

Oregon Area Assembly  
July 21-22, 2018  
Best Western Agate Beach Inn  
3019 N Coast Highway, Newport, OR 97365  
Host: Districts 2 & 16

8:30 am

**Call to Order**

**Welcome, Serenity Prayer:** Bunny G., Chair

**Traditions:** Roxanne G., District 2; **Concepts:** Kathy, District 2

**Microphone and Voting Statement:** Bunny G., Chair

**Housekeeping:** Nancy N., DR District 2

**Tradition Two:** Sue B., Alternate Delegate, from Conflict Resolution Card

**Roll Call:** Mary Lynn J., Secretary; **Excused:** Elaine E., DR District 8; Brenda G., DR District 17, represented by Alternate DR, Claudia P.; Jan D., Archives Coordinator. Absent: Kim M., DR District 16.

**Approval of Minutes:** There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the March 2018 Area Assembly. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dawn K., Treasurer. Line 5, State Speakers' Meeting \$34 was sent directly to the Area for the State Speakers Meeting. Line 7, Miscellaneous Income was for the Sale of Pins ordered for International Convention. Line 16, and other highlighted lines were highlighted to indicate they were over budget. Money was moved from the contingency fund to those line items so they are not reflected as over budget. Insurance has been paid for another year. \$4800 is the amount of Available Cash. Questions: None. Reminder: Note District #, WSO ID # and Group Name on group contributions. Group bank accounts are encouraged. Stay tuned for how to get a bank account and how to change signers to be discussed. A group does not own money if it's in a personal account. Judy J. hopes we are not making money from selling pins. It was explained that the money for pins basically was a pass-through item. Sue B., explained that when she ordered the pins they were a few cents cheaper than the original quote because of the number ordered. She contacted those who ordered pins and were due a refund. Everyone concerned donated the overage to the Area. Line 67. AMIAS background fees are an offsetting expense from Line 9 AMIAS Reimbursement. The new procedure for AMIAS certification is we get paid in advance. When bill comes, we deposit the check. Question: If the group treasurer keeps money and does not deposit it, but keeps cash, is there any risk? Answer: Cash is cash. Technically cash belongs to person holding the cash. Dawn passed on information from WSO concerning their budget. "We do not present a balanced budget. We use figures that we think we are going to get in and spend." The question was asked about why we don't present a balance budget. It is a myth that budgets must balance. We look at the long term. We are averaging the same amount. It is important to note even IRS looks over 5 or 7 years to be sure non-profits do not acquire assets.

**Audit Budget:** Barb B., Audit Budget Chair. The budget was reviewed in April. There were no problems.

**Etiquette Rap:** Cindy E., Delegate, and Sue B., Alternate Delegate, performed an Etiquette Rap with the help of the Assembly members.

**Breakouts:** GRs, chaired by Sue B., Alternate Delegate. / District Representatives, chaired by Deanna M., DR District 10 / Coordinators, chaired by Katie W., Public Outreach Coordinator.

**Delegate's Report Part I:** Cindy E., Area World Service Conference Delegate

Look at what's happening at the top level. I have people who don't like what's happening, people who are challenging this. I love round table discussions. Is Al-anon still the Al-Anon it was when you came in. You don't want it diluted. Let our voices be heard. If you like things exactly as they are, let them know. If you object, let them know that too. Do you like the website? Do you like Facebook, Instagram? When you contact WSO, do you feel heard? A lot of people are sharing. If you don't want to voice your opinion, let

me know and I'll share. Asked questions that people want to know. My first conference theme was "Realizing Our Spiritual Potential." The second was "Our Members: Our Hope for the Future." If you are interested in standing for a position, talk to any of the officers. Last election there was only one person standing for each position. New executive director is a fireball. The Conference theme this year was, "Al-Anon: There is No Standing Still." If we want to have a say about how Al-Anon is moving in the world, we need to pick up our pace. I am working on Concepts Four and Five. The May 2017 Forum article had good information for me. The Concepts allow anyone with differing opinions to participate. They allow minority opinions to be heard. Deanna's article in the Forum focused on how one minority opinion changed the whole vote. Vote is done. Concepts are practiced by the actual vote being done. Our common welfare should come first. Paths to Recovery, p. 146. ...we learn to support the decision reached..... When we all seek God's will, there can be no winning or losing, but only a journey to greater understanding."

