

Iowa Area Assembly
Waterloo, IA
October 14 – 16, 2016

Chairperson opened the meeting promptly at 9 am and proceeded directly to elections of the new Area Officers. A past delegate was asked to assist with the elections. A member made a motion “I move that the Area Delegate and Area Alternate Delegate be elected by 2/3 majority. If after 3 ballots a 2/3 majority is not reached, then a 4th ballot will be taken and the candidates with the majority of the votes be declared elected. Also that the positions of Area Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer be elected by simple majority”. Another member seconded the motion. Total attendance was 87 in attendance, of which 59 were voting members, leaving 2/3 votes at 39.

Officers were elected by this method by the GR’s in attendance. Time allowed for the election of Coordinators at this time, which was done by the AWSC member by simple majority. At this time, no one was willing to stand for the positions of Alateen, Newsletter or Archives Coordinator. These positions will be appointed by the incoming Delegate.. Thanks for the willingness to serve to all who stood for an Area Office or a Coordinator.

Secretary Report: The Secretary read the minutes of the August 2016 AWSC meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Report: The Treasurer read the financial statement from August 10 – October 12, 2016. Balance brought forward was \$28,543.43. Total receipts for the period were \$27,680.00. Total disbursements for the period were \$26,62.76. Balance brought forward on October 12, 2016 was \$22,963.76. Group donations for the year were attached to the financial statement. The report was filed as read.

Delegate’s Report: The Delegate shared on the following:

Serenity Weekend – 66 Al-Anons attended to celebrate Serenity 65. More to be discussed later.

AFG Announcements – have you gone on line and registered for AFG Announcements? If not – subscribe by signing up to receive a free subscription to AFG Announcements. All you need is your email address. Go to the Member’s Website and sign up and be informed.

CCT (Conference Committee on Trustees) – Delegate has been working on this committee for three years. The Committee recently completed resume reviews, scoring, and ranking process for Trustee at Large applicants. The next step will be the Nominating Committee selecting candidates using the input from the CCT.

Celebrate Worldwide Unity! The Al-Anon’s International Convention will be July 6-8, 2018 in Baltimore, MD. Are you saving daily – weekly – monthly for a FUN trip? If interested in taking the bus, please fill out the survey this weekend.

Open and Closed Meetings – Recently WSO asked Delegates to gather information from respective Areas regarding Open and Closed Al-Anon meetings. Do you know the difference?

The Open Policy meeting at the 2016 World Service Conference held a discussion on “open” and “closed” meetings. The purpose of this conversation was to determine whether newcomers or potential newcomers might read a meeting schedule and not understand that they are welcome to attend closed meetings. In fact newcomers and professionals frequently call the World Service Office seeking clarification. It would be easy to assume that a closed meeting does not welcome newcomers, is closed to anyone who doesn’t have a personal invitation to attend, or that the meeting is “full” and cannot accept new members.

Generally, “closed” meetings do not sound welcoming. Newcomers may be misled or become discouraged, thus not receiving the help they need when trying to attend a meeting. This appears contrary to Step 12 and Tradition 5, which emphasizes the importance of carrying the message and reaching out to friends and family of alcoholics who are in need of help. According to active, registered Al-Anon face-to-face meetings within the WSO structure, there are 8031 open and 8276 closed groups.

Explore Al-Anon Web Sites – check out all the valuable info at your fingertips and visit the website often. The 2016 Conference Summary is available on the WSO website. You can either download it for free or pay \$5.00. Also, you can find Public Outreach/Service info and tools, free downloads, WSO news and reports, podcasts, Group E News, and the list goes on. You can also donate to WSO on line.

The new French and Spanish Member’s websites are now live. There is an option on the top right corner of the website to click those options.

US North Central Regional Delegates Meeting – The 2017 meeting will be held in Kalamazoo, MI on March 17 – 19, 2017.

2017 World Service Conference – Will be held in Virginia Beach April 24-28, 2017. The conference theme is “Our Hope for the Future”.

Alternate Delegate’s Report: The Alternate Delegate reported the following:

The 2016 Fall Assembly – Welcome to Waterloo and District 4! Many thanks to the Assembly co-chairs. Special thanks for the WSO representative who attended.

