

**IOWA AREA SPRING ASSEMBLY**  
**Grinnell, IA – June 7-9, 2019 (revised)**

Virginia B., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 3:10 pm on 6/8/19. Total attendance was 71 Al-Anon, 7 Alateen of which 35 were voting Group Representatives or their Alternate.

**Secretary Report** The minutes from the 2019 March AWSC were approved by consensus vote and filed.

**Treasurer Report** - Lori R.: Read the financial statement from April 15 – June 1, 2019. Balance brought forward was \$25,209.79. Total receipts for the period were \$4,985.70. Total disbursements were \$3,072.80. Balance brought forward on June 1, 2019 was \$27,122.69. The report was approved by consensus vote and filed as read. Lori will email the Districts their contributions.

A financial review was completed before Lori R. took over the Treasurer position for Jean L.

**Delegate's Report**: Beth K. presented her report before the Business Meeting. Please contact Beth directly should you desire a copy of her report. Beth's email address is: lovemycats2004@gmail.com.

**Alternate Delegate's Report** - Katy P.:

**The 2019 Fall Assembly** – Carroll, IA – October 11-13, 2019. Theme: Serenity Seekers & Wisdom Walkers. Registration deadline – October 1, 2019. Al-Anon luncheon speaker – Vali F., Executive Director WSO. Sunday spiritual speaker – Connie H. from Fort Dodge. Alateen speaker to be determined. Voting Assembly. Vali F. will also share a workshop called the “12 Steps in 15 Minutes” on Friday night. Co-chairs are Mary E. and Judy. Bring your incoming GR to this election Assembly.

**The 2020 Spring Assembly** – Storm Lake, IA, Buena Vista College – June 5-7, 2020. Al-Anon luncheon speaker – Lynette K., Trustee from Baltic, SD. The next planning meeting is June 15<sup>th</sup>. Co-chairs are Virginia B and Mary E. Flyers will be available at the August AWSC.

**Forum Report**: Voice of recovery and a great tool. WSO is always looking for your story of recovery as well as your experience with Steps, Traditions and Concepts. Articles can be submitted on-line or hard copy. Thanks to Pamela S. from Iowa for her submission to the June Forum.

**Coordinator Reports:**

**Alateen** – Lorraine R. – Alateen Serenity Weekend was held April 26-28, 2019 at Camp Wesley Woods in Indianola, IA. Attendance was down. 26 Alateens and 10 AMIAS attended. This years' cost was \$2,730. A writing workshop was held during the weekend and articles were sent to WSO for Alateen Talk. Subscription to the Alateen Talk is \$2.50/year or 10 copies for \$7.50/year. 2020 Serenity Weekend is booked for April 17-19, 2020 at Camp Wesley Woods.

**Archives**: Lori R. – Had hoped to receive more “long-term member” forms that were handed out in October 2018. Four have been received thus far. Send Lori a copy once completed if you are a long-term member.

**Group Records** – Becky V. – Currently two groups are on a “no-mail” list with WSO. Any time WSO gets an appeal contribution letter or Forum returned, groups will be put on the “no-mail” list. Check with your GR to ensure they are getting mail from WSO. Thanks to all DR's who have updated the group information. Address to the building and directions to the meeting room is also important. Provide all new District group positions to Becky by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Literature – Missy Y. – Just for Tonight bookmark is available to order at \$.10/each. Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships is now available in English, French and Spanish. Remember to share your story with WSO as they continue to need sharings for CAL Corner, the Forum and the new daily reader.

Newsletter – Mary S. – If you would like to receive your personal copy of the newsletter, contact Mary for the form to complete and your email will be added to the mail list. Thanks to all who completed the newsletter survey. Your feedback is valuable.

Public Outreach – Lisa G. - 2019 AFA magazines are available while supplies last. Once stock is depleted, members will be invited to order the 2020 AFA magazines when available. September is National Recovery Month.

Web Page – Hedi M. – DR's, please make sure to provide updated meeting information for the website. Verify the revision date, which must be updated annually.

District Al-Anon flyers can be submitted in PDF format to be posted on the website.

Participated in the Web Coordinators survey in April 2019. Questions on the survey were: Interested in live chats? What are some of the challenges? What topics would we like discussed? List of best practices to share with other Web Coordinators.

District Reports: Districts reports read: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 14. No reports were submitted by Districts 5, 6, 10, 12 and 15.

**Action Committee Reports:** (Full reports will be filed in the Action Committee binders.)

**Public Outreach Action Committee Minutes:** Chairs: Lisa G. Recorder: Michelle K.

Lisa G. opened the meeting at 10:10 am. 25 members attended.

Lyndsey, a member of District 7's Public Outreach Committee, provided a brief overview of the Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse. They handed out meeting lists and were connected to a few new treatment centers. Attendees were a mix of those who had heard of Al-Anon and some who had never heard of Al-Anon Family Groups. Almost no one had heard about Alateen. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time that District 7 attended this conference and they are planning on it next year. Financial assistance is welcome as the cost to participate is \$300.00.

The 2019 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism magazines are now available at any time (while supplies last). When the stock is depleted, members will be invited to order 2020 AFA's. We reviewed the new look of the 2019 AFA's again. Members agreed that having the words Help and Hope on the cover is a great improvement to reach newcomers.

Reminder that September is National Recovery Month. It's time to begin planning your public outreach. For ideas on this go to <https://www.recoverymonth.gov>.

Lisa reviewed the requirements and description of duties for the Area Public Outreach Coordinator. She showed everyone how to access the resume online and provided a hard copy along with the meeting agenda. We tried to review G-38 from the Iowa website, but it no longer brings up the guideline, instead it brings up the WSO Public Outreach home page. We made the best of it and reviewed the "How to Do It" booklet from WSO which is a service tool for Public Outreach Activities. A hard copy of this booklet is provided at Lisa's PO display which is a gift to the new Area PO Coordinator. 😊 She also answered questions regarding her position and how much time she spends for the position. The biggest amount of

time is being present for AWSC meetings and Assemblies. She also mentions reading the emails from AFG Connects and passing along important info.

Questions/concerns:

- Reviewed what WSO stood for and what they do in Virginia Beach. She mentioned if you send a new outreach letter to professionals in your district, be sure to have Claire R. @ WSO review it before sending it out. Lisa G's district sends them out with magnets that have their district contact info printed on them.
- Are we striving for diversity? There seems to be a cultural fear of disclosure for many ethnic groups. We also looked at online meetings in different languages.
- A member brought up that another member in group was getting her daily readings via AI-Anon on Facebook. We discussed that it was probably a private group and not CAL. Talked about WSO's actual Facebook page.
- We discussed what PO meetings at treatment centers look like in different districts. We reviewed PSA's and how to order for \$5. The DVD has 3 segments 1) Professionals talk 2) What AFG is and 3) Testimonies. Discussed asking WSO to provide an electronic copy because often there isn't a DVD player available to use.
- Discussed the value of having dual members in district PO events, specifically treatment centers, as they seem to be able to better relate to the person in treatment.
- Discussed taking bookmarks with district contact info on them to the ER's. It's easier to slip a smaller bookmark to a spouse or family member of the alcoholic.

Meeting promptly adjourned at 11:15 am.

**Group Services Action Committee Minutes:** Chairs: Lori R, Becky V. Recorder: Val B.

Meeting opened at 10:15 AM. Discussed upcoming GR elections:

- Encourage new GRs to attend January workshop. Share growth.
- Make the focus on fun. Some agreed but be honest with amount of work.
- Because the group doesn't want to hear about service in the meeting, a GR has created a binder with information to pass around.
- GR requirements – 2 years in AI-Anon is preferred.
- Invite/welcome newcomer to events, using words like “will you sit with me?”. Challenge.
- Service sponsor can help GRs on a one-on-one basis.
- Can't have an Alternate without a GR.
- Take a three-year commitment one day at a time. The business of AI-Anon is important.
- Make an effort to check in with those involved in service mid-term to show you care.
- Focus the people who are showing up.
- “Would you consider being our next GR?” – Don't force people into service; they will fail.
- The group is the most important part of the program, but the other levels of service are important for sustainability.
- Not everyone is going to like you. Do not take it personally. Service – you get challenged in ways you never anticipated.
- Share at district meeting that a group is struggling and could use some support.
- Get a carload of people to go to another meeting/event. “I grew a lot in the car”.
- Rural communities are struggling. Smaller groups that only meet certain months (snow birds).
- Get the word out about upcoming elections at the Fall Assembly.
- What do you do if your GR is not doing their job?
- People are quick to say no to service; challenge them and ask “why”? International issue. “What is your higher power telling you to do?”