Things are moving fast, website, office restructuring, changing duties. Each needs to recognize what is changing and do we need to have our voices heard. A trustee is an Al-Anon member, some are past delegates, some do not need to be past delegates. The trustees are legal guardians of our program. Conference takes care of traditional. We should know who and what they are doing. Trustees are affirmed for new terms at conference. For the first time I understood if I didn't like what I saw and heard, I could vote "No." Trustees have a loud voice in the structure of Al-Anon. Sometimes they listened, sometimes they rolled their eyes at me. Vali is only the third Executive Director in the history of Al-Anon. We are far behind other nonprofits in technology. I believe it is now a big business trying to keep spiritual principles. WSO is collaborating with other nonprofits. I love it that they keep Al-Anon in the front. I love that they are doing that. The reality is that our world is changing. They are considering alcohol is just another drug, just another addiction. That terminology does not fit right with our program. Any one of you can be that delegate if you have been a DR. De Bono's creative thinking hats is a new method of solving problems. A short skit on using De Bono's hats was performed.

**Book Report:** Janet P., District 4; *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses*. See full book report in "Reports."

**Lunch:** 11:30

**Meeting Resumes** 1:00

**Book Report:** Roxanne G., District 2. *When I Got Busy, I Got Better*.

**Election Skit:** Treasurer, Dawn K. and Secretary, Mary Lynn J. performed an Election Skit in preparation for the Job Fair that followed and the coming elections.

**Job Fair:** Coordinator stations were set up around the meeting room for members to ask questions about the available positions coming up for election in November. Each person had an opportunity to speak to 3-4 coordinators about their duties.

**State Speakers Meeting 2019:** Susan B., Chair, District 6, reminded members of the baskets donated for raffle. Donation containers were ready to be picked up for each group.

### **Action Committees Breakouts**

**Business Service Readings:** Dawn K., Business Services Action Committee Chair. Last year we presented unhealthy group processes. We have worked on a tool to help groups hold business meetings. Most of it comes from service manual. The document will be posted on the Area Website.

**Delegate's Report Part II:** Cindy E., Area World Service Conference Delegate

Love gifts are made from all over US, Canada and Puerto Rico and brought to the Conference for delegates to bring back to their areas. We visited Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois Wilson, now run by National Park Services. We received “shoe” cookies made by AA members. WSO committed to be a tri-language corporation. WSO has 55 employees. The employees used to be all Al-Anon members. Today that is not so. Directors must be Al-Anon members, but there are some positions where this is not necessary. Does this matter and how does this matter? The Board of Trustees made the decision to not send the free service manual to each group. Did all groups receive *Groups at Work*? If your group did not receive it, let Valerie at WSO know and give information on current mailing address. Some service manuals are incorrect. Pages will be pasted over incorrect information.

**Coordinator Reports**

**Public Outreach:** Katie W. has Public Outreach literature, please take some for use in your district. Various districts participate in health fairs, recovery events. Tear offs in English and Spanish. Bus campaign slowly becoming available, primarily in Medford and Grants Pass. The Bus Campaign in Portland started around July 1. They have already received their first phone call as a result of the bus ads. Districts are purchasing *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* for members to distribute. Public Outreach Action Committee has purchased 1400 to give to next panel. AFA is #1 Public Outreach tool. People call to ask where they can get them. Eugene passes out business cards. NPR played a bit on video addictions and Al-Anon came up with that play. Moderator acknowledged that Al-Anon helps people with relatives with addictions. That broadcast prompted a dialog with WSO. We can notify outlets that give incorrect information that this is so.

