

**Iowa Area Fall Assembly
Sioux City, IA
October 14, 2017**

Erika W, Chairperson opened the meeting at 2:10 pm. Total attendance was 65 of which 29 were voting Group Representatives or their Alternates.

Secretary Report (Linda A): The minutes from the August 2017 AWSC meeting were not read. There were no changes or additions. A consensus vote was taken and approved for the August AWSC minutes, which will be filed.

Treasurer Report (Jean L.): The Treasurer read the financial statement from August 2, 2017 – October 1, 2017. Balance brought forward was \$23,615.08. Total receipts for the period were \$9,076.70. Total disbursements for the period were \$1,851.01. Balance brought forward on October 1, 2017 was \$30,840.77. The report was filed as read.

There was one returned check for Serenity Weekend that has not been able to be recovered.

Equalized expenses will be sent to WSO in the amount of \$2,443 (due December 31st). Also, there was an error on the invoice for Serenity Weekend. This will be paid once revised. A consensus vote was taken and approved for the payment of the full equalized expenses to WSO.

Delegate's Report (Beth K): The Delegate's Report was read. A full report will be filed with the minutes. A copy is attached.

Alternate Delegate's Report (Katy P): The 2017 Fall Assembly – Thank you Sioux City Al-Anon and District 1 for sharing your city with us, especially the Chairs – Connie P., Erika W, and Julie B. Many thanks to Dort B, Patrick S and Barb G's (Sunday) for sharing their recovery.

The 2018 Spring Assembly – Clear Lake, IA – June 8-10, 2018. Theme: United We Recover. A walk through with the Chairs will be scheduled soon. The Al-Anon luncheon speaker will be Mary H, Panel 54 Delegate MN South from Winnebago, MN. Gary B from Indianola will be the spiritual speaker on Sunday. The Alateen speaker is yet to be determined.

The 2018 Fall Assembly – Davenport, IA – October 12-14, 2018. The committee is just beginning to form for this Assembly to be held at the River Center in Davenport, IA.

Forum Report: Beginning in September, the Forum received a new look! Order forms are available. Does your group purchase a copy of the Forum to use at meetings? It can be used as part of the meeting, given to newcomers, shared with members and is a great public outreach tool for only \$.92/month or \$1.99/month electronically.

Coordinator Reports:

Alateen – Katy P - Celebrating 60 years! AMIAS training was held earlier in the day. Thanks for all who attended this mandatory AMIAS training. Alternate training dates are being considered for those unable to attend. One possibility is to host the training at the Alateen Serenity Weekend in the Spring.

Alateen Serenity Weekend will be held April 27-29, 2018 at Wesley Woods in Indianola, IA. The theme will be Solutions to Serenity. Commemorative water bottles will be included with the \$100 registration fee. Tie-dying will be available, but participants will need to bring their own article of clothing.

Updated WSO website – Check out the Teen Corner. Articles may be shared via your favorite social media platform. Space is available for comments which are monitored to maintain principles of recovery and anonymity.

Check out the six Chat Rooms – two on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays. Iowa does not currently have a chat Room.

Katy P. announced that Regina K will be the new incoming Alateen Coordinator for the remainder of the term and thanked everyone for their help during this transition.

Archives: Lori R (absent, read by Erika W.) – Started a 4-part history from WSO that gives us a history of Alateen as of 1972 when Alateen was 15 years old. The first one was sent September 19, 2017 with three more to follow. If you would like a copy, contact Lori.

Lori is continuing to keep issues of the Forum that have articles in them from Iowa members.

Group Records: Becky V – Participated in a recent WSO conference call discussing the importance of the connection between Public Outreach and Group Records. Discussed broken website links, making sure that WSO has correct contact information, as well as the website. Also discussed whether newcomers can find your meeting – do you have signage or greeters to help with this?

Literature: Missy Y – Participated in a recent WSO conference call which is a great tool.

The following books are on sale through December 31st - The AI-Anon Family Groups, Classic Edition, Many Voices One Journey and Discovering Choices each for \$5.99/each.

Sharings are needed for CAL corner.

The Parents/Guardians pamphlet has been approved by the Literature Committee and is now at the design stage. The Literature Committee is in the process of reviewing drafts for the Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships (working title). It is hoped to have this available for sale at the AI-Anon International Convention in 2018.

CAL cards contest (4 groups submitted) --- the winning group is Monday Night Parents AFG – D7 – great job. The prize was the new Paths to Recovery Book and Workbook set.

Newsletter: Mary S (absent, read by Erika W) – The subscription list continues to grow. Updates are appreciated for distributions of the newsletter. Subscriptions are available for \$3/year. Email your request to iowareachesout@yahoo.com. Reminder – the next newsletter deadline is November 1st.

