

Iowa AWCS Meeting
Marshalltown, IA
March 12, 2017

Chairperson opened the meeting promptly at 9 am. Total attendance was 24 of which 23 were voting members.

Secretary Report: A consensus was made that the Secretary Report was not read due to time constraints and a pending snow storm. There was an error in the January minutes. The correction of the minutes will be made and sent to the Web Page Coordinator for reposting.

Treasurer Report: The Treasurer read the financial statement from January 1, 2017 – March 10, 2017. Balance brought forward was \$23,746.65. Total receipts for the period were \$47,961.05 (\$22,570.45 was transferred from previous bank). Total disbursements for the period were \$24,062.71. Balance brought forward on March 10, 2017 was \$23,898.34. The report was filed as read.

A copy of the revised 2017 Budget was forwarded via email before the meeting.

An outside independent contractor from Sioux City reviewed the financials for 2016. The financial statements, based on the review, represent actual activity for 2016. The total cost for this service was \$300.

No reports were read due to weather concerns. Below is the summary of written reports.

Delegate's Report:

I received and forwarded the February 2017 Chairman of the Board letter. Every quarter a Trustee will contact Delegates about the letter. The Southeast Regional Trustee did contact me to see if I had any questions. Please let me know if you have any questions you would like me to pass on.

The North Central Regional Delegates (RDM) will be held next weekend in Kalamazoo, MI. There will be 4 officers and 3 past delegates attending. This meeting is to help prepare new Delegates for the WSC; think of it as a trial run.

The 2017 World Service Conference will be held April 24-29 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The theme is "Our Members: Our Hope for the Future".

The two trustees and I would love to hear from our Area while we attend the WSC. The address is as follows:

Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront,
Attn: *Their Name* (Hold for WSC 4/24-4/28, 2017) 5700
Atlantic Ave.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

You would use their name and home address (on our CMA list) as the return address.

Please plan to have cards arrive after April 20th.

Monday, April 24, the day before the Conference officially starts, I will attend an orientation for Panel 57 Delegates and those new to conference in the morning. I have been assigned to the Public Outreach Committee as an opportunity to further serve the WSO. I will attend this meeting Monday afternoon. I will then attend the Delegate's Sharing Area Highlights session. We will discuss five topics (yet to be decided); three topics will be discussed as a group and then we will split and discuss the last two topics in a smaller group.

The actual Conference will be Tuesday, April 24th through Friday, April 25th. I will receive the agenda when I arrive at the hotel. I have been receiving lots of emails preparing me for the Conference. I am very excited to represent Iowa at the WSC!

Area Serenity Weekend will be held September 22-24 at Twin Lakes Camp in Manson, Iowa. A planning meeting was held yesterday. Drum roll..... the theme is ... Rooted In Serenity.

There are still additional service opportunities available at WSO. Please note that there are a number of positions that have a more specific topic and have only a 1-year term. Please contact me if you are interested.

- 3 At-Large Trustees for a 3-year term. Resumes must be postmarked, faxed or emailed to the WSO on or before August 15, 2017.
- 1 At-Large member, Executive Committee for Real Property Management. (The nominating process is the same as for the Trustee At-Large.) Members must serve one 3-year term and may not be re-elected. As a side note, Iowa has been very involved in this committee, having had at least 4 members over the years.
- Committee Openings for At-Large members for one-year term from May to April. If interested contact me. These positions are:
 - 5 At-Large members, Forum Editorial Advisory Committee
 - 5 At-Large members, Literature Committee
 - 5 At-Large members, Public Outreach Committee
 - 2 At-Large members, Audit Committee

In closing I'd like to share a quote from *Reaching for Personal Freedom, Page 136 under Concept Four, Participation, not isolation*

"In Al-Anon, I heard that being of service was important. I had no idea why, but I did it anyway. By participating, I met people, and started developing a community of Al-Anon friends.....I cherish my new friends and find that these relationships have a harmony that I had never experienced before. By simply participating in the Al-Anon program, I am the one who reaps the benefits of harmony and serenity in my life."

Thank you for simply participating in service and developing a community of friends.

Alternate Delegate's Report:

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 most recent Past Delegate will be the Spiritual Speaker. The Alateen speaker is yet to be announced. The committees are continuing to meet.