The 2017 Spring Assembly will be held in Spencer, IA at the Clay County Events Center June 2– 4, 2017. The theme will be “We Are Not Saints”. The luncheon speaker will be the North Central Regional Trustee and Chairperson of the Board. Iowa’s current Delegate will be the Spiritual Speaker. The Alateen speaker is yet to be announced. The committees are involved in planning meetings in preparation.

The 2017 Fall Assembly will be held in Sioux City on October 13-15, 2017 at the Convention Center. The Planning Committee is just starting to get organized. They hope to have the theme selected soon. More details soon.

Forum Report: Received the new Forum subscriptions report. It tracks the quarterly changes in subscriptions by Area. In September 2014, Iowa had 348 subscriptions. As of June 2016, Iowa has 448 subscriptions.

Groups have made a concerted effort to get the word out with using The Forum for public outreach, gifts, donating and raffling subscriptions.

Total subscriptions has increased from 20,158 in Sept 2014 to 21,836 in June 2016. Iowa is doing their fair share.

Did you see the picture on the back with the Iowa member's photograph – check it out.

Also check out The Forum display in the back of the room tracking where articles have been published from.

A Forum subscription was given to the newest member.

Coordinator Reports:

Alateen: The Delegate thanked everyone during the transition time for this position. The necessary paperwork has been completed in regard to future background checks.

The latest copy of Alateen Talk is on display in the back of the room. There are great sharings in this pamphlet.

At the TEAM event, there was a presentation "Alateen on the Move". It was shared how important this program is to the future of our fellowship. Alateen currently has 906 US groups, 70 groups in Canada and 687 groups in other countries for a total of 1663 Alateen groups with an average of 8 members per group. That are roughly 13,304 members. Iowa currently has 12 groups that range from 6-19. Discussion focused on to transition Alateen members to Al-Anon. One idea mentioned that Alateen does not feel welcome in Al-Anon. Remember that Alateens are always welcome in Al-Anon meetings. If no Alateen meetings are available, young people are encouraged to attend Al-Anon meetings.

Item of concern is the Chat Room. Attendance reports from WSO state that there was only one member in attendance during one meeting from August 3rd through October 5th. Also, the number of Iowa Alateen Chat Sponsors (AMIAS) are on the decline. The Alateen Committee will be considering options in regard to the future Chat Room.

Archives: (Read by Chairperson) – Much has been learned these past few years, especially some of the events that have happened in Iowa. There was a Saturday Evening Post article written about Al-Anon and a group started as an AA Auxiliary in 1944 in Des Moines, IA. This group met at the White House in Des Moines, then later became the first registered group in Iowa at WSO. The article was written in 1955. If anyone has the article, please contact the Archives Coordinator. This group has disbanded but when is unknown. The Tuesday and Friday night meetings still meet at the White House under the "umbrella" of this original meeting.

Also, a Past Delegate from Panel 9 was instrumental in the beginning of the Regional Service Seminars (RSS). She was designated board member in charge of the RSS's. This was before TEAM events and very fun! The first RSS met in Canada, then Phoenix and then Rapid City, SD.

There are many things to dispose of which will be discussed in January. Still missing some Iowa Reaches Out Newsletters.

Group Records: Thanks to all the DR's for checking over the group information sent out. We are as current as we can be for a voting Assembly.

Sample forms were provided with the display. This is a great way to get familiar with the needed information for WSO and the Group Records Coordinator.

Literature: Participated in the conference call this month. The Fellowship Communications Director announced that a new workbook will be available in 2017. It will be a Paths To Recovery workbook, containing the questions at the end of each step, tradition and concept. The cost will be \$10 for the workbook only or \$25 for the book and workbook. Sharings are still welcome for the Intimacy Book, Daily Reader and Grandparent/Parent Pamphlet. Sharings for The Forum are also needed on the 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

Newsletter: The next newsletter will be final newsletter of this term, 12 in total for the 3 years. Remember the deadline of November 1st.

Public Outreach: Is working in Iowa! District 7 has billboards in place at prime locations. District 11's will be in place over the Holidays. Many members are leaving The Forum in doctor's offices, airplanes and other public areas.

