

Oregon Area Assembly

Umpqua Community College/ Whipple Fine Arts Center

1140 Umpqua College Rd, Roseburg, Oregon 97470

November 15, 16, 2014

DRAFT, Final2

The meeting was opened at 8:30am, by Chair Rita B. with the Serenity Prayer.

The Steps were read by Dawn K., and the Traditions by Donelda H.

Welcome, Microphone and Voting Statements given by Rita B.

Roll call, and introduction of newcomers and visitors done by Secretary Val V.

Excused absences: Jan D. DR, District #3, Barb B., Audit/Budget Committee, Mary W., Communicator Coordinator, and Welcome to John O., new DR District #12.

Minutes of July 2014 Assembly approved after corrections made, with motion, second, and vote.

Housekeeping information given by Host Linda C., DR District #13

'Forum Moments' introduced by Bunny G., Past Delegate. This year our Action Committee decided to participate in celebrating 60 years of The Forum. Members will be reading an article taken from one issue from each decade throughout the weekend, and on Sunday we will pass out a pamphlet with all the sharings as a gift to you from us. We also will have a table this afternoon with treats where you can take a "Bite" out of the forums. We also have several binders of old Forums to give away during our literature give away.

It is always interesting to read the yearly Forum Report. You can read it in the 2014 World Service Conference summary, on page 31, found on the member's web site. The Forum is currently Al-Anon's most effective means of communicating with members and groups

The bad news is that The Forum only reaches about 12 percent of the fellowship.

The Forum was first published in 1954. For the last 60 years the Tag line has been “A meeting in your pocket”. We have been asked to think of The Forum with the following new Tag Line “Sharing Recovery, Unity and Service”, and that is the essence of what it means to be an Al-Anon member who is fully engaged in the program and participates in Al-Anon Service. It is important to take the Forum out of our pockets and make it part of our Al-Anon meetings.

Bunny read a selection from 1954-1963.

Other readers to be heard during the assembly:

- Kathi R., District #1, 1964-1973
- Tina A., District #5, 1974-1983
- Steve O., District #5 1984-1993
- Paul V., District #17 1994-2003
- Jaime J., District #16 2004-2014

All new GR's left the room for a brief orientation with Alternate Delegate, Barb. S.

Treasurer's report was presented by Area Treasurer, Sue B.

Delegate's report was given by Delegate Colleen G. Some topics discussed were:

- Financial update for WSO: Group contributions are welcomed. Every Group in the Oregon area is encouraged to contribute before Dec 31, 2014, to move Oregon Area to No 1 in contributions to WSO for this year.
- Current writings are needed for a new daily reader, showing members current reactions in current conditions. The new daily reader will reflect the stresses and problems faced by members as our world changes.
- “Questions from WSO”: regarding the handbook (see page 131 in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual). Is there anything in the Handbook that you believe needs further clarification or explanation? Any suggestions from members to given to DR's, and to be back to Colleen by Thanksgiving.

- Home groups: Colleen shared responses from Al-Anon members regarding their feelings about "Home Groups".
- Next Al-Anon International Conference, 2018, Baltimore, MD,
- Review of letter from Chairman of the Board, regarding events of last conference, and looking towards the future.

See attached full reports for details of Colleen's report.

Report of the results of a contest between districts in Oregon Area, to see which district could use the most CAL literature in meetings in 90 days, presented by Bunny G., District #11. Results:

- District #14 had all meetings participating.
- District #3 used a total of 46 pieces of literature.
- District #4 used a total of 52 pieces of literature.
- District #17 used a total of 73 pieces of literature
- District #7 used a total of 82 pieces of literature.

District #7 as winner received the prize of \$100.00 worth of literature for their groups. As Runner-Up District #17 received the prize of \$50.00 worth of literature for their groups.

Bid's requested for hosting the Assembly for November 2015 in Portland Metro Area. More discussion needed, vote delayed until tomorrow.

Bid received for hosting the SSM for 2016, with a skit from Barbara L., DR District #17, and Caralynn W. Approved by vote of the assembly.

Barbara L., DR District #17 reported on a fundraiser held in her district with the proceeds to be presented to District #6, hosts of the SSM for 2015. Steve O. accepted a check for \$1,315.91.