Public Outreach: Lisa G – WSO announced the 1st printing of the AI-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA) 2018 was 191,275 copies, which is a record! Thank you for your participation. The 2nd printing is ready to order and must be placed by February 7, 2018. The copies will be sent by April 1, 2018. Order forms are available on-line.

Web Page: The trivia page on website is a success. There were three winners. As of the last AWSC meeting, the latest newsletter was posted on the website and will continue going forward.

Potential members are asking about “open” and “closed” meetings and “beginner” labels, which will be discussed by the Web Page Committee.

Encouraged everyone to sign up for Iowa Al-Anon from the home page of the Iowa website to receive updates and information.

District Reports: Reports were read from the following DR's: 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14. There were no reports from 5, 6 and 12. Members gave brief comments about there districts from 3, 10, 13 and 15.

Action Committee Reports:

Public Outreach: Lisa G – Chairperson opened the meeting at 10:15 am. Attendance was 23.

After a quick summary of the previous PO Action Committee meeting from June assembly; the first discussion was on the 2018 AFA. It was the BEST 1st printing EVER – 11% increase in orders. Lisa (chair) shared a power point on the revised look of the AFA. The new cover focuses on the Al-Anon purpose – HELP and HOPE. The title (Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism) is smaller font with the year of publication at the bottom. It also says FREE Take-Home copy in the bottom right corner of the cover to encourage the reader to take it with them. The presentation pointed out the differences between AFA and The Forum. AFA is geared toward Public Outreach, prints 2x a year, shipping is included in the cost and the content is from professionals as well as members. The deadline for the 2nd printing is February 7, 2018 for April 2018. There are order forms on the PO display and online through WSO website. If you miss the order deadline you can contact your literature depot to order.

The Chair invited members to share on where/how they placed their 1st AFA order. Members have placed them doctor's offices, institutions (in and out patient), mental health centers, homeless shelters, newcomer packets, cancer centers, health fair, free libraries, treatment centers, etc. Members spoke about future plans to give them to Police Officers, food pantries and ER's.

Lisa did a 'how to' demo on going to the WSO website on our mobile phones (because now it is more mobile friendly) to look up Media Kit. This brings up two types of Public Service Announcements – Adult & Teen. They are available in 15, 30 and 60 second increments but they all come from the same PSA. She then played a couple on the big screen for us to see the content.

Action was discussed on how to actually get TV or radio stations to play these PSA's. Members were given a list of TV stations that WSO sent these PSA videos to back in March of this year along with the contact person that the information was sent to. To date, we do not believe they have been played. Members were treated to a skit on methods of contacting these stations to get them to play the PSA's in their free time slots. There was also a 'reenactment' of how to handle rejection or deflection of conversations about drugs vs alcohol.

We also briefly touched on upcoming WSO survey and how to get members to complete it but time ran out.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.

Michelle K – District 9 DR - Recorder

Fellowship Communications Report:

Missy Y - Chair and Tracy H.G. - Recorder. Meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer. We then had a skit on "Importance of Conference Approved Literature". This was the Twilight Zone theme only it is the "The Outside Literature Zone". The skit was provided by the CAL Task Force at the 2013 World Service Conference. There were 16 members present. Missy passed out a power point presentation on "Why Conference Approved Literature" and there was discussion. We also went over how to identify the conference approved literature by the triangle on the books. There was discussion on the sales on books that are running until December. Individuals shared on what they as groups use in their meetings. Some suggestions were made for what we could do at the next meeting.

Meeting closed with the Declaration at 11:19am.

Group Services Report: Chair: Becky V – Meeting was opened at 10:15 AM

Members shared their research of long-tenured groups:

- 50 years – Spencer, 40 years – Sargent Bluff, 27 years – Ames, 17 years – Iowa City, 4. 5 years – Sioux City, 5 years – Ames Alateen

Becky clarified difference between GRs and CMAs: GRs can vote; CMAs receive information from WSO. Groups cannot have an Alternate GR without a GR.

Group records changes that Becky receives are passed along to WSO, the Area Secretary, and the Area Website Chair. When making changes, let Becky know if the GR is also the CMA (which is not always the same). GR's phone numbers are provided to WSO, so be sure you can receive calls and be available 24/7 when listing phone numbers. When you cannot respond immediately, consider text messaging to respond. Let them know you can respond when you are available. WSO will send call to nearest group contact. Check directory for accurate contact information. Districts without DRs do not receive a directory. It is important to make sure you are registered at Assembly to vote. If the GR can't come to Assembly but Alternate GR does, he/she can vote.

