

**Iowa Area AWSC Meeting  
Marshalltown, IA – March 8, 2020**

Virginia B., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:00 am. Total attendance was 25 of which 22 were voting members of the AWSC. The meeting opened with the reading of the Traditions and Concepts of Service that were read from the new Version 2 Service Manual, followed by the review of etiquette and the evaluation questions.

**Secretary Report (Becky V):** The minutes from the January 2020 AWSC meeting were e-mailed electronically earlier to be read before the meeting; they were not read during the meeