

Iowa Area Spring Assembly  
Spencer, IA  
June 2-4, 2017

Chairperson opened the meeting at 3:10 pm. Total attendance was 74 of which 41 were voting members.

**Secretary Report:** The minutes from the March 2017 AWSC meeting were read. Two typos were noted to be changed. The meeting ended at 11:50 am, not pm. The line "AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person) statement is to be removed. The minutes were approved as read.

**Treasurer Report:** The Treasurer read the financial statement from March 11, 2017 – May 27, 2017. Balance brought forward was \$23,898.34. Total receipts for the period were \$6,694.55. Total disbursements for the period were \$6,162.70. Balance brought forward on May 27, 2017 was \$24,430.19. The report was filed as read.

**Delegate's Report:** The Delegate's Report was read. A full report will be filed with the minutes.

**Alternate Delegate's Report:** The "Forum", also known as "The Voice of our Fellowship", is a great public outreach tool. Encouraged monthly subscriptions. More sharings are needed for the Instant Meetings and the Forum Book (working title). The Guidelines (F-1) are being revised. A pdf will be available once it has been designed.

Shout out to Iowa – There have been several members whose articles and pictures have been used in recent Forums.

Thanks to District 2 for their hard work and awesome Assembly. Thank you also to all the speakers.

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 on the website. Registration is due by 9/15, 2017. 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 2018 Spring Assembly – Clear Lake, IA – June 8-10, 2018. Theme: United We Recover. More information will be forthcoming.

Forum Report: Alternate Delegate and the GR's both have a role in acting as a Forum representative for their group and to encourage member sharings to be submitted to WSO. Submissions can be made online: <http://alanon.org/members/groups/group-resources/item/365-the-forum> or sent to WSO

**Coordinator Reports:**

**Alateen** - Celebrating 60 years! What an accomplishment! A birthday cake was enjoyed by all.

WSO mailed out the 2017 Annual Group Update sheets at the end of April. Records indicate that we have 10 active groups in our Area. Waiting on 7 groups to respond in regard to updating information.

The deadline for AMIAS certification is June 30, 2017. Any AMIAS not responding will be deactivated.

Several districts have expressed interest in starting new groups or reviving older groups.

Member sharings and a photo have been submitted from the Area Alateen Serenity Weekend to WSO.

Policy – The Alateen Policy Committee met in Fort Dodge on May 20<sup>th</sup> and focused on discussion of the AMIAS application and approval process including forms, payment for background checks and the flow of paperwork. Reviewed the Alateen Consent forms. Agreed to split up areas that need further research and will present thoughts at the August AWSC meeting.

Remember to find Alateen on social media – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Still looking for an Alateen Coordinator – please see Delegate or acting Alateen Coordinator if questions or to submit a resume.

**Archives:** If you have submitted an article to The Forum and signed it “anonymous”, please contact the Archives Coordinator. She is trying to find all of the articles written by Iowa members. She will be emailing current DR’s for this information and will bring Forums with her in August that do not have Iowa member’s writing in them.

The Archives contact person for WSO sent a note of thanks for the box of archive materials sent to WSO.

Still looking for missing items for Archives. Only one person has responded to her request in March.

**Group Records:** Sharings from WSO: ??

- Group Records Department at WSO continues to work with Area Group Records and Alateen Coordinators to educate about the importance of a Phone Contact for your group. An insert underlining the importance of the duties of the Phone Contact for the public and updated group information will be added to the Sept 2017 Group Annual Update Sheet Mailing.
- WSO registered 215 new Al-Anon and 31 Alateen groups to date for 2017, 164 were in US/PR/BDA. They also inactivated 285 Al-Anon and 27 Alateen groups during the same time period.
- “Reported Not Meeting” – This new status allows the WSO to stop directing people to groups that are not meeting. 46 groups were placed in this status since the beginning of the year. These groups are temporarily removed from the WSO toll-free information meeting line and the Public Outreach website meeting search results until the status of the meeting can be verified. 43% (20 meetings) of the reported meetings were actually meeting. 26 (12 meetings) were no longer meeting, groups disbanded or didn’t notify the Area or WSO, and the remaining meetings are still being verified by the GRC and DR’s. Currently a “flag” is received regarding when an email is undeliverable, but now there will be a “reported

no meeting” flag also. Some did not have signage showing how to get to the meeting, causing people to call and the group status changing. If someone comes to a meeting, finds no one there, can’t find the meeting because of the lack of signage show how to get to the meeting, causing people to call WSO with this information and the group status changing. Iowa is current – great work.

Remember that the following information is needed: phone #, email, contact name, address (with zip code), and full name (PECAN).

**Literature:** Have you heard? Your group could be eligible to win the new Paths to Recovery Book and Workbook set? Here is how it works.

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 1<sup>st</sup>. (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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

Alateen is now on Instagram! Type in Alateen WSO or access al-anon.org.

**Newsletter:** Two editions have now gone out. Encouraged each group that does not have an email address to consider doing so. Electronic distribution saves postage and printing costs.

If you want a personal copy they are available for \$9 for three years. Please share this with group members.

**Public Outreach:** For the first time, WSO can provide Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA) 2016-17 reports for each Area, which are organized by language and country. The 2<sup>nd</sup> printing for 2017 set an overall record of 184,625.

The AFA has been redesigned and focuses on the purpose and content of the magazine. A small block of text stating “free” will be on the cover. Order deadline is July 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Web Page:** Requests that flyers be submitted for the website in PDF format. Please verify the posts after submittal for accuracy.

