

Al-Anon World Service Committee Meeting (AWSC)
June 20, 2015
St Mary's Catholic Church
728 Ellsworth St, Albany, OR 97321
Host District 16 (Final Draft)

Meeting opened at 8:30am by Chair Rita B. with the Serenity Prayer.

Traditions read by Dawn K., **Concepts and Warranties** read by Pam M.

Voting and microphone statement made by Rita B.

Roll call by Secretary Val V.

District 1: Represented by Chris K.

Excused: District 8, Fran A., District Representative (DR), District 17, Barbara L., DR, Alateen Coordinator, Carolyn H., Literature Coordinator Radiant G., Website Coordinator Rick C.

Absent: District 15, Sue E., DR

Minutes of Feb 2015 AWSC approved without correction, with motion, second, and unanimous vote.

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

Budget is on track for this year. We have a balance of \$6468.50. (See the complete Budget on www.oregonal-anon.org website under Service.)

Delegates report was presented by Oregon Area Delegate, (OAD) Colleen G.

The Oregon Area Delegate's Report
June 20, 2015
AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
DISTRICT 16 HOSTING IN
ALBANY OREGON

Hello Everyone, I'm so glad you are all here today. It is good to see your smiling faces, and to be a part of this wonderful fellowship. Thanks to District 16 for hosting us.

It is my hope to keep this report short with plans to have it more developed for presentation at the July Assembly.

I had a wonderful time at the State Speakers Meeting in Bend. Thanks to Pam and district 5 for a wonderful time.

To keep it simple (in a time I've needed simplicity in my own personal life) I am using the information presented in the Chairman of the Board's April 2015 letter summarizing our Conference experience. Some would call this plagiarism. I am very grateful for a program that changes what is offered from a ME to WE experience, so it can be shared with others and in ways that benefit the audience being presented to....That would be us, and Oregon Area AFG!!.

Oregon Area received many compliments for activities we have done or are doing.

- The Public Outreach Billboard PSA was one, and the descriptive ways this Twisted Road sign can be used (a love gift from District 17) was very well received.
- The Area Highlight presentation I shared was our collection of Pennies and how group participation increased during that fun fund raiser our groups donating increased by 42 or 43 if I remember right. I created a display, and the delegates took the flyers, the printed information, then they took the buttons, and then they took our first money jar which pictured Penny R and me on it. How FUN was that!!
- Another was the tri-fold with new GR information about attending Assemblies and what's it all about! I know there are others that are just not coming to mind. . Our flip charts were very well appreciated the love gifts from many of you. I really appreciated the cards, and the fun items sent to us by our Alateens. Thank you all very much. I felt your presence at the conference.

Here are a couple of items for you to take back to your members for consideration:

- There was a Board presentation on the "Meet the Board" event that is currently in a three-year trial. The biggest change is that in 2016 it will be held in October—probably October 29. Areas that have a regional airport, wireless Internet, and transportation to the hotel may want to consider hosting this event. The deadline for submitting your request form to the World Service Office is September 15, 2015.

I was approached at Conference by Sue C, Washington Delegate, to see if Idaho and Oregon could work together with Washington to do a "Meet the Board event. If you are interested in pursuing this possibility, please let me know. I will contact the Area Delegates to see if there is still an interest. AND if your district, group, or the Oregon Area is interested in doing this as a stand- alone..... please let me know that too. Discuss it with your district members and have a consensus for discussion at the July Assembly.

And here is another opportunity to consider:

Conference members revisited the purpose and process for holding a TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) event. TEAM events are an opportunity for Al-Anon and Alateen members to learn about service and the Al-Anon program. It is important that the Area(s) work together to identify topics of interest to the members prior to planning the event. This allows the event to be flexible, and is the reason many Areas are now hosting their second TEAM event!

AND THE GOOD NEWS IS, AND HERE IS A HUGE YIPEE!!!

AFG Connects was announced during the World Service Conference. This communication system will replace e-Communities and is more user-friendly. ***The Conference gave approval to allow Al-Anon members to sign up to receive general announcements when it is feasible.***

Paula Burlson, our Chairperson of the Board {COB} began her letter:

The 2015 World Service Conference (WSC) theme of "Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding Our Vision" encouraged us to dream expansively while being guided by our spiritual principles. We were

successful. There were many discussions and decisions that were balanced by what is best for Al-Anon Family Groups worldwide **and for Oregon Area**—now and in the future—that demonstrated compassion, generosity and understanding.