Hispanic Committee report was given by Barbara L., DR, District #17. There are 14 registered Spanish language meetings in Area 47; four of these are additional meeting times for two meetings. Six Districts have at least one Spanish language meeting registered. There are 17 Districts in Area 47.

The information provided by the Spanish language members indicates that other than the main issue of the language barrier, many members may feel fear. Participation at all levels of Al-Anon may involve fear. This is true of all Al-Anon members, not just Spanish language groups.

Spanish language meetings are reported to be healthy meetings by the District Reps contacted. There are groups who do participate at District Meetings and groups who do not. Some groups make contributions to the Links of Service, some do not.

It is suggested that the Districts that do have Spanish language meetings attempt to come together over this common issue and perhaps offer each other the experience, strength and hope we all look for in healthy Groups, Districts and all our Service Arms. Districts can encourage their Spanish language members to come to District events...bring a friend. The Al-Anon love will be there for all. Spanish language meetings could be encouraged to discuss with each other via email, phone or other method. Districts with the Spanish language groups could commit to keeping in touch and sharing news of the meeting. There could be an invitation to Spanish language groups to have their members share in the *Communicator*.

When more Districts become fortunate enough to have Spanish language Al-Anon groups, there may be a more definitive action to take. That would certainly seem to be a time to re-visit Area wide involvement.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

Barbara L., Chair, Spanish Language Committee

Report on SSM, in Bend, on May 29, 30, 2015 given by Pam M., DR District #5. Raffle tickets for sale for donated baskets here at the assembly, also items for sale here at assembly, including a 2015 calendar created by the committee.

District Public Outreach Reports

- **District #17:** Barbara L., DR. The district has made their project including the “Twisted Road Sign” logo available on the Oregonian website oregonlive.com. A report from the site shows 853 clicks on the site, a Click-Through-Rate (CTR) of 1.85% which is very good. Also, on the WSO website there is a booklet with graphics; [The Best of Public Outreach Online](#) that includes the basic WSO approved items.
- **District #10-**Joanne C., DR, working on getting information about Alateen to Middle, Jr. High, and High Schools in the district by distributing a packet they created containing a Letter of Explanation, selected literature, and a New Comer packet, to 100 different schools. They plan to continue distributing packets to the private and charter schools in the district.
- **District #7:** Tamma reports that the district put an ad in several free newspapers in the district, using the “Twisted Road Sign” logo, (in color) that will appear in December with the possibility of being viewed 90,000 + times. The cost was \$500.00 for 1/16th of a page.
- **District #14:** Ruby W., reports groups in the district have attended Health Fairs at Native American “Pow Wows”, and military “Stand Down’s “in her area, where they have had free literature available to anyone interested.

Drawing was done for a past delegate to go to Sioux Falls SD for the North West Regional Delegates meeting next year. Winner: Bunny G. Past Delegate, Panel #38

Communicator report given by Caralynn W. for Mary W., Communicator Editor
Background: The costs and work to mail a hard copy of the Communicator have increased dramatically over the past 5 years. In order to ease the financial and work burden a trial of electronic distribution for 2014 was agreed upon at the October 2013 AWSC Meeting. The Communicator was sent out electronically and hard copies were available at each AWSC Meeting. To assess how well the trial was going at the March Assembly, the DR’s were given questions to have GR’s talk about with their groups. The results of this poll:

- 75% knew about the Communicator

- 50% found it useful
- 99% almost everyone agreed that it should be delivered electronically either by the Website or by email

Based on these results we are proposing the following motion regarding making changes for the distribution of the Communicator:

Motion #1: We move that the Communicator be made available electronically at no charge, and by subscription via US Mail at current cost.

Seconded, discussion, motion failed.

Motion # 2: We move that the Communicator be available electronically at no charge, and by subscription via US Mail at prevailing cost. And each DR will receive a hard copy at AWSC. We will do another poll of GRs using previous poll, one year from now in Nov 2015 assembly. Seconded, and passed.

A minority opinion was expressed regarding the Communicator motion. "Maybe the committee should talk about sending it free to anyone who does not have the Internet".

District Fundraiser Reports

- **District #17**- Barbara L., DR. The district held a raffle on a homemade quilt made by a member of the district, using scraps of fabric she had received from Bea J., Past Delegate, Panel #32. She embroidered Al-Anon slogans and words onto the quilt and she created a container to hold raffle tickets. She took the quilt to meetings and sold tickets to benefit WSO. The last chance to buy tickets was at our District #17 Pancake Breakfast...and the winning ticket pulled from the jar. It was great that the winner was a District #17 GR, Bill W., and now I hear that it is being raffled again at the Set Free AFG Birthday Celebration. This raffle will again be for WSO! This will make great fundraising use of the quilt. Thank you to Judy J. for making the quilt and to all those people who purchased tickets to win. District #17 sent a check for \$322.00 to WSO from this fun fundraiser.
- **District #4**-Dawn K., DR. Marion & Polk Counties (Salem Area) voted to split the proceeds from our fundraiser 50/50 (raffle) with WSO and the District.

The planning committee decided that we were going to have a summer picnic with food, games, and a raffle. We had good attendance for our area with 30-40 people showing up. There was plenty of food of, course, and lots of laughter- especially when the men dressed up as women and the women dressed up as men! We took in \$264.00 in donations, and after expenses we sent \$110.00 to WSO. We learned how much work even a simple event is to put on.

- **District #10:** Joanne C., DR, reported on the “Pennies for Penny”, project that gathered \$1000.00+ worth of pennies that were given to Trustee Penny to take back to WSO.

Lunch (Bunny G. is the Al-Anon speaker at the Luncheon.) An additional ½ hour was allotted for lunch.

Meeting opened at 1:30pm with Serenity Prayer by Chair Rita B.

Coordinator Positions: There are three coordinator positions currently vacant. Any Al-Anon member may stand for the positions. See Section 2 of the Oregon Al-Anon Handbook.

- Public Information
- Cooperating with the Professional Community
- Forum

Each person that stood for a position spoke to the assembly about their qualifications, and plans for performing the duties of the job.

- Kathy S., from District #17 stood for the Public Information position, and was approved.
- Irene M., from District #13 stood for Cooperating with the Professional Community, and was approved.
- Two candidates, Radiant G., from District #6, and Mary Lynn J., from District #17 stood for the Forum position. Mary Lynn J. was approved.

Proposed Budget was presented and reviewed by Dawn K., Audit/Budget Committee. Explanations were given for each line item, and responses given to any

suggestions or questions. Any changes were made in real time and the budget was approved as amended.

Sunday

Meeting open at 8:00 am by Chair, Rita B. with Serenity Prayer.

Alateen report was given by Carolyn H., Alateen Coordinator. At the recent Oregon Alateen Conference held in Portland, a total of 55 Alateens, and 20 adults attended. Some of the weekend events included all day meetings, a fundraiser, and a potato bar.

Bid received and approved for the November 2015 Assembly from District 6, Eugene area.

Business Services Action Committee challenged all districts to hold fundraisers in the next year, and send proceeds to WSO.

Report of plans for the March 21, 22, 2015 Assembly to be held in Medford was given by Marvalee M., DR District #7. Meeting will be at the Smullin Health Education Center, 2825 E Barnett Rd, Medford, OR 97504. Rooms are available at the Springhill Suites. See flyer on the website for more details.

SSM Committee presented a skit for the upcoming SSM meeting in Bend for May 29, 30, 2015.

Review of the role of SSM fundraiser for area was presented by Donelda H. An inventory is available for all groups to fill out, and can also be accessed online at the area website.

Alateen: Suggestions for preparing Alateens to move up to Al-Anon given by Caralynn W.: It might be good for individual Al-Anon groups to invite Alateens to their Al-Anon meeting. This could be an invitation to the whole group, or any one of the teens who is interested. Also, possibly invite an Alateen to speak and/or lead the Al-Anon meeting once a year. We might want to be more active in involving Alateen in Al-Anon so that the teen's transition will be less uncomfortable.

Caralynn W.

Breakout for Action Committee Meetings, introduced by Judy J.

Action Committee Reports

Notes from Fellowship and Communications Group

1. Participation in CAL Contest

Tallied by District: Out of 223 Groups in 17 Districts, only 37 participated (i.e., turned in their results.)