Mentioned items to be possibly discussed with the Webpage Committee or AWSC.

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

#### **Action Committee Reports:**

**Public Outreach:** Reviewed the committee’s purpose. PowerPoint handout was distributed and reviewed noting the importance of public outreach.

Reviewed what was put into the DR packets, including the tear sheets for the 2018 AFA. Discussed the cover changes to the AFA and how these can be used within the districts.

Challenged members to order the 2018 asap. Challenge was accepted and 600 copies were ordered.

**Fellowship Communications:** Discussed using Groups At Work for the opening, Steps, Traditions and Concepts when in your group meetings.

The Fellowship purpose was discussed and a decision was made to have a writing workshop. Suggestion was made to submit sharings to WSO and to take back to groups for submittal of sharings.

Members shared The Forum - Information and Tips for GR's and Forum Representatives (F-2), Writing Guide for Incarcerated Al-Anon Members, along with the Sharing Sheet - Concept Four, and the Sharing Sheet - Love.

There was discussion and sharings on how the groups use for "How Al-Anon Works" for newcomers. 1. On the Newcomers 1<sup>st</sup> visit. 2. When they attended so many meetings they would give for free. 3. They have "How Al-Anon Works" for purchase.

Some groups shared they give them the Newcomer packet purchased from the literature depot. It was shared about how they purchase their literature and how important it is to order from our literature depot to be self-supporting.

Discussion on how they use CAL was used within the groups.

Daily Readers	Paths to Recovery/work book	Forum
Discovering Choices	Step Study	How Al-Anon Works

**Group Services:** A diagram was distributed of the group services structure. Explained the Area Group Records role and how it affects the Newsletter, Web Page, Secretary and the Treasurer.

Purpose: To support your Al-Anon/Alateen specific group. Strengthen connection between assembly and groups, invite participation, keep mailing list current, and share past history of groups and events.

If a GR change is made, Group Records should be notified within 30 days of an Assembly for voting purposes. Suggested that changes go through DR. However, not every district has a DR. If not, contact the Groups Records Coordinator. Encouraged districts to continue to hold district meetings to enable communication and to encourage someone to stand as DR.

Each group should have a CMA = Current Mailing Address. CMA is what WSO uses to distribute information. The GR may or may not be the CMA.

G1 Form is used when making any changes to the GR, Alt GR, or CMA for a group.

WSO's expenses to fund a group was \$261 in 2016. Cost includes staff, printing, materials, etc. Average group donations in Iowa were \$129 per year. Opportunities to donate to WSO include four appeal letters per year.

Group E-News is a communication tool from WSO to groups. Name is to be changed; suggestions due by June. If name selected, you win a \$25 gift certificate to purchase Al-Anon literature from WSO. WSO also coordinates AFG Connects for specific service positions. GR's do not have access to AFG Connects, but DR's do.

Chairs challenged GR's to research how long the group has been in existence. When WSO moved to Virginia Beach, records of the groups history were lost, but the Area Archivist has had success finding information on Iowa groups history. Also, speak with long-time Al-Anon members and submit on long-term member's form. If you figure out your meeting start date, notify WSO and Archives so that they can keep in on record.

The Service Manual, Groups at Work and the Iowa Area Policy and Procedure Manual have a lot of great information about Group Services. The Service Manual and Groups At Work can be found on the WSO website. The Iowa Area Policy and Procedure Manual can be found on the Area website.

Group business meetings were discussed. They are useful to discuss finances or group changes.

Discussion about what the Group Services Action Committee will do this term to encourage members at the group, District and the Area level.

#### **Old Business:**

Alateen Serenity Weekend: Update – 36 Alateen and 11 AMAIS. Great weekend. Special thank you to the nurse who has attended for several years – thanks for your service. Next year's weekend is scheduled for April 27-28<sup>th</sup> at Wesley Woods. Theme is "Solutions to Serenity".

By-Laws Update – Initial draft completed. This committee includes Officers and Past Delegates.

Area Serenity Weekend – Flyers available for the weekend. Hooded sweatshirts available this year.

Alateen Coordinator Update - If anyone is interested in the Alateen Coordinator position, please submit resumes to the Delegate at [lovemycats2004@gmail.com](mailto:lovemycats2004@gmail.com).

#### **New Business:**

Action Committee Surveys were distributed and asked to be turned in before the close of Assembly on Sunday. Action Committees might be becoming "stale".

2018 International Conference – No bus will be going from Iowa. If interested, Minnesota is taking a bus.

Alateen Open Meeting/60<sup>th</sup> b/day celebration – A meeting was held on Friday night of the Assembly and a celebration of Alateen turning 60 was held. 70% of kids are in Alateen because of a parent. Bring your children!

The meeting closed at 5:05 PM with the Al-Anon Declaration. Motion was made and seconded by to close the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Area Secretary

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

August 1, 2017	Newsletter Deadline
August 13, 2017	AWSC – Marshalltown, IA
September 22-24, 2017	Serenity Weekend, Manson, IA
October 13-15, 2017	Fall Assembly, Sioux City, IA
November 1, 2017	Newsletter Due
June 8-10, 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](http://www.al-anondesmoines.org)

2801 Jackson St.  
Sioux City, IA 51104  
712-255-6724  
[www.afg.aiclit@yahoo.com](mailto: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>