Meeting adjourned at 11:15

**Fellowship Communications Action Committee Minutes:** Mary S. – Chair, Tracy HG. – Recorder.

Meeting opened at 10:16 with the Serenity Prayer and attendance sheet was passed around. There were 18 in attendance and 8 were GR's. Missy read the minutes from the last meeting. It was asked if a copy of the minutes could be emailed out and it was discussed that it is included in the Secretary report of the Assembly minutes.

The Fellowship Committee decided that this meeting would be a Q&A about elections. Discussion started with what the requirements are to stand for an Area Coordinator, District Representative, Group Representative and where these requirements were located in the Service Manual. There was discussion of where to get a print out of these positions from WSO. One of the members also asked of the time it takes to hold these positions and there was discussion on that there is not a set time commitment to hold these positions. Another discussion was what the difference was in being a Board of Trustee and Delegate. Beth and Jean talked about these and that they are also located in the service manual. Hedi brought up the idea of if you are interested in a position to contact the person holding that position, so they may learn more about the position. There was discussion on how to keep people informed. One member said that they have a generic email account and everyone in that group has the password and can get into it at any time along with sending messages thru there as not to give out their personal email addresses. Hedi suggested putting a link on the website to see the requirements of the positions from the Service Manual. Missy read the email about the Discontinued Literature along with Cal Corner looking for stories. She said that In All Of Our Affairs was the top book and next was the Intimacy. Just for Tonight is flying off the shelves. It was noted that this was the last Fellowship Meeting for this term. Meeting ended at 11:08 with Let It Begin With Me.

### **Old Business:**

Alateen Serenity Weekend – Lorraine R. – Next year's weekend is scheduled at Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola, Iowa on April 17-19, 2020. Attendance was lower than usual for 2019.

Area Serenity Weekend – Beth K. – Twin Lakes, Manson, IA – September 20-22, 2019. \$5.00 price increase for each package. Need at least 70 package A's. Flyers will be available on the Iowa AI-Anon website by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Registration deadline is 8/31/19.

USNCR Delegates Meeting Wrap-up: Beth K. – 5 officers and 4 past delegates attended.

### **New Business:**

Newsletter Survey Wrap-up: Mary S. – followed up regarding the survey. Information will be compiled and discussed at the August AWSC. Thanks again for everyone's participation.

Election Procedures: Linda A. – Discussed eligibility to stand for Area Officer and Coordinator positions and election procedures. **Resumes are due to Mary S. (Newsletter Coordinator) by 7/1/19.** All resumes will be included in the August newsletter. If anyone was interested in standing for an officer position, it needed to be declared to the Secretary (Linda A) by the end of the Assembly. All group record changes must be submitted 30 days before the Assembly (Sept 11). *All GR's or their Alt must be registered by 9:00 am on Saturday of the Assembly.*

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm and closed with the AI-Anon Declaration.

In Service,

Linda A. - Area Secretary

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

July 31, 2019	Resumes due to Mary S (Newsletter Coordinator)
August 1, 2019	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
August 3, 2019	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
September 11, 2019	All group record changes due to Becky V (Group Records)
September 20-22, 2019	Serenity Weekend, Twin Lakes, Manson, IA
October 11-13, 2019	Fall Assembly, Carroll, IA (Elections. Bring your new GR!)
November 1, 2019	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
January 11, 2020	Service Workshop
January 12, 2020	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
March 8, 2020	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
March 20-22, 2020	Regional Delegates Meeting
April 17-19, 2020	Alateen Serenity Weekend.
June 8-10, 2020	Spring Assembly, Storm Lake, IA
August 9, 2020	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn 9:00 am, Marshalltown, IA

Iowa Al-Anon Literature Depots:  
939 Office Park Rd. Suite 113 2801 Jackson St.  
West Des Moines, IA 50265 Sioux City, IA 51104  
515-277-5059 712-255-6724  
[www.Al-Anondesmoines.org](http://www.Al-Anondesmoines.org) [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>