Reasons:

- The Deadline was after AWSC meeting, so there was confusion in timing of turning in results.
- People who did participate were stunned at how much literature there is.
- Some groups didn't know about the contest due to turnover in leadership.
- Do it again? Absolutely, with better timing.

For consideration of results, people can do that now to document results by notifying Linda in Dist. 13.

2. Budget - \$650.

Literature give-away change

At AWSC 1 forum subscription and 1 book

At Assembly 4 books in 3 drawings include Alateen Book and Conflict Resolution Kit

3. Forum Subscriptions down

- a. Group subscriptions are free
- b. Consider having groups buy more to give away to newcomers
- c. Challenge your group to write submissions for new books, or forums. Sometimes the forum will send a request for certain types of articles like grandparents, etc.
- d. Forum cans to collect change at meetings and use funds to buy a subscription to give to a member of the group.

- e. At meeting's take the last 15 minutes and have people write what they shared about to submit to forum. Give away extra forum for Group subscriptions using different color tickets. You get extra ticket for every share you turn in.
 - f. Article for Communicator that says what our giveaways will be for Assembly
4. Ideas
 - a. Switch Your Book, Stretch Your Mind campaign.
 - b. Book Reviews
 - c. Paul will do flyer – send your ideas to him for campaign
 5. Electronic Books
 - a. Where they are. Where they are available
 - b. March District 6 is doing a workshop on this
 - i. Post on website – Radiant
 - ii. Put in communicator – radiant
 - c. How Al-Anon Works, Having had a spiritual awakening, Forum

Paul V.

Group Services Action Committee Report

The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by introductions. The roster/attendance list was passed and participants asked to review for accuracy. The Purpose of the Group Services committee was read.

Comment forms re: Role and value of suggested changes to action committees were distributed.

Minutes from July meeting were approved as amended.

Discussion of mailing a packet to all groups again in March 2015, as the last mailing was well received and appreciated and helped increase support for OAC. The packets are to include:

- Introductory Letter
- Alateen Bookmark
- OAC flyer and envelope

- SSM flyer
- Links of Service bookmark
- Birthday envelope

Cathy S., Carolyn and Dawn will draft the Introductory Letter.

A Challenge for the DR's will be issued during this assembly, with a "Fabulous Gift" as a prize. DR's will be given a list of CMA's in their districts to review, to ensure that groups are active, each groups CMA is accurate, and if all groups are included in their district. All DR's who return their lists by January 31, 2015 will be entered into a drawing conducted at the February 2015 AWSC Meeting. (Martha will put together a gift basket and \$20.00 will be allocated from the Group Services budget for the gift basket.)

Items identified for future discussion:

- Storing archives on Cloud vs. portable flash drives.
- Promoting Beginners meeting in Districts and how to start a Beginners meeting.
- Obtaining Group histories from all groups.

Possibility of having a scanning party on a Saturday evening at future assemblies was discussed. Dawn announced that Carolyn will be chair for 2015. We spent the next 30 minutes reviewing and scanning documents. What we learned from this process:

- Preparing documents for scanning
- Scanning all relevant documents into a single file
- Possible change of scanner and program (Image Now), Cathy will price it for us
- Process of creating a system is complex due to types of documents
- Consideration of having process done professionally vs. buying equipment and programs that would make the process more efficient in the future.

Submitted by, Kathy M.

Business Services Action Committee Minutes

November 2014 Assembly, Roseburg OR

Tent card design was finalized! YEAH!! Minimal tweaks will be required and will be done through email. We discussed the printing costs and decided what we wanted for materials. We will be under the budget we requested. Tent cards will be delivered to the groups through their District Reps at the March Assembly.

We continued our review and edit of Section of the Oregon Area Handbook on area events.

We discussed projects for next year. Projects may include: educating special event committees about what financial records they are expected to provide to the Area for audit and publication. This may take the form of a skit and/or Handbook additions.