Throughout the week we had opportunities to look at the future of Al-Anon, which includes Alateen.). A comment was made by one of the conference attendees, “It is often the Al-Anon members who create the separation between Al-Anon and Alateen.” That really gave me food for thought. How about you??

The Board *big question* to Conference members was (and now I am proposing it to our Area is)

“How do we envision responsible service leadership in Al-Anon—a vision that inspires today’s members to be tomorrow’s leaders who are motivated by spiritual principles?”

Let’s be thinking about what **skills, talents, and abilities will the Oregon Area World Service Committee (AWSC) need of its leaders in the future?”** My added question is **how can this (vision) be brought to the forefront as we move toward our elections process?**

In keeping with Concept Nine, the Oregon AWSC wants to hear from our members as to what they identify as successful strategies we have used, in our succession planning for Oregon Area as we look to the November election of our Officers, Coordinators, District Representatives and our Group Representatives.

AND, here is something to give some thought to:

What does our Area do to prepare our leaders of tomorrow?

As your delegate, as I write the reports for AWSC/Assembly I keep in mind that each meeting is a training session for our future leaders. I try to involve the members as much as I possibly can with what is going on at Conference. We will have a fun experience later today that demonstrates this group involvement.

During the Conference and open Board meeting, there were conversations about the current model of Alateen and whether this is the best model for the future of both Al-Anon and Alateen. The focus was on finding ways to encourage more attendance and participation by teens to ensure the future of Alateen.

What is our Area doing to offer comfort and support AND Encouragement to our younger members?

One thing we are doing is reactivating our Alateen Standing Committee. We will be hearing more about this committee’s function from our Alternate later today.

The Finance presentation asked us to dream, and then presented a process to help Areas build a plan to make their dreams come true. It is not surprising that a third of the break-out groups had the dream of healthy, thriving groups that welcome and retain newcomers and actively give back in gratitude through service. This complimented a Task Force presentation on practices that demonstrate a healthy, thriving group.

What is our Area doing, or planning to do, to encourage and support the building of healthy groups?"

AND this was pretty exciting too:

Conference members approved the following description of family recovery to be used in outreach to professionals:

Family recovery is a process of healing and growth for family members affected by someone's drinking. This process helps these individuals make healthier life choices and develop relationships that are more positive and supportive.

It was interesting to learn at this Conference, that when time has run out, items can be tabled and held for the next Conference. The discussion regarding the revisions to Concept Eleven will continue at next year's Conference.

I don't remember the new board and Trustees at Large and Executive Committee members being introduced in a delegates' report. I know that I haven't. And maybe it is because this is my third year as delegate and I am just more aware..... BUT, these are the members our next elected delegate will be working with at the 2016 World Service Conference in Virginia Beach VA.

The Conference gave traditional approval and the Board elected the following:

Regional Trustees:

Thérèse Samson,	Canada East	First three-year term
Leona Williams,	Canada Central	First three-year term
Marilyn Massey,	Canada West	Second three-year term

Trustees at Large:

Sandra Cox	Last two-years of first three-year term
John McLoughlin	Last two-years of first three-year term
Tina Barna	Second three-year term
Karen Ward-Parente	Second three-year term

Board Officers:

Paula Burleson	Chairperson of the Board
Joan Sullivan	Vice-Chairperson of the Board
Elizabeth (Jennie) McCann	Treasurer

The Board, in its legal capacity, elected the following:

Executive Committee Members

Julius "J.P." Martinek	First one-year term
*Beverly Anderson	Second one-year term
Roger Cowles	Third one-year term
*Executive Committee Chairperson Beverly Anderson	One-year term

Executive Committee for Real Property Management

Jeffrey Keeny	Three-year term
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Executive Committee for Real Property Management Chairperson

Carrie Kitterman	One-year term
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Please take an opportunity to look at the resumes WSO feels is necessary to fill these positions. The resume provides an opportunity for members of the Conference to experience, to a greater degree, who these members are and why they are so willing to serve in these positions. And this gives each a way to review their involvement, offering an opportunity for greater success in holding these positions.

The two most important pieces of paper I carry in my binder are:

1. My Trusted Servant Profile (My Al-Anon Service Resume)
2. My Service Position Description.

These are my credentials as presented to you prior to elections, and also my guarantee to you and to this Area, that I will serve you to the best of my ability. They are my reminder of a promise I made to you all.

HERE IS SOME VERY EXCITING NEWS!!!

As we look to the 2016 World Service Conference, WE may want to plan ahead to celebrate 65 years of recovery. WHAT dreams would you like to see put in place? Perhaps a huge birthday cake and an Oregon Area party to celebrate!!