Web Page: What has been done: The new Iowa page is up and running. All content is the same, but has a new look and address – <http://iowa.al-anon.org>. A filterable meeting list and map have been added to the website. There is also a search where you can enter your district to see all the meetings in your district. You need to enter: district1 (no space) as an example. Check out some of the new updates for the meeting types.

Worked with Group Records Coordinator to determine best approach for keeping the web page meeting list consistent with the Area records. Discussed options. The process currently used seems to be the best option.

Reviewed the Web Page Coordinator requirements and responsibilities in the Iowa Policy Manual and made recommendations to the Policy Committee where changes may need to be made.

District Reports: Reports were read from the following Districts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14. There were no reports from 5, 6, 12, 15.

Old Business:

2016 Fall Assembly – There were 238 AA's, 146 Al-Anons and 26 Alateens at the 2016 Fall Assembly.

2017 Spring Assembly – Co-Chair stated that the planning committee is meeting as needed.

2017 Fall Assembly – Co-Chair stated that a planning meeting would be scheduled soon.

Area Service Workshop – Saturday, January 14, 2017 - Forms are available for early registration on the website.

Area Serenity Weekend: Delegate reported that there were 58 A packages, 5 B and 3 C for a total of 66 who attended. Working with camp regarding minimum number of 70, which we did not meet this year. A vote to taken on whether to have Serenity Weekend next year. A general consensus was that there would be a Serenity Weekend in 2017 – September 22 – 24th.

TEAM Wrap Up: 72 attended, including 7 Alateen. Expenses - \$3,495.60. There was a profit of \$62.64. Approximately 63% responded to the evaluation hand out and in packets. Here are some of the comments:

- Consecutive years of members attending Al-Anon range from 5-50 years.
- Majority of presentations were understandable and deemed valuable.
- Technology in Fellowship – AFG Connects for all members with sign up on Members webpage
- Empowering A Healthy Group – Groups at Work well received, dual membership suggestions
- Giving/Abundance – scarcity is fear – abundance is faith. How WSO supports us is carrying the message.
- Trustee Search – different types of Trustees, understanding what they do, it's achievable.
- Attracting and Mentoring – great unifying activity, enjoyed breakout sessions, listening/communicating.
- Alateens on the Move – insight and sharings from teens, Alateen Talk in regard to Iowa.

Comments about WSO:

- Shared openly about their own fears and challenges, friendly and great examples.
- Most felt they were members just like us.
- 17 said yes they would consider becoming a Trustee some day. Time and travel were concerns for not wanting to serve at this capacity.

Event Overall:

- Cheaper registration for Alateen.
- Centralized location for event is ended.
- Cost overall was a concern.
- Most felt it was worth the time and money and would attend another TEAM event.
- Years in service ranged from 1 year to 43 years.

New Business:

Area Calendars - forms were provided with some date errors. New forms will be distributed. Be sure to add you District events and submit in a timely manner.

Web Page Policy regarding anonymity – Web Page Coordinator briefly discussed options to ensure that member's anonymity is protected on the website, as requested by WSO. This topic will be further discussed at AWSC.

Meet The Board – Will be held in Fayetteville, Arkansas on October 22, 2016. The 2017 event will take place on October 21, 2017. D7 will submit a bid for this in Des Moines.

Note: the new Service Manual will not be available until the end of 2017.

The meeting closed at 4:08 PM with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Area Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1, 2016	Newsletter Deadline
January 14, 2017	Service Workshop, Iowa Valley Comm College, Marshalltown, IA
January 15, 2017	Iowa AWSC Meeting, Hampton Inn, 9:30 am, Marshalltown, IA
February 1, 2017	Newsletter Deadline
June 2-4, 2017	Spring Assembly, Spencer, IA
October 13-15, 2017	Fall Assembly, Sioux City, IA

Iowa Al-Anon Literature Depots:

939 Office Park Rd. Suite 113
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-277-5059
www.al-anondesmoines.org

2801 Jackson St.
Sioux City, IA 51104
712-255-6724
www.afg.aiclit@yahoo.com

Iowa Information Centers:

Des Moines AIS/LDC – 515-277-5059
Ames - 515-233-6312
Sioux City AIS/LDC – 712-255-6724

New Area URL: <http://iowa-al-anon.org>