We also discussed clarifying the Oregon map on the Area web site to help members find a meeting. This will be referred to Membership Outreach as they are already working on this. Respectfully submitted, Dawn K, Recorder

Public Outreach Action Committee, November 2014 Assembly

The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Money distributed for 2014

Seven groups received money in 2014. Four reports were given at this assembly, and three reports were given in the March assembly. Proposal subcommittee: Ruby, John, Barbara, Kathy, and alternate Tama.

| | |
|--|----------|
| District #3—Forum Subscriptions & Professionals | \$229.65 |
| District #5—advertisements in local papers | \$128.00 |
| District #7—advertisements in local papers | \$406.00 |
| District #10—Alateen newcomer packets to schools | \$125.14 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| District #14—literature to Pow Wow for tribes | \$408.05 |
| District #16—literature rack at drop point areas | \$487.75 |
| District #17—“Twisted Road Sign” bookmarks, on line ads <u>Oregonian Live</u> , and more! | \$1000.00 |

The following forms were developed so district information will be consistent:

- “Request for outreach projects”
- “Public outreach project reports”

Districts MUST send in progress reports for current year funds before they can request funds for the following year. Districts did not get money in 2014 if they did not turn in a report for 2013.

Deadline for reports for 2014 due to the committee is March 1, 2015.

Deadline for proposals for grant money for 2015 is May 1, 2015.

Subcommittee will review proposals and checks will be sent to districts by July 2015 Assembly.

Grant Money Process:

1. Proposal submitted and approved
2. District receives money
3. District submits report and receipts

Subcommittee will acknowledge receipt of proposals when received, so district knows status of process.

Kathy was elected Chair Person for Public Outreach committee. Kathy gave an overview of her vision for Public Outreach as the new Area Public Information Coordinator. Kathy will work with DR’s and would like to see every district have an outreach coordinator and committee.

WSO released a new Public Outreach Handbook. DR's and district public coordinators need copies.

Recorder, Barbara A., District #13

Membership and Outreach Action Committee Minutes

2014 November Assembly

Best Practices for Retaining Members

- new laminated cards and non-laminated copies to take to groups given to District Representatives
- Carolyn will email the document to the AWSC members
- The document will be available on the website soon under "documents"
- The document will be available in Spanish on the website soon under "documents"
- Suggested ways for using this material at meetings:
 - use as part of a group inventory
 - use as meeting topic
 - use as business meeting topic

Flip Charts

- are being used now
- will be updated next year

AA International, Atlanta July 2015

- There is Al-Anon involvement
- Tent cards are available to promote this event
- Application is on the AA website

Communicator

- we will be doing a new poll in 2016 to determine how the electronic version is working
- the new poll will be talked about at the July Assembly and will be available at the November Assembly for launching in January of 2016

State Speakers Meeting

- talked about possibly changing the name of this event
- "why would I want to go to a State Speakers Meeting?"

- Challenge from District 5 to the groups: Share what is wonderful about SSM in your group, ask other members to speak about this too
- promotional materials will be available at the March Assembly
 - seed packets with information on back
 - Donelda will add another question to the SSM questionnaire: What's your favorite memory of SSM? This will be compiled along with "what I liked about SSM" into a flyer for our groups
 - SSM flyers will be available
 - There may be a skit at the next March Assembly (!)

Website

- ongoing conversation about making part of the website password protected.
 - do we need it?
 - if so, what do we want protected?
 - WSO website has this already
 - Rick will contact Pat Q. at WSO for more clarity
 - Each member will bring thoughts and suggestions to the next AWSC meeting in February

Respectfully submitted by Kathy K., District 10, Alternate GR Love, Gifts and Gratitude AFG.

Raffle held and baskets awarded to winners.

Assembly adjourned by Rita B., with Al-Anon Declaration at 12:00pm.

Ask-It Basket Questions

ASB # 1 "What does delegates travel budget cover". **Answer:** Every year before the annual Conference that each delegate attends, the WSO sends each area a statement with the amount of money needed for each delegate to attend the conference, frequently with one additional day calculated in case of emergency. Our area pays that entire amount. The budget allows for other funds for delegate

expenses in our area, such as visiting each district, mailings, and the NWRD meeting. (See pages 145-146, and 152-153 in the Manual.)

ASB # 2 “Why do some repeat ‘principles above personality’ out loud when traditions were read.” **Answer:** I don't know the answer to that, I think it is a custom that started and spread throughout the fellowship.

