minutes? Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017, page 24, Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon, Item 1 – Discussion of Religion: “Let us not defeat our purpose by entering into discussions concerning specific religious belief.”

Raffle drawings for the benefit of State Speaker Meeting were held.

Group Representatives were invited to share experience and/or impression of this Assembly weekend.

Jodie, District 17, Mt Pleasant, said she had fun and will take the enthusiasm back.
Rita, District 17, Paths to Recovery, also had fun and is more excited about service.

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Tammy, District 17, How It Works, Thank you for kindness and information.

Joann, District 5, Appreciated the experience of working with other groups, dealing with conflict without fear and seeing how work gets done so well.

Jan, District 17, Stepping Up, Anyone who is not a GR is missing a great opportunity. She admires all those in service. She would like to have a discussion on the website and how to use the Communicator.

Claudia, District 17, Set Free. The first Assembly she attended, she went as volunteer. She had a question and someone she thought was important answered questions. Excited to be part of it.

Lori, District 17, Serenity Trails. She could never have gotten up before group to speak before Al-Anon, but is having no trouble now. It is interesting to see how the process works. She has no panic, had time with her Higher Power, and is feeling grateful.

Patty, District 5, Is impressed with the commitment to keeping Al-Anon going. This would not happen without that commitment. We come together to celebrate ourselves. She has only been to one other assembly. Each assembly is a blank slate. A first assembly might feel like a free for all. This Assembly didn't feel like that. Action Committees value all opinions. It is an opportunity to learn from each other. The only feedback she would have is that long timers should practice what we want done by introducing themselves when they speak.

Carrie, District 10, said she feels love, gifts and gratitudes. She is grateful to be here. She didn't read Service Manual but will. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and feel part of something bigger. Excited to bring back information to group. Her group is lacking information and excitement. She will now be able to bring that.

Jody, Group Representative, Fun weekend, getting to know others. Sharing enthusiasm.

Kathy K, District 10 GR. Appreciates the attention given to speakers, the respect. Participation is key to harmony. Value in minority opinion. Only stupid question is the one not asked. Decision is richer with input from all. It is an opportunity to practice the Concepts, which is not emphasized in groups. Enjoyed the breakout from Donna's presentation. There is a possible misconception of AA groups. There could be improved Interactions between AA and Al-Anon.

Billy, District 9, St Helens Monday Night Live, loves Assembly. It's filled with Information and fun.

Jim, District 14, This is his second lifetime. He had real concerns about coming because of his inability to remember names. He asked his Higher Power what he should do and was told, "Do not worry. You will have a wonderful time." And, that's what he did and he did have a wonderful time.

Beth, District 4, She had taken a break from Areas service for 6 years. It feels like she's back at home.

Cindy, Oregon Area Delegate, Thanked Donna for coming.

Upcoming Events:

State Speakers' Meeting, Milwaukie, District 17 – May 13, 14, and 15

AWSC, Albany – June 16th

Area Assembly, Milwaukie – District 10, July 16 and 17

11:45 a.m. Closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lynn Jacob
Oregon Area Secretary, Panel 56

Motions Passed at March 2016 Area Assembly

Motion: Have Scott (R., CPC Coordinator) email Grant Application Forms to District Representatives. Motion carried unanimously. One-time motion.

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES

Ask-It-Basket Questions remaining in the basket and not answered at the close of Assembly:

1. Does the chair have voice? (Doesn't need to be announced) Just a reminder.

Answered by Barbara S., Area Chair: As the current Area Chairperson, I checked the Oregon Area Handbook and found that it says the chair voices no opinion. I didn't find any details in the Service Manual about the Chair's duties nor any WSO produced Guidelines so I posted the question on **AFG Connects Area Chairs** asking does the Chair have voice in your Area?

It resulted in 5 Comments from Chairs serving in other Areas. One said that she has voice **and** vote; one that they closely follow Roberts Rules of Order. The other Chairpersons said they were careful to be impartial and not express opinions, kept to the Agenda and were i courteous. The majority response would seem to be the goal for the Oregon Area Chairperson.

2. Are Assemblies different than meetings as far as CAL is concerned? What about our TED talk yesterday?

Answered by Donna E., Northwest Regional Trustee: While assemblies are a different type of Al-Anon meeting, the use of CAL (conference approved literature) is still recommended.

There is not a process in place, nor will there ever be, for the Conference to have to approve PowerPoint presentations. As trusted servants, members are free to create presentations in whatever format they choose. From Bill W's essay on leadership, "Good leadership knows that a fine plan or idea can come from anyone, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership often discards its own cherished plans for

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those that are better, giving credit to the source", pg. 200, first paragraph, 2014-2017 Service Manual.

3. **Will the notes from our breakout session on Al-Anon “passion” be distributed to the districts? Answered by Mary Lynn J., Area Secretary:** Any reports that are given to me or emailed to me will be included in the minutes or in an addendum to the minutes. They can also be published in The Communicator, if supplied to the editor.

4. **How do we protect the privacy and anonymity of members when documents require e-mail addresses and phone numbers? For example – flyers to be posted on website. Answered by Regis P., Website Coordinator.** This is a very good question, which goes to the very heart of “Tradition 12, Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.” The G-40 Guideline for Al-Anon Web Sites states:

*The Eleventh Tradition states that members should “...always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV.” The Internet is considered a form of media, just as TV, radio, and films are, and members should not be identified by full name or pictured on the Web....Never **post full names and/or addresses**. Be sure you have permission, from a member before posting a contact phone number, first name, or personal sharings. (emphasis given)*

At the present time we do not meet this standard. The flyer committee is quite effective at protecting anonymity while giving contact information, but some of our other documents are not so well scrubbed. Every set of minutes that contain the full name and address of the treasurer at the bottom of the treasurer’s report is in violation. Just a few months ago, a lady wrote the webmaster to request a file from seven years ago be removed from our site because her email address containing her full name came up on search engines. Members of Al-Anon often need the very information that should be protected from the public. Group Treasurers/Reps need this information to mail their group’s donations.

So how we protect the privacy and anonymity of members? Either we edit every document on the entire website to black out names, addresses, and email addresses which contain full names, or we create a password protected area for the service documents.