Co-Chairs are working with the AA committee on details for the weekend. Ice cream socials will be held both evenings. Alateens, with AMIAS supervision, will serve ice cream one night to increase Alateen awareness in honor of Alateens 60th anniversary. Alateen table cards (M-80) will be placed on the tables during the luncheon. These will be identified as public outreach material to be taken home. Saturday evening entertainment will either be a DJ or a comedian. AA is researching the cost and viability of the comedian.

Rooms have been booked for the speakers at the Holiday Inn Express. Get your room booked. Pre-registration deadline is May 1st so encourage your GRs to sign up. Remind your GRs that the Assembly is a time to connect with Al-Anon on a broader scale. The isolation of alcoholism is halted when we move out of our small circle and see that we are an ocean of recovery.

AWSC will discuss the possibility of an informational/learning session on Alateen policy during the Friday AWSC meeting. Consensus was to have this meeting at approximately 9:00 pm on Friday of the AWSC.

The 2017 Fall Assembly will be held in Sioux City on October 13-15, 2017 at the Convention Center. The theme will be "Progress, not Perfection". Flyers will be available at the Spring Assembly and on the website. The Luncheon Speaker is a past delegate from Weeping Water, NE. The Alateen speaker is yet to be determined. Flyers are in your packets. The committee is working hard on the details.

The 2018 Spring Assembly – Clear Lake, IA. More information will be forthcoming.

Forum Report: The Forum connects us to our program to the greater fellowship. The Alateen section of the current month reminds us that when a district does not have an Alateen meeting, members can bring their kids to Al-Anon; with a little effort and support, these teens can start their own Alateen meeting. Check out the representation from Iowa sharing on leadership from the perspective of a Board member and also the sharing on Step 3 in the "instant meeting".

Submitting a sharing to the Forum or Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is as easy as logging onto the WSO website; <https://al-anon.org/members/individuals/featured-publications/item/250-send-your-sharing>. Please let the Alternate Delegate know if someone from your district has a sharing in the Forum. The January Forum also had writings from an Iowa member.

In the January Forum, there was a great article from the Associate Director of Literature, on the difference between the daily reader sharing and the Forum sharing. The purpose, focus and length as three directives for consideration when putting your ideas down on paper were outlined. District 7 held a writing workshop during their Serenity Weekend.

News from WSO:

Increase in subscribers: Ever since WSO has stopped sending complimentary copies of The Forum to groups, there has been an increase in subscriptions; more groups have been buying subscriptions. Remind your groups of the value of receiving The Forum.

The Forum needs more sharings: Sharing are needed about the three Legacies – especially about Steps Five through Twelve, and all Twelve Traditions and Concepts of Service and from Alateen members.

New Department in The Forum: In October the Forum began a yearlong series of articles written by members of the Board of Trustees. They share about recovery their service provides them, and provides an inside peek at the work the Board does for our fellowship.

The Forum Book (working Title): So far, members have sent in over 270 titles and publication dates of Forum articles they consider the best of recent years. Please encourage members to let WSO know which Forum stories they want to see included in this book. Don't forget to send in your own picks too!

Instant Meeting Steps: Beginning in January, the "Instant Meeting" feature of The Forum will include, in addition to two or three brief sharings on the Step of the month, several thought-provoking questions to get the conversations started.

Coordinator Reports:

No reports were read due to weather concerns. Below is the summary of written reports.

Alateen: The Alternate Delegate has stepped up to be interim Alateen Coordinator. She is hopeful that someone would be willing to stand for this position but until then it is about Alateen in 2017 as we celebrate 60 years of family recovery.

Alateen Serenity Weekend is a go! AMIAS around the state are reporting that the Alateens are ecstatic. Registration deadline is March 30th. It has been confirmed, with review of past minutes, that notarized medical forms are no longer needed. Flyers and forms are in the packets and have been distributed electronically to DRs and to those identified as district Alateen chairpersons. DRs please advise of any contact updates or corrections.

Will you consider adding Alateen to your Instagram account in a public outreach effort? Find Alateen by searching for Alateen WSO or by clicking on the link located on the Public Outreach website at al-anon.org. Remember to maintain your anonymity on social media by not making comments or using screen names that reveal your membership.

While you are at it... Facebook is another way to support Alateen (and Al-Anon) awareness. On March 7th, WSO shared that Alateen began in the summer of 1957 by Bob, the son of an AA Dad and an Al-Anon Mom. Bob's behavior was so bad he was almost institutionalized. He realized at this point that he could change his life if he applied the same program to his own and decided to start a meeting for teenagers.

Where are Alateen Members? The 2016 Alateen survey indicated that 70% of Alateen hear about the program from their parents, so logically awareness needs to be increased in AA and Al-Anon meetings.

Vision for Alateen: Let's celebrate Alateens 60th year jubilee, traditionally marked by the diamond and associated with words like enduring and unconquerable. Please hold a vision for growth of membership, accessibility to

meetings and awareness of the program by both AI-Anon and AA members for Alateen in 2017. What are your districts and groups doing to reach out to members of both AA and AI-Anon Communities to celebrate 60 years?

Recertification: A recertification conference call was scheduled for Saturday, March 11th. We are required to recertify annually between March and July of each year and have 60 active AMIAS in our Area.

Training Modules: WSO has completed four training modules for AMIAS. The next endeavor is to delve into these modules and see what modifications need to be made for our Area. It is understood that the Area Coordinator, District Alateen Chairperson or District Representative can be present to these new AMIAS so that all are equally trained and versed in Alateen policy and practice.

Chat Room: Checking with WSO but thinking that the Chat Room is currently inactive. Looking for AMIAS to staff.

Alateens plan to have an open meeting for all to attend. Alateens will help serve ice cream at the ice cream social for further exposure of Alateen and their 60th anniversary celebration.

Archives: Alive and well in Iowa! Thankfully we have some of the needed newsletters from the 70's! Newsletters have been mailed out to many states. Some copies will be going to the RDM for distribution and even to Conference for East Quebec and possibly Pennsylvania.

Information was mailed to WSO for the Archive items that were missing.

The next project will be going through the rest of Archives to sort out what should be kept. Nothing will be destroyed without permission from the AWSC. These will be sorted by year and date for the Newsletters and financials and find out what is still missing for our Area. A list was attached to her report of what is knowingly still needed.

Group Records: Going forward, will only send out the printable page of the group listings. All the needed information will be on this form.

Please review your group information on the printable pages to confirm that everything is correct. If there is something that needs to be changed, please follow the G-1 form to list the corrections and send to the Group Records Coordinator. This form will help make sure that all the needed information is received. It would be helpful if it could also be confirmed that the GR and the CMA are the same person. These are two different positions and not all GRs want to be the CMA.

Thank you for the recent updates. It shows that the DRs are working to keep district information up to date so that people can find our great Iowa groups.

Literature: Be sure to share the new piece of CAL – Paths to Recovery Workbook (B-24 \$19). Here is a way to win this new workbook: For each piece of CAL used at your meeting except for our daily readers, fill out a CAL Card and return to the Literature Coordinator by October 1st. (either email or mail). If emailed, please put CAL Card in the subject line. The group that uses the most pieces of CAL from now until September 30th will win the Paths to Recovery set to be given away at the Fall Assembly. If you are a book study, spend 5-10 minutes of your meeting on a different piece of literature. Pamphlets count as CAL.

Do you have diversity in your life – in your group? WSO needs writings for the new daily reader to focus on diversity in Al-Anon. Put your thoughts down and send them in. Or maybe have a writing workshop.

Don't forget to check out the website for downloadable literature. This is another great way to use CAL.

Newsletter: The first Newsletter of this term has been distributed without too many problems. Thanks for the help from the Group Records Coordinator and the past Newsletter Coordinator! Reminders will be sent out for the next Newsletter – due May 1st.

Reminders: Add iowareachesout@yahoo.com to your email address book to avoid emails going to spam; send reports to this address, not my personal email address; follow the guidelines – Word document attached (not in body of email), Arial narrow 10 pt font and single spaced. Spelling and punctuation are edited, not content. Will be asking for a volunteer from groups that do not have an email address to avoid mailing costs if possible.

Public Outreach: Check out the Iowa Al-Anon / Alateen web page for public outreach opportunities such as Podcasts, Guidelines for Public Outreach, Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism and the Best of Public Outreach. Also, remember to sign up for Iowa Al-Anon updates.

