

# **Area World Service Committee (AWSC) Meeting**

**June 21, 2014, Elizabeth Street Inn, Newport, OR**

**Host: District 2**

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

**Traditions** read by Dave B., and **Concepts and Warranties** read by Pam M.

Rita B. gave **welcome and microphone and voting statements.**

Rita B. extended **welcome** to new secretary Val V.

## **Roll Call by Val V:**

- District #1 represented by Chris K., Dist. #2 rep by contact person Avette G., Dist. #13 rep by Vicky L., Dist. #14 rep by Melissa P.
- Dist. # 15, Sue E., and Dist. #11 Sharon E., absent.
- Excused absences: Archives Coordinator Jodie P., Public Information Coord. Reina C., AIS Liaisons- Eugene, Kathy N., Literature Coord. Radiant
- Past Delegates Panel #38 Bunny G. and Panel #41 Judy J. were present for the meeting.

**Housekeeping** information given by Avette G. of host District #2

**Minutes of February 15, 2014 AWSC meeting** approved as written.

**Treasurer's report from previous meeting presented.**

- Discussion of policy change to reimburse all mileage to AWSC meetings, (removing previous 80 mile exclusion) lead by Treasurer Sue B. The budget has not been adversely affected by the motion made for a 3 year trial period, from June 11, 2011 to June 21, 2014. After discussion, a motion was presented by Bunny G. and Kay S. to make this change permanent. **Motion seconded and passed unanimously.** (See written motions at end of these minutes.)

**A series of Ask It Basket (AIB)** questions from previous meetings were discovered and given to Past Delegates Judy J. and Bunny G. to answer. A committee was formed consisting of Sue B. Treasurer, Val V. Secretary, Kay S, Audit/Budget Committee, and Marvalee M., DR District 7 to assist with this, and scheduled to meet this evening after the AWSC meeting adjourns. A report of these questions and answers will be attached.

**Report on 2014 State Speakers Meeting (SSM)**, given by Donald H., DR of District #6. After repayment of \$1500.00 seed money, a total of \$3274.84 was realized from the event.

**Report of North West Delegates Meeting (NWDM)** was presented by Bunny G. The theme of the meeting was “Our Spiritual Principles in Action”. Gaining knowledge of happenings at the World Service Office (WSO) and discussions of how other groups solved problems was helpful. There were 5 new delegates present, dress code was business attire, and Oregon’s Pennies for Penny fund raiser, dual membership, and the Service Manual were discussed. The Tech Coord reported that of 25,647 groups worldwide, 9100 of these groups have email addresses. Written report attached.

**Oregon Area Delegate Colleen G.’s report on NWDM.** Discussions held at the meeting regarding unanimity, autonomy, and the principles of service. Finances were also discussed showing a loss to the General Fund in 2014. A large cost is the printing and mailing of service manual in 2014. An added cost occurs when addresses are not current and the manuals are returned to WSO. Other literature sales are down this quarter. However, contributions from groups are 13.48% higher this year, with 75% of groups worldwide donating. Special note: Oregon was #5 in amount of donations. Other highlights:

- Elections for Trustees will be held soon.
- After a 3 year trial period, Delegates have been approved for the use of computers for taking notes.

- A new daily reader is being prepared, interim title: “Diversity”, with readings from Al-Anon members of how people are living their lives in diverse situations.
- Working on new plan for submitting motions from the floor
- Working on definition of the meaning of FAMILY, especially in relation to donations to the Memorial Fund.
- Email addresses to be used as current mailing address (CMA) for groups is encouraged.
- In July 2015, an opportunity to meet the Board of WSO will be held in St. John’s, Newfoundland. Application deadline for a place at this meeting is September 15, 2014.
- After the next International, scheduled for Baltimore, MD, in 2018, an evaluation will be made to see if the financial success and personal benefit for attendees will make it possible to continue the International meetings.
- A topic of “The Big Question”, considering the changes possible in the next 100 years, anticipating availability of resources especially for Alateens.
- The next NWRD meeting will be held March 13 to 15, 2015 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
- Colleen’s report and reports generated by Pamela W., WSO’s Marketing Information Analyst attached.

**Dave B. of the Fellowship Action Committee held a raffle** and awarded several pieces of CAL Literature to the winners.

### **Break for Lunch**

**Meeting reopened by Rita B.** with the Serenity Prayer

**Spiritual Moment:** Paula J. presented a reading from page 199 to 202 in the Service Manual 2014-2017, of an essay on “Leadership”, written by Bill W. for a 1959 issue of A.A. *Grapevine*.

**A PowerPoint review on a proposal to update the Oregon Area Handbook (OAH) guidelines** regarding anonymity on flyers published on our website was presented by Barb L.