Remember our most recent survey?

What topic would you like to see on the 2016 agenda?

Thanks to all of you who responded, to me, with very thoughtful answers to this question. Those ideas went forward to the Conference Leadership Team. It will be interesting to see what the agenda will hold for our next year's delegate!!

WSC says the Trustee assigned to the Delegate is a resource for clarification or questions, and feedback, regarding Area issues, if desired. The Regional Trustee I have been blessed to have contact with this year is: Marilyn Massey Canada West Trustee. I have enjoyed our conversations and emails.

My Conference sponsee is Phyllis H. from Rhode Island. How fun it was to sit beside her and participate in her getting acquainted with conference procedures. I felt like a new mom when she went to the mic to share her thoughts on our discussions. She reported to me she had survived, and very nicely, her first Delegate's Report! Wow do I remember when!!! Again I am so grateful for the opportunity to be the representative of the Oregon Area. What an awesome experience. I could never have dreamed of all the very special people, places and things that have come into my life as a result of being willing!! Please take a look at your own willingness as our election date approaches. What is it that your Higher Power is calling you to?

As the Conference dreamed about the future, needs of the fellowship, and services provided by the World Service Office, a deficit budget was approved. (A deficit is defined by Wikipedia as: "the amount by which a sum falls short of some reference amount. In economics, a deficit is an excess of expenditures over revenue in a given time period")

Conference members recognized that continuing to rely on the Reserve Fund and sales of literature cannot fully support these services. Concept One reinforces that the groups have a responsibility to support Al-Anon world services. A Thought Force presented strategies that show the importance of abundance and spirituality in money discussions. Conference members committed to having this

discussion in their Areas and, in gratitude to the World Service Office, contributed \$8,700 during the Conference. This money is used to support our fellowship and our primary purpose as expressed in Tradition Five.

Finance Update

May 2015

Jennie M., Treasurer

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period ended March 31, 2015. The General Fund recorded a gain of \$38,865 for the period, compared to a loss of \$144,173 for the first three months of last year. Literature sales are lower than last year by \$10,265 while contributions are ahead by \$7,557. Forum subscriptions exceeded last year by \$5,592. In total, income is higher by \$26,524 compared to this period last year.

Income:

Literature sales at March 31 totaled \$947,192, compared to \$957,457 at March 31 2014, a decrease of 1.07%. Gross profit on literature sales was \$804,281 (85% of sales), compared to \$764,260 (80% of sales) last year, an increase of 5.24%. Contributions are \$362,577 so far this year, compared to \$355,020 at this time last year—an increase of 2.13%. Forum subscription income is \$65,525 this year, compared to \$59,933 last year—an increase of 9.33%.

Expenses:

Operating expenses are \$1,215,878 so far this year, compared to \$1,372,392 last year—a decrease of 11.40%.

Reserve Fund:

The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$5,280,660 at March 31, 2015. This amount includes an unrealized gain of \$791,355. In compliance with a Board of Trustees motion, 4% of the average balance of the Reserve Fund over the prior 36 months, an amount estimated to be \$200,000, may be transferred to the General Fund, however the budgeted transfer amount is \$65,000 for 2015.

Policy Update

May 2015

Judy Kirby, Chairperson, Policy Committee

The purpose of the Policy update, sent each quarter by the Chair of the Policy Committee, is to report progress and provide information regarding the following:

- Topics discussed by the Policy Committee that are generated by the fellowship and need clarification or interpretation in light of the Tradition and Concepts
- Pending policy motions presented to the World Service Conference (WSC)
- Policy motions passed by the WSC

After thorough discussion, members of the 2015 World Service Conference (WSC) affirmed by consensus that the Policy Committee should draft language for a proposed policy change on Memorial Contributions. This proposal is to be brought to the 2016 WSC for discussion and possible vote, if the 2016 Conference wishes to move forward. The proposed policy change would permit the World Service Office (WSO) to accept a one-time memorial contribution in memory of a deceased Al-Anon member, from a family member who is not a member of Al-Anon.

The Thought Force on Memorial Contributions provided information that summarized discussion of issues related to this policy at previous Conferences, beginning in 2011. This material included all information on the history of this policy, which has not been changed since 1986. Prior to 1986, Al-Anon policy permitted a one-time memorial contribution by family members who were not Al-Anon members, though with specific dollar limits on the amount that could be contributed. This policy was changed in 1986, and no longer permitted any contributions by anyone who was not an Al-Anon member. The 2014 WSC discussed definitions of the words *member* and *family*. In accordance with Tradition Three, anyone claiming to be an Al-Anon member is accepted as such. “Family,” for purposes of Al-Anon, is considered in the broadest sense, meaning any person who plays a significant role in an individual’s life. This may include a person who is or is not legally related to the deceased member. In the context of memorial contributions, the individual donor defines his/her relationship with the deceased Al-Anon member. The 2015 WSC discussed possible dollar limits on contributions and other safeguards, to ensure that any one-time contribution by a family member is understood to be a spiritual gesture of love and gratitude, not a monetary contribution intended primarily as financial support.