**Literature Coordinator:** Judy J. The new book, *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*, is available as well as the ODAT Anniversary Edition. This ODAT will not be reprinted. Parents and grand parents' pamphlet is 75 cents. Every group should have a copy of the literature catalog. WSO always needs sharings for different pieces of literature. Have you had writing workshops? They are still working on new daily reader that will focus on sharings on all three legacies. The *Paths to Recovery* workbook is not selling well. 2019 quotes for calendars are available. These quotes are related to the Steps. How many get “In the Loop?” How many don't know anything about “In the Loop?”

**Delegate's Report Part III:** Cindy E., Area World Service Conference Delegate

Cindy passed out copies of a personal inventory on *Facing our Biases*. Take to your group to talk about. We don't think we are biased, but looking at this inventory may reveal things we were not aware of. The new book *Intimacy in Relationships* was printed and introduced at the International Convention. There were 92 voting members at Conference. We used clickers for voting. 67 areas in US, Canada, Puerto Rico and Bermuda. The Conference voted in new trustee for North West Region, Cherie, from Washington. Meet the Board event happens once each year where Board of Trustees conducts business meeting and members can watch. If we want to put in bid, we need to do it by August 15. If you feel strongly, talk to Bunny. WSO does all the work. Area just needs to get facility. There was a request to create a new bookmark called “Just for Tonight” based on an article in the *Forum*. All of our literature is written by many. It would

not be printed as it appeared in Forum article. No piece of literature is released until it is translated in Spanish and French. Forum is spending more money for color. Pat Quiggle retired in July. Trustees are looking at how they can rearrange his position before hiring a replacement. Bookmark M-44 took out the words drug abusers, which has been in bookmark since its creation. It was taken out because professional community does not like negative words. They are saying alcohol is like any other drug. Scott – did not like him. Did not like website. Made a point of getting to know him. He is a sweet soul. Not a member, but he wants to understand. Job opening for web site coordinator. Scott wants to work on social media. The Conference used an app on phones with agenda, map of rooms, to talk to each other, share pictures. There were 340,000 meeting searches as of April 2018. New meeting tool, resulting in 70% fewer phone calls. Alateen increased for the first time in 5 years. Chosen agenda items. 1, 2, 3, 9 and 11. #9 focused on Rural America. Task Force was created to talk about that more. #11 Former AA member. Says they are no longer AA member, now wants to serve Al-Anon. Become informed. If you have the knowledge, you have the responsibility. Being delegate has been the most amazing experience.

**Website Coordinator:** Regis P. During the spring our web hosting vendor was purchased by a larger company. The transition was not as smooth as I had hoped. Email service was interrupted during that time. The new website that I had hoped to complete by the end of this year may not happen. Updates continue to be made to the existing web site, but no design changes will occur until a new site is completed.

**Technology Coordinator:** Suzanne P. A personal project is to put together an instructional packet for the next tech coordinator. She will not attend November Assembly.

**Dismissal:** 5:00 pm

**Sunday** 8:30 am

**Serenity Prayer**

**Group Records Coordinator:** Dawn B. According to WSO Guideline G-36, the Group Records Coordinator is the nuts and bolts of the communication among the Al-Anon member, the group, district, Al-Anon Information Services, Area, the entire service structure, and the World Service Office (WSO). Using the Oregon Area Process, the DR is the first stop as stated in Section V, Page 4 OAH. There are 234 groups in Oregon with 246 active meetings. Five groups have no mail status. Five new groups registered in 2018.

**Forum Coordinator:** Pam M. There are 540 subscriptions in the Area. Group copies total less than half of our active meetings. This Assembly the Fellowship Outreach Action Committee will give five subscriptions instead of ten. If your group wins and doesn't need one, consider giving it to another group. AFG Connects. Several articles have been published from Oregon members. I have held several Writing Workshops.

**Ask-It-Basket Questions:** All Ask-It-Basket questions were answered by Judy J., Past Delegate Panel 41

**Question 1: How can/do we maintain communications with those incarcerated in Oregon?**

**Answer:** Participate in Public Outreach projects. Work with your district, with Public Outreach Coordinator. Don't try to do it alone.