- After discussion and questions a motion was made and seconded. After further discussion this motion was withdrawn.
- Motion made to allow phone numbers on flyers on the website, seconded, and passed.

## **Breakout for Action Committee Meetings**

### **Meeting Reconvened**

**Action Committees** presented by Judy J.

**Thought Force on Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)** meetings reported on by Caralynn W. It was suggested that a separate position be created for this on the Area level. At this time this position is placed in the Alternate Delegates responsibilities. Every voting member present expressed his/her opinion and thoughts. After this discussion three questions were presented to be voted on.

- 1. Do we want to officially separate AAPP and Alternate Delegate positions?**
  - YES. Passed with majority vote. Minority opinions heard.
- 2. When do we want to do the separation?**
  - July 31<sup>st</sup> suggested and votes taken. Passed with majority vote.
- 3. Who will now have this responsibility?**
  - Using guidelines for election of Area officers, (current or past DR, active member of Al-Anon) a poll was taken and Kim M., current DR of District #16, volunteered. Chair Rita B. appointed Kim M. to the position for the remainder of this term, with the grateful thanks of the AWSC.
  - Barb S. will orient Kim M. to the position over the next few months.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- July 19-20, 2014 Assembly/Milwaukie OR/Barb L.

- Al-Anon Birthday/Anniversary Party/ at July Assembly/ Jodie P.
- October 11, 2014 AWSC/ at Salem Hospital /District #4/ Dawn K.

**Note change to 2nd Saturday for this one time only.**

- November 15-16, 2014 Assembly/ at Umpqua Community College Campus/ Linda C.
- SSM May 29-31, 2015/ Bend, District #5/ theme Wildflowers/Pam M.
- **Members polled for assembly agenda topics**

**Meeting adjourned with the Serenity Prayer.**

#### **Ask It Basket Questions:**

1. The website has “check EVENTS for local happenings”. This implies there are UN-local happenings somewhere. I miss the Area events on the front page of the website. Can this be changed?
  - **Yes. Don’t keep ideas to yourself. Share. We have a web coordinator and a Membership Outreach committee.**
2. What can happen to change the map of the area and the antiquated method of “finding a meeting”?
  - **Talk about it at district meetings, brainstorm, bring it to the Membership Outreach Committee, “Let it begin with me”.**
3. Do we need a disclaimer for SKYPE?
  - **Use discretion on SKYPE. See page 91-92 in the Manual. Generally SKYPE conversations are one on one and disclaimer not needed here.**

Respectively Submitted,

Valerie V.

Oregon Area Secretary

Attachments:

AIB questions

Colleens report (4 pages)

Bunny's report (3 pages)

Sue B's report (2 pages)

### **Attachment #1, Unanswered Ask-It-Basket Questions from previous meetings**

1. My home group is studying the "How Al-Anon Works" book where AA is mentioned. Members sometimes believe permission is given to discuss such topics when an outside program is mentioned in our literature. Any recommendations on how to keep the meeting to Al-Anon sharing? **Lead a meeting on the pamphlet "Al-Anon Spoken Here". Discuss it during a Business Meeting.**
2. Is it necessary/required to have a male and female sponsor at each Alateen meeting? **No. Read Oregon Area guidelines Section 8. Oregon requires 1 sponsor. It is suggested to have 2 sponsors, and safe to have one of each gender.**
3. Next Assembly (and future Assemblies) I would appreciate it if the address of the assembly location, (including zip code) was included on the assembly agenda, so I don't have to look on some other paper for it. Also, I wish the name tags were collected later on Sunday, maybe after the break, to make connecting with and recognizing people easier. Thanks. **This was given to our chair. You could give this to the chair personally.**
4. Is there an approved PSA (Public Service Announcement) from WSO to be used locally? **Yes. You can order them from the WSO catalogue or on line. Also, see our Public Outreach Coordinator. Radio PSA's are \$8.00; TV PSA's are \$30.00. This a great project for your district or group.**
5. My meeting has a lot of dual members. What is the best way to "kind and lovingly" let them know to keep the Al-Anon focus? Al-Anon Spoken

Here...It has been brought to their attention but keeps happening? **Yes, give them Al-Anon Spoken Here or chair a meeting on the pamphlet. Talk to them one on one (maybe after the meeting). Discuss this at your business meeting.**