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At the Open Policy Meeting, the Policy Committee discussed the WSO’s policy of cooperation with outside researchers, a policy originally approved by the Policy Committee in 2004. WSO staff asked the Policy Committee if it believed that the WSO should continue to cooperate with researchers who are working on projects that study the effects of alcoholism on friends and family members, and, if that cooperation should continue, what criteria should determine which research projects are worthy of the

WSO's cooperation? The Policy Committee agreed that cooperation with researchers is an important part of public outreach efforts and that the research must be conducted by reputable organizations or individuals. However, more discussion is needed to reach clarity on specific criteria before the WSO agrees to make Al- Anon members aware of a specific research project in the future.

In her welcome to Conference members, Paula Bureson, Chairperson, Board of Trustees encouraged everyone to reach inward to spiritually expand outward. She said "For me, this is about sensing my truth, responding without fear or limits, changing the conversation, and saying "I'm worth my dreams." She went on to say "In Bill's essay on leadership, he wrote that "God has endowed human beings with considerable capability for foresight and evidently expects us to use it." It is with true humility that we recognize the source of this courage and strength. Let's make our dreams happen as we continue on this journey.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen G.
Oregon Area Delegate
Panel 53

State Speakers Meeting (SSM) Report from March 2015 presented by Pam M., DR District 5

Friday Night: Dessert Auction with gluten free and regular wonderful desserts.

Saturday: Financial Workshop using Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. (Workbook is available from Pam M.)

Steps Panel that turned into a great discussion.

Dinner and Main Speakers that had over 140 people attending.

Entertainment provided by a singing group of 1 AA, 1 Dual, and 1 Al-Anon, using program oriented words sung to popular song melodies. (Also available from Pam M.)

Sunday: Walking meeting attracted a man running by and he stayed for the entire meeting.

It was lots of work. I learned a lot about myself and others.

Thanks, Pam M.

Fellowship Communication Action Committee Raffle led by Bunny G.

Forum Subscription won by Kim M.

Conflict Resolution Kit won by Stone C.

Budget Preparation information for Action Groups presented by Dawn K., Audit/Budget (A/B) Committee. Action Groups need to discuss their budget for 2016, with amount and plans for use of the funding in meeting today. Deadline for the budget information is July 1st.

Breakout for Action Group Meetings for review of budget needs and plans for 2016, as well as reviewing any projects still not finished for Panel 53, (January 1, 2013-December 31, 2015).

LUNCH

Meeting resumed at 1:00pm with the Serenity Prayer by Chair Rita B.

Spiritual reading from *Reaching for Personal Freedom* workbook by Kathy S.

Alateen Issues presented by Alternate Delegate Barb S.

Issue#1: The Oregon Area Handbook does not include Area Alateen events in its schedule.

Consequence: Potential attendees for these events are unaware of not only the time and place but also sometimes the actual existence of these events.

Motion #1: That the Oregon Area Handbook, Section VI (Area Events) be amended to include Oregon Alateen Conference, (OAC). Seconded and passed with substantial majority.

Issue#2: Oregon Alateen is highly geographically dispersed.

Consequence: Communication between Groups, Representatives, Sponsors, and AMIAS is sporadic and the exchange of information and ideas is sparse.

Motion #2: That the Oregon Area ask the Member Services Action Group to explore the use of technology (e.g. email group communication, calendaring of events on the Oregon Area Website, Dropbox, etc.) to train and support the DR's, Alateen Group Sponsors, and AMIAS statewide. *(After discussion it was decided to refer this issue to the Alateen Standing Committee with suggestion it be listed in the Oregon Area Handbook with duties and responsibilities listed.)*

Motion #2 withdrawn.

Issue#3: There is no current training process for the new DR's in regard to their Alateen duties.

Consequence: New DR's may not know what their functional responsibilities are as they apply to Alateen.

Motion #3: That the Oregon Area establish a training event for (new) District Representatives to be presented by the Alateen Standing Committee concerning DR's Alateen duties. This will occur at the first March Assembly following the election of a new panel. Seconded and passed with substantial majority.