ASB # 3 “About Anonymity: During brief announcements at a group meeting, I reported about our successful AIS fundraiser. I mentioned how one speaker inspired in me a spiritual awakening concerning Steps 4 and 5. Later, independently, the question of anonymity came up. A member pointed out that, in my sharing, I had reported on a speakers sharing. As liaison between the group and the district and assembly, I also feel committed to protecting anonymity as the spiritual foundation of our traditions. To that end, I try to place principles above personalities. However, I increasingly find myself feeling as though I am walking a tightrope. How can I feel more confident that I am fulfilling my concept 9 obligations to respect anonymity”? **Answer:** (See page 92 in Manual.) Talking about a sharing identifying the speaker and the venue by name, is a fine line, and remember that, ‘what is said in a meeting stays in the meeting’.

ASB #4 “Who decides when a group's chosen name is inappropriate”? **Answer:** (See page 35 in the Manual.) WSO reviews all names submitted for adherence to Al-Anon principles.

ASB #5 “Is it within Tradition #7 to contribute funds raised at a yard sale, held by Al-Anon members anonymously? Our yard sale is advertised as a multi-family yard sale and the funds are divided by the groups working. (Non Al-Anon members, the general public, are buying the stuff.) Our group disagree as to if this constitutes an “outside source”? **Answer:** (See page 97 in the Manual.) When events are open to the public, use of the Al-Anon/Alateen name would violate the spirit of our Traditions.

ASB #6 “Our home group would like to support each person’s understanding of Higher Power. For some, referring to God as “him” is an obstacle in recovery. Without changing the Steps as written, and under Tradition 4 (group autonomy), and realizing there is no Al-Anon police, is it acceptable to tell people we allow them to read the Steps aloud inserting the word “God” for the pronoun He/His/Him?” **Answer:** (See page 172- 3, d-in the Manual.) It takes a vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the entire Al-Anon membership to changes a word in the Steps, Traditions, etc. If a problem occurs with the reader, they can just “pass” on reading. In Tradition 4 autonomy does not extend to “what affects Al-Anon as a whole”.

ASB #7 “Is it acceptable for a district to provide financial support to an AFG for the purpose of a GR attending an assembly if the AFG cannot afford to pay travel/housing expenses? Does this conflict with Tradition 7? Are there other Traditions or Concepts we should consider? **Answer:** (See page 99 in the Manual.) The district can have a line item on their budget to do this.

ASB #8 “Why are questions answered at this assembly as they come in, when there are outstanding questions from the previous assembly that have not been answered”? **Answer:** We make every effort to answer questions as they come in, except when further research is needed, and then the question is answered as quickly as possible. The outstanding questions answered at the AWSC meeting held in Newport in June 2014 were found after the previous Chair Person stepped down and a new Chair was elected. They had evidently been overlooked during the changing of the leadership.

ASB #9 “What is a prudent reserve for a district”? **Answer:** (See pages 96-97, 148, 214-215 in the Manual, and page 60 describing guidelines, also Reserve Fund Guideline-G-41.)

ASB #10 “We guard with care the anonymity of all AA members. How can we ask someone if they are an AA member? Can we ask “Do you qualify for the position?” **Answer:** (See pages 31, 40-41, footnote on 47-48, 81, 82, 83, 146, 148, and 150 in the Manual.) A person’s status as an AA member is necessary in order to qualify for participation in any activities above the group level.

ASB #11 “Suggestions from a new member: (1) Would be helpful to have a map of Oregon with all the districts shown included in the handouts for agenda. **Answer:** A map is included in the Oregon Al-Anon Handbook, Section V, page 1. (2) Quick explanations before elections to explain the rationale for the voting process: that it takes more than willingness to be a coordinator. Also needs qualifications (this was very confusing and a bit dispiriting for this newcomer).

Respectively submitted,

Val V., Area Secretary

DRAFT

Motions made during Assembly

November 15, 16, 2014

Roseburg, OR

Motion #1: We move that the Communicator be made available electronically at no charge, and by subscription via US Mail at current cost.

Seconded, discussion, motion failed.

Motion # 2: We move that the Communicator be available electronically at no charge, and by subscription via US Mail at prevailing cost. And each DR will receive a hard copy at AWSC. We will do another poll of GR's using previous poll, one year from now in Nov 2015 assembly. **Seconded, and passed.**

DRAFT