6. My home group is considering changing our meeting time. There is strong division in the group. Would someone please be able to share experience, strength and hope about coming to a decision to changing a meeting time? **Read page 54 in the Service Manual. Discuss this at a Business Meeting and plan a date to vote so that every one can participate and rely on an informed group conscience.**
7. Are there specific responsibilities for an Alternate GR or are they simply there to fill in for the GR as needed? **Yes, the Alternate fills in for the GR. Page 48 in the Service Manual says the alternate GR may serve as the ISR (Information Service Representative). ISR's are needed when you have a Information Service Office locally that your group supports. A group may choose to give the alternate a particular position ie: greeter, phone list, etc.**
8. When will we get the minutes from this Assembly? **The DR's are mailed the minutes within one month of the assembly per her job description. They will also appear on the Oregon area web site.**
9. Obstacle 3 talks about rotation of leadership - which Traditions do you feel this connects to and why? **Tradition II. Read page 46 in the Service Manual. Page 55 and 62 discuss why rotation in our groups is important. Read on Concept Four.**
10. In our district, people who have previously been in service, but aren't now, they are listed on some of our accounts, such as the phone bill, etc. When switching our mailing address they insisted on still being in the account, even though they aren't in service. Can we remove them? Other thoughts on rotations of service or non-rotation? **Read Warranty 4, we are not punitive. Take a group conscience and let the group decide. Page 55 and 62 in the service manual discuss the importance of rotation. Revisit Concept Four.**

11. In the future can we possibly have a time limit for each DR report of 3-4 minutes? How about a guide of pertinent information? **Our Oregon Area Handbooks states the DR reports are up to 5 minutes. Section II page 17. I'm not sure what pertinent information your are looking for.**
12. What to do when my desire to fulfill all of my GR responsibilities is not supported by the Group? Core members are old timers and older than me. I was elected to attend District meeting at night only. There is conflict between not having enough funds for Assembly and un-willingness to fund raise! A desire to grow our membership but concern over promotion instead of attraction growing too big? **Several pages in our Service Manual tell us the importance of having a GR. Page 147, 66. Supporting the Group with rent, literature and GR expenses should be at the top of the budget. I hope we are not *promoting* Al-Anon anywhere. We all need to get into Public Outreach and attract with our posters, bookmarks, PSA's etc. Maybe your district or group can have a Public Outreach member come and talk about Attraction vs Promotion.**
13. In a closed Al-Anon meeting how does the group "monitor" members' relationship and how close to an alcoholic does the member have to be? (Dist 16) **We do not police our meeting. Read the bottom of Page 11. "Anyone who has been affected by someone else's drinking is WELCOME. Suggest they make their own decision after attending 6 meetings.**
14. I was taught by a long-time Al-Anon member that "codependence" is not an Al-Anon idea or word. It is not anywhere in CAL that I can find, though the act of "enabling: is in CAL (And people sometimes use "enabling: and "codependence" interchangeably. DO you think it matters?  
1) if members talk about codependence in their shares? (This usually happens at least once per meeting, and not by the same person.) **Codependency is not an AL-Anon term. Read page 124 about labels in our meetings. I would mention the difference between the two in my sharing even though I too am hearing the word "codependent" more and more in Al-Anon meetings.**

2) if this can be addressed at a business meeting? **Yes, do discuss it at a business meeting**

3) let it go? People are going to say whatever they need to? **Yes, good idea**

3) give person information re: Codependents Anonymous which is a 12-step program with a completely different primary purpose than Al-Anon's. **I do not refer those attending Al-Anon to other 12-step programs. I would suggest they come to 6 meetings and let them decide if Al-Anon is for them.**

15. The webmaster should get paid. Responsibility is great and we need expertise if we're going to attract young people who are tech-y our website needs to be good. It is a very time intensive job to ask a volunteer to do well for free. Maybe add another breakout group "website"? **We are all volunteers and want to give back what we can to the program. You can suggest this in the Membership Outreach Action Committee. They can form a committee within this committee.**

16. Is it possible to get a web designer to work with our web master to make the pages more user friendly?  
**Yes. Our area is discussing and looking into this. Look for more information soon.**

17. A few years ago I had a problem in another state with highly damaging harassment by a relatively new Al-Anon member who became obsessed with me. Any ideas on how to handle this? **The service manual has great information on handling group problems page 54. Take it to the district and then to the area, I'm sure others have dealt with this, and you can hear others experiences..**

18. Can Ask-it-Basket questions be answered by email? **Yes, or ask your/a service Sponsor. Remember many AIB answers are from the experience and knowledge of the person answering them.**

## **Motions made during AWSC meeting June 21, 2014:**

### **AWSC Motion #1**

“Motion made for the trial motion on June 2011(F) to be accepted as permanent for all mileage payment for Area travels”. Motion seconded and passed with majority vote.

### **AWSC Motion #2**

“Motion made to exercise our Area autonomy to allow phone numbers on our Area website on flyers as is currently posted in our Oregon Area Handbook”. Motion seconded and passed with majority vote.