**Question 2: How is a steering committee supposed to work? Our Steering Committee consists of past group secretaries, not all group members. I have seen the same issue (closing with the Lord's Prayer) come up at least 3 times in the last few years and have never seen a change, or even an explanation of why. As a Home Group member and GR, but not a past secretary, I have not had a vote. Please clarify. Thank you.**

**Answer:** There is not much in the service manual about steering committees. Concept Eleven changed Steering Committee to Select Committee. We have business meetings so people know what's going on so an informed group conscience can be reached. The whole group needs to vote on any changes. Talk about this at District Meetings. Attend a Service Manual Study.

**International Convention:** Bill W., GR, District 9. The convention is an expansion of Tradition One. I can't do this alone and I don't have to. I got to see that around the world this is an equal opportunity disease. Stories from around the world sound the same as mine. I was afraid of the weather because of high temperatures previous week. Attending the convention allowed me to fulfill a couple of other dreams to visit Savannah and Charleston. I attended meetings there and left Oregon pins there. Workshops at the convention were very good. Alcoholism is usually not by itself, sometimes accompanied by depression. The next International Convention will be in Albuquerque, NM in five years. Just as this International was a gateway for me to visit places I wanted to see, the GSO may be my gateway to Europe.

Cheryl W., GR, District 17. Baltimore exceeded my expectations. Baltimore would not have been my first pick of where to go, but it was wonderful. My first International was Vancouver. I was taken back by numbers, 4,029 people coming together to share about the same problems. I enjoyed making new friends, laughing, sharing stories, workshops. Double rooms were filled to capacity for workshops. They were well prepared. My favorite was the one on humor. It was nice to sit in a large room and have people laughing. Members from South Africa and Denmark were the speakers in the big meeting. Their stories were not much different than the ones I hear at my meeting. I put myself out there, unlike what I had done in Vancouver. I got to talk to people from Singapore. Washington, California, Illinois. I had the opportunity to stay on east coast after convention, visiting DC, Savannah and Charleston. We ran into people in Baltimore who had been to convention and that continued throughout the stay. I saw differences, but also saw the same. I am looking forward to Albuquerque, NM. There is nothing like that many people congregating for that one purpose.

**July 2019 Assembly Bids:** District 17 volunteered to host the July 2019 Area Assembly. There were no other bids.

**The Communicator:** Donelda H., Editor. This is the most fun job she has held. Officers and coordinators still have time to get an article into the October Communicator. Write articles about service to help other members get in to service. Membership Outreach Action Committee divided into groups to write collectively. Writing in a group gave them confidence. Use

Communicator as a tool to educate. There were good articles about Public Outreach projects. New email addresses are in Communicator. There is a link to Vali F's first conference. Next Communicator all GRs are asked to write an article about what is happening with their groups. Write articles about International.

**Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC) Coordinator:** Rachel L. My accent is English, South African with a little Scottish. Having started this position at the last Assembly, I used my District as guinea pigs. See the Communicator article for more information. We are collecting names of people to speak at Serenity Lane on Barbur, for professional panel, outreach projects at health fairs. Let me know if you are interested.

**Alateen Coordinator:** Linda S. There are 19 Alateen meetings in the Area and 63 AMIAS. The number of AMIAS is down from last year, but the ones we have are committed AMIAS. We are getting more requests for Alateen speakers. We need to educate Al-Anon members about what their children are going through. The Seventh Annual Oregon Alateen Conference, OAC, will be August 3-5 at the Molalla Retreat Center. The cost is \$95. There are \$45 scholarships available for anyone who lets them know there is a need. We currently have 21 registered. The Alateens appreciate your donations. Alateens, plan, run, and chair their conference. Adults are there to guide. We have fireside, luminary walk, crafts, break out, sharing, and speaker meetings. OAC elections are held at the Conference. We would like every Alateen to experience OAC.

Alateen Devon was asked why every Alateen should go. He said, "To share experience, strength and hope."