WSO wants as much information as possible to direct inquires appropriately, so share as much information as possible – men's group, babysitting available, directions, etc. Group discussed how newcomers can find meeting rooms. Ideas included: providing directions on meeting schedule, signage, and greeters. Group discussed how newcomers can be informed of meeting cancellations for bad weather, holidays, church conflicts, etc. Suggestions were to hang a sign with contact number, place notice in church bulletins, newspapers, etc. One member shared that sometimes the church itself has been closed and the church has been moving their meeting room. The meeting room is difficult to find and anonymity issues are a problem. They are considering moving to another location. Another member shared they placed signage to help newcomers find the meeting, but some members of the group felt their anonymity was compromised. Another member shared an experience finding a meeting out of state and how positive the experience was. The Iowa website it a useful tool and uses Google maps to locate meetings.

Member shared that they left the door unlocked during meeting at church. Someone came in and vandalized during the meeting time. The church had to change locks. Use caution in these situations.

WSO can receive calls that a meeting is inactive and flag as such. Unfortunately, there was a situation where a meeting was flagged and the newcomer went on the wrong day. However, the meeting day had changed, but Becky was not notified. Becky prefers email notification of meeting changes.

When flagged, the Group Records Coordinator contacts DR to investigate. Without a DR, there is no communication link. Member stated qualifications for DR are suggested; districts have autonomy. However, it would be difficult to be a DR without GR experience. Question: can you have a contact person for a District, similar to CMA? Yes, that is possible. Question: can I be a GR and DR simultaneously? Yes. Question was raised do you have to live in the district in which you serve? You would want to consider the district area to be covered.

We are making exceptions because fewer people are willing to stand for service positions. Member suggested encouraging sponsees and others to be involved in service.

What can be done to encourage others to be a part of service? Share with others the benefits of service. Some long-term members are not serving. It's daunting to have a 3-year term. Why 3 years? It's based on the terms of office. Do it one day at a time. Ask for alternate's help. Bring alternate along to service meetings. Member shared she travels 1.25 hours to meeting. She stood for GR position, and Alternate GR has coordinated well with her to cover the meeting.

Save the date flyers are important to share at meetings and post on website(s) as well. Area will only post district events not group events. Send district event flyers to Area Website Coordinator. District 1 is working with WSO on creating their own website.

What kinds of actions would you like to see at next Spring Assembly?

- Update meeting card on area website
- Everybody bring a meeting card/schedule/list
- Try to fill open GR positions.
- Follow-up with Lori R on Archives ideas
- Volunteer ourselves, bring someone to come along side – any link of service

Meeting closed at 11:15 with the Serenity Prayer.

Old Business:

2018 International Conference – Beth K – To be held in Baltimore, MD July 6-8, 2018. Registration is available on the WSO website. Beth gave a power point presentation regarding the International Convention (July 6-8, 2018) in Baltimore, MD. Consider coming a day early and attend the Day of Connecting on July 5th; an event focusing on service. There will be workshops, panels, round table discussions on a variety of service. Topics will be hosted by the Board of Trustees and members of the WSO staff. Minnesota North is planning on taking a bus and is willing to pick up members from Iowa. Contact Beth for more information.

Action Committee Surveys – Beth K – A survey was offered at the June 2017 Assembly. The results for hot topics were: Alateen, the Service Manual and Spiritual Principles. Possible changes to Action Committees were discussed. An AWSC member suggested that the AWSC look more into this topic and include the Action Committee Chairs, then offer guidance as needed.

Web Page – Hedi M – Briefly discussed the new WSO website vs. the Iowa web page, showing links and where to go for information for AI-Anon and Alateen.

New Business:

Area Calendars – Lisa G – Provide needed AI-Anon dates and events to Lisa G by December 4, 2017. Lisa will send an excel sheet to DR's. \$3.50/calendar. Calendars will be available for pick up at the Service Workshop/January AWSC.

Serenity Weekend – Beth K – There were 48 package A's, 8 packages B's, 10 package C's. Basically broke even for the weekend financially. If the weekend is to continue, more support and participation is needed from members. A consensus vote was taken and approved to have a Serenity Weekend in 2018.

Erika W – gave official resignation as Chair. Thanked everyone for their support.

The meeting closed at 4:13 PM with the AI-Anon Declaration. Motion was made and seconded by to close the meeting.

After the business meeting, an election was held for replacement of Erika W as Area Chair, who had given her resignation. A vote was taken and there was a majority vote to elect Virginia B as the new Chair. A motion was made by Maddie P to destroy the ballots and seconded by Tracey HG.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda A.
Area Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1, 2017	Newsletter Due
January 20, 2018	Service Workshop, Iowa Valley Comm. College, Marshalltown, IA
January 21, 2018	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
March 11, 2018	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
June 8-10, 2018	Spring Assembly, Clear Lake, IA
August 5, 2018	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, 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>

DELEGATE'S REPORT

FALL ASSEMBLY - OCTOBER 14, 2017

The Alateen Coordinator position has been filled. Regina K has accepted the Alateen Coordinator position for Panel 57. Regina and Katy worked together to put on the AMIAS Training this morning. Regina is from District 8 and lives in Cedar Rapids, IA. She is currently an AMIAS and an Alateen Sponsor for the Tuesday night TGIA, in Cedar Rapids. I am excited to work with Regina over the next two years.

I would also like to thank you Katy for stepping in and doing such a wonderful job as the interim Alateen Coordinator.

The Executive Director Position at WSO has been filled. The Board of Trustees announced Vali F. will be our next Executive Director within the August Chairperson of the Board Letter. Vali has over 15 years as an active AI-Anon member. She served as a Panel 53 Delegate from Arizona. Vali has also served in many other AI-Anon service positions. She has over 20 years of business experience including management of teams of staff throughout the world.

Mary G.'s tenure as the Interim Executive Director will end on October 21st after the October Board meeting. Mary has assisted Vali in her transition into the Executive Director position.

By the way, does everyone know how to find the letters from the Chairperson of the Board? There is a lot of good information in the letter. *If you need help locating this information, see me after the business meeting and we can take a look at them.*

Update to the 2017 Word Service Conference.... The **2017 World Service Conference Summary** is now available free of charge to everyone in a digital, downloadable and searchable format! You can also purchase one for \$5.00.

The 2017 World Service Conference approved the following updates and revisions to the *2014-2017 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)* and they are now posted in the "**Digest of AI-Anon and Alateen Policies:**" Financial Matters and Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions

The "**World Service Handbook**" has been completely updated and explains our Service Structure and how our trusted servants can best function within our structure. It addresses such topics as: Area Assemblies, Election Procedures, Duties of Assembly Members, The World Service Conference, and The World Service Office

These updates can be found on the Member's Web Site: Groups/Groups Resources/AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27). If you need help locating this information, see me after the business meeting.

The 2018 Word Service Conference.... will be held in West Harrison, New York. This location allows the entire Conference to visit Stepping Stones. The Conference Leadership Team, (the group that plans the Conference and its agenda) recommended and the Board announced the 2018 World Service Conference theme will be "**AI-Anon – There Is No Standing Still!**" The Conference Leadership Team reported this theme is an excerpt from a statement made by our co-founder Lois W. It is both a reminder and a call to action for every member.

One of my responsibilities as a Delegate is to send any items our Area believes should to be considered for the agenda at the World Service. All suggestions are carefully considered, *so please send me anything you would like to have on the agenda of the WSC.*

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect - formerly The Meet the Board Event

This year's event will be held next weekend, Saturday, October 21st in Aurora, Colorado. You may still have time to make plans to attend.

The Iowa Area has submitted a request form in the past to host the Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect in Iowa. This year the AWSC decided not to submit an application for the 2018 because the event will be held too close to our Fall Assembly.

The New Web Site - Effective July 31 WSO launched a new website. It is AWESOME! Hedi, our Web Page Coordinator will report more later.

International Convention - You can register now for the 2018 International Convention. There will be power point presentation on this a little later

WSO Finance Committee Update - In June, during the Spring Assembly, I reported the 2017 Contribution Budget was \$2.1 million. This budgeted amount was based on the contributions we made in 2016 (which were over \$2 million). At the end of the first six months this is where our income is:

- Literature Sales are a little over budget at the six-month mark, but
- Contributions are falling a little short of budgeted projections

We are hopeful that the abundance demonstrated in 2016 will carry on in 2017. It is time to make a push and meet the 2017-budgeted contribution amount of \$2.1 million. Here is an interesting bit of history.

In 1961 the average contribution of the groups that contributed was \$26.82.

(Gotten from the 1961 Conference Summary)

In 2016 the average contribution of the groups that contributed was \$129.15.

The \$26.82 given in 1961 has the same buying power as \$217.29 in 2017.

I challenge the Iowa Area groups to match what the groups in Iowa gave in 1961 – an average of \$217.29 per group. How close can your group come?? Think about it! Could we pass the hat an extra time at each meeting chanting, "Could we be the ones to beat 1961!"

The North Central Regional Delegates Meeting will be held on March 16th -18th in Duluth Minnesota. The Officers, Past Delegates and I will make plans to attend.

DRs Have You Responded Yet - I am still very interested in giving my report or doing the workshop presented at the 2017 WSC: *How can we empower members in the use of our Legacies and policies when seeking solutions to issues within the Area, District and Group.* The Trustees developed this workshop and a helpful form to empower members to seek solutions. I encourage the members in this Area to look to our Legacies and policies when seeking solutions to questions and/or issues. I am very willing to come to each district and do a workshop, share the form, and learn new ways we can find solutions to issues that arise. DRs or GRs see me after the business meeting if you are interested. No commitments, just let's talk and see where it goes.