Web Page: Continued with some training from previous Web Page Coordinator. Has received and successfully posted flyers and meeting schedules.

Discussed posting literature for the Des Moines depot on the website with the Web Page Committee. It was decided that the WSO literature form will be used.

A user manual has been created for future reference.

The domain name has been switched to be able to receive notices for the future.

District Reports: Reports were not read but were distributed from the following Districts: 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14. There were no reports from 3, 5, 6, 12,15.

Welcome to the new DR for District 1!

Old Business:

The Policy Committee submitted changes for the Area Policy and Procedure Manual. The remainder will be completed at the August AWSC. Changes were made to several sections and were approved by general consensus. Due to time constraints, the Policy Committee will continue review of the policy at the August AWSC. Discussion will continue in August at which time a motion will be made to formally approve all changes to the policy document that were approved by consensus at the March AWSC meeting.

Action Committees: Chairperson discussed if the body wanted to keep Action Committees for the Assemblies. Comments: Action Committees are a good idea, but not a lot of “action” is happening any more. Need more interactive workshops. Possibly AWSC members to lead. Discussed whether to change the name to something different than Action Committees. Need to be aware of room space at AWSC.

DR and Coordinators are to communicate before Assembly of what can be done during this timeframe for Spring Assembly. Past Delegate or current Delegate is to contact WSO about possible ideas. The Archivist also has folders with skits. A committee was formed to prepare a survey for GRs at the Spring Assembly to see what they would be interested in. Area Secretary will still assign what Action Committee the GR is to attend at registration. Each Action Committee is autonomous of what they would like to do.

By-Laws Update – Alternate Delegate presented a draft of the By-Laws. A member of the fellowship who is an attorney has been working on the By-Laws. The time is estimated to be billable at 5 hours, not 1-2 hours as originally thought. The rate is \$150/hour. The WSO template is being used. Alternate Delegate will email out the By-Laws. AWCS is to respond with comments to the Alternate Delegate by March 24th. The document is not filed with the State of Iowa, but is a legal document that incorporated entities should have.

Alateen Update – Delegate reported that the Alateen Coordinator position has been filled on an interim basis by the current Alternate Delegate. Since this position has been filled, the Alateen Serenity Weekend will be held as previously scheduled. AMIAS's have been contacted and registrations are due 3/31/17.

The Officers have met and developed a list of items to be considered for updating the behavioral guidelines. These have been submitted to the Alateen Committee.

If anyone is interested in the Alateen Coordinator position, please submit resumes to the Delegate at lovemycats2004@gmail.com.

New Business:

Serenity Weekend – Delegate – “Rooted in Serenity”. Flyers will be available on the website soon and at the Spring Assembly.

Area Service Workshop – insurance certificate. The community college where the workshop is usually held is now requiring a certificate of insurance, but hope to waive this requirement again for 2018. Al-Anon assemblies are currently covered under AA's insurance umbrella. A suggestion was made to find a possible back up venue. The date for the Service Workshop has not been set yet. A consensus vote was taken and approved to hold the Service Workshop in 2018.

Fall Assembly Agenda – Chairperson – filled the timeslots for the Fall Assembly.

Spring Assembly - Alateen Policy Discussion to DRs – Alternate Delegate – Presented that suggestions from the Area Officers of the Safety and Behavioral Guidelines have been provided to the Alateen Committee. Consistent education is needed annually. The current policy is not clearly defined for all exceptions that may happen. This policy needs to ensure safety for both the AMAIS and the Alateens.

A brief discussion of the possibility to add an AAPP to AWSC was held. Currently Iowa has 60 AMAIS in our Area. Further discussion will be held at a later time.

The meeting closed at 11:50 AM with the Al-Anon Declaration. Motion was made by a Past Delegate and seconded by Area Secretary to close the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Area Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1, 2017	Newsletter Deadline
June 2-4, 2017	Spring Assembly, Spencer, IA
August 1, 2017	Newsletter Deadline
August 12, 2017	AWSC – Marshalltown, IA
Serenity Weekend	September 22 – 24, 2017, Manson, IA
October 13-15, 2017	Fall Assembly, Sioux City, IA
November 1, 2017	Newsletter Due
June 2018	Spring Assembly, Clear Lake, 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>