### **Action Committee Report Backs**

**Membership Outreach:** Kathy K. Reporter; Regis P., Chair. There were 16 members representing 9 districts. We decided on a budget of \$150. We voted on 4 categories and picked 3 winners in each category for the Photo Contest. The contest is still open. Encourage your members to send photos. All submitted photos can be used in the Communicator and/or website. We had a discussion on the pros and cons of Action Committees and whether we wanted to keep them.

**Fellowship Communication.** Julie S., Reporter; Judy J., Chair. 20ish present. Actions: Purchased material from International Convention. Reduced number of Forum giveaways. Budget request \$700 for next year. Challenge to read and give feedback on new book and pamphlet. We will continue book reports. The Bookmark Challenge is still happening. Discussion about Action Committees. Are they working? Are they of value? Yes. The primary purpose of Fellowship Communication is to encourage the use of CAL and find ways to use it.

**Archives Coordinator:** Jan D. Jodie P., gave the Archives Report in Jan's absence. Organization of digital files is underway. It is often difficult to locate files because different methods of naming files were used. No further progress has been made in replacing the 4-drawer fireproof file with two [or more] 2-drawer cabinets. The reason this project was taken on was due to the difficulty in moving the very heavy 4-drawer cabinet. I will continue to look for 2-drawer replacements and report when this has been accomplished.

**Attendance:** 89, with 73 voting GRs. \$440 total donations.

**Financial Workshop:** Dawn K., Treasurer. Dawn presented information on opening and changing signers on group bank accounts. She continues to receive personal checks from members for group contributions. The Service Manual on pages 57-58 discusses group checking accounts. This information will be emailed out. Groups do not need to register with the state of Oregon. Al-Anon is a mutual support group, NOT a non-profit. We are a “not for profit.” Step 1. The group will need to apply for a Federal Tax ID Number. Step 2. Corporate meeting minutes, which are your group’s minutes. This should include the full name of signers and what powers they have. Minutes for and changing signers must state the same information. It is recommended that groups have between 2-4 signers. WSO recommends checks require 2 signatures, but that is not really necessary. Keep fees in mind when choosing bank. If you are paying by auto bill pay, your payment should have same information that is on your checks. If you are using auto bill pay, remember to change bill pay address for treasurer when positions change. Other options to having checking account are to purchase money orders or prepaid credit cards. Make contributions regularly to keep balances as low as possible. Do not use member’s personal account. If you have more questions, contact Dawn.

**Group Services Action Committee:** Carolyn W., Reporter. Linda talked about OAC and how they raised money, but still need donations. Joanne, AAPP, talked about new certifications and new safety guidelines. Project: Links of service bookmark which will be ready by November Assembly. Thought Force is looking into the possibility of video conferencing during meetings. Discussed Action Committees. The committee agreed it was time for a change, but not sure what. There is concern with getting new GRs for groups. A suggestion was made to ask personally.

**Business Services:** Barb B., Reporter; Dawn K., Chair. Action taken since last Assembly: Reviewed Group Business Meeting handout. We discussed whether the Business Services Action Committee should stay. Business Services has been doing tasks assigned that could be done as Thought or Task Forces. Dawn is going to petition to disband Business Services Action Committee. Action committees are not productive because a small group of people are doing work. No budget will be needed if the Business Services Action Committee is disbanded.

**Public Outreach:** Carrie P., Reporter. 20 members in attendance from 11 districts. Action taken since last Assembly: Professional mailouts, ads at movie theaters. Action Plan: Entire state reach out to professionals. Multi-cultural, multi-generational, multi-dimensional. Name recognition of Al-Anon would be a goal for the whole state. In the Action Committee discussion, it was suggested that workshops be held and that we continue with action outreach. Felt action plan for next Assembly was unnecessary. Members felt we are not action oriented right now. We felt there should be a unified goal for entire state that all members would work on.