Issue#4: These proposed changes, and some of the other Alateen related functions are not clearly delineated in the Oregon Area Handbook.

Consequence: There may be some confusion on the part of Alateen Coordinators, AAPPs, Alternate Delegates and DR's regarding their Alateen duties and responsibilities.

Motion #4: That the Position Descriptions for the Alateen Coordinator, AAPP, Alternate Delegate and DR's be modified in the Oregon Area Handbook to reflect these changes. *(After discussion it was decided to request the Alternate Delegate, Barb S., who has responsibility for the Oregon Area Handbook to update the Position Descriptions as described.)*

Motion #4 withdrawn

SSM questionnaire results were presented by Donelda H. and reviewed by the membership. Discussion and questions answered. Question remaining is "Do we want the SSM to continue, as is, change it, or discontinue it. Tabled at this time for more study and discussion. (SSM questionnaire is on Website under Service, results are not included).

Breakout for meetings:

Officers and Coordinators, to review and prepare the position notebooks for transition, discuss what needs to be included and/or deleted, and the process of transferring them to the new position holders after November elections.

DR's and others, held a session of brainstorming on ideas, "Dreaming", for the future of Al-Anon/Alateen.

Voting at November Assembly. Two issues for members to consider for a vote after the elections are completed at the assembly.

#1. Should the current process of asking the candidate(s) to leave the room for the voting be continued?

#2. Should the process be changed to require a Trusted Servant Profile from each candidate when standing for a position?

Other Issues for consideration:

#3. Should we reduce the number of assemblies to 2 per year, or increase to 4 or leave it at 3? Linda C. will do a survey to see what the groups feel about changing.

Upcoming Events:

- Assembly, July 18-19 2015, Alder Creek Middle School, 13801 SE Webster Rd, Milwaukie, OR., 97222, host District 10, Joanne C., DR
- AWSC, October 2015, Roseburg, host District 6, Linda C., DR
- Assembly, November 14-15, 2015, Springfield Adult Center, host District 6, Donelda H., DR
- NWRDM 2016, Portland Area, Judy J.
- SSM 2016, Portland Area, Caralynn W.

Respectively submitted,
Val V., Area Secretary

Ask It Basket (AIB) Questions

1. Question: Our Al-Anon group was approached by an AA member wanting to start a new AA group. He asked if they could share our room with us to save money on rent. Has anyone had experience with sharing a room with AA? Service Manual, p 120, says each must be maintained as separate entities, we understand that. We would like suggestions, pros and cons from any groups that have done or are doing this now. How do you keep literature and posters separate when we don't want to pack up books/take down posters every week?

Answer: Sharing the same space has been done in the past, as long as each group maintains their own responsibilities such as rent etc. Please note page 120 and 121 in the AL-Anon/Alateen Manual.

2. Question: Was the announcement to ID donated coffee and bagels an affiliation especially since it was suggested we patronize the location?

Answer: According to page 97 in the Manual we do not accept contributions of money, goods, or services from outside of the Al-Anon membership. Also review Tradition 6.

3. Question: Are motions made and approved by the AWSC then brought to the Area Assembly for vote by the Group Representatives-the most important person in the service triangle? (They should be.)

Answer: Depends. Housekeeping motions like clarifying Alateen Standing Committee, Handbook updates, can be voted on by AWSC. All decisions made by AWSC should be announced/informed to GR's. In Concept Six, "The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility of the Trustees." In this instance the Area is the Trustee and has responsibility for primary administrative issues in the Area. If the GR has any problems with any action of the AWSC, they always have the Right of Appeal, as written in Concept Five. Also refer to pages 66, 72, 162, 132, 162-163, 166, 174, 191-193 in the Manual.

4. Question: In a recent issue of the Atlantic Monthly magazine there was a very detailed and, in my mind, rather controversial article about AA and whether AA really worked. Some Al-Anon members thought that writing a thoughtful letter or letter, or letters to the Editor about the fact Al-Anon (a fellow twelve step group) worked wonderfully. This seemed like a good way to reach an enormous number of interested readers about Al-Anon if the letter to the Editor was published. Are there any guidelines in doing this? Atlantic Monthly is a fairly intellectual magazine so finding a good writer would be a challenge. Do you have any ideas how to do this?

Answer: Any individual can send letters any time, but you must remember your anonymity. Read the General Warranties # 4, page 20, and page 277-281 in the Manual, Guideline #10, What is the purpose when writing an article and Tradition 10, page 16 in the Manual.

Motions made during June 2015 AWSC Meeting

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