**Ask-It-Basket Question 3: Our district’s problem is lack of participation. How can we get more groups to elect a GR and send them to the District Meeting? Most of our groups don’t have an active GR.**

**Answer:** Page 52 of the Service Manual talks about Group Problems. Chair meetings on Traditions and on Concept 4. Have the DR visit groups. Talk about how service has helped you

personally in your recovery. Recommend and offer to be a Service Sponsor. Attend a monthly Manual Study. Suggest just having a contact person to receive mail. Three years sounds like a long time. Get someone to do it for one year. Have different people attend district meeting each month. Remember group autonomy in trying to work out solutions.

**2018 State Speakers' Meeting.** Deanna M., Chair. Members of the 2018 SSM Committee lead the Assembly in a song. The final report and financial report were presented. The committee presented the Assembly with a check for \$7,000. The checking account will be closed and the rest will be given in cash, maybe \$50. If you have money in your donation cup, put it in the bag for the 2019 SSM.

**2019 State Speakers Meeting:** Susan B., Chair. Raffle tickets are being sold. SSM is like a mini international. There will be out of town speakers, workshops, and fun. Bookmarks were made to remind you of dates. Bo T. will be the Al-Anon speaker. Journey to Serenity is the theme, focusing on traveling. We are working to get online registration set up.

**SSM Raffle:** Linda C. won the watch. About the Sea Basket: Linda C. Art Basket: Linda G. Heavy Basket: Jodie.

**Membership Outreach Photo Contest.** Regis P., Chair Membership Outreach. Our goal is to collect photos for Oregon Area Website and the Communicator. Photos were judged in four categories with the winners as follows: Cynthia N., First Place in Buildings, Structures and Transportation. In the category Close-up/Micro, Tama S. was the First Place Winner. Tama S. was also the First Place winner in Landscapes/Panorama and Scenic. The Membership Outreach Action Committee had a very difficult task in selecting the winners because all of the photos submitted were amazing.

**Joan, GR, District 7:** I enjoyed Cindy's discussion of what's going on at WSO. If things look too corporate and spirituality is taking a back seat, we need to be aware.

**Forum Raffle:**

District 4	Tuesday Noon Serenity	501367
District 5	Central Oregon AFG	11915
District 10	Safe Haven	53207
District 10	TGIF	26178
District 13	Chrysalis	40790

**Bookmark Challenge:** Corry, District 16GR. Announced the winner the Bookmark Challenge as TGIF. The basket contains a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ODAT and the new book *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*. All other groups that turned in bookmarks received a piece of literature.

**November Assembly:** Linda C., DR District 13. Saturday night we will have game room time in big meeting room. We are not allowed to furnish snacks, but you may bring your own. We have a block of rooms so you can start making reservations. There is a suite available. There are 3 restaurants in facility, as well as downtown restaurants.



**Ask-It-Basket Question #4: From OAH Sec VII, page 1, “we erect a safeguard against hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority, and on the other hand take notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle further guarantee that all matters of importance will be extensively debated until a substantial majority can support every critical decision we are called upon to make.” Question 1: How do GRS officially get a concern on the Assembly agenda with time for discussion and vote prioritized?**

**Question #4 Part 2: If someone believes this process has not been followed, what procedures are in place to further discuss?**

**Answer:** Page 69 of the Service Manual talks about the links of service and the voice of the GR (the group). Page 68 tells us there is an AWSC meeting before each Assembly that plans the agenda for the Assembly. Page 140 and 141 explain the links of service. Before voting, Bunny tells us if a simple majority or substantial unanimity will be needed. This depends on the importance of the motion. I think this area has done a good job of listening to the minority voice. If you are not satisfied with a procedure, again go through the links of service.

**Barb W.,GR District 6.** A group concern was brought to AWSC as a group petition. They were told it was talked about at AWSC and would be brought to the November Assembly. The Assembly agenda did not list it as an item for discussion, so she didn’t know when it would be on the agenda. She expressed a concern that her voice had not been heard.

**12:00pm Meeting Adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lynn J.,  
Oregon Area Secretary, Panel 56

**There were no motions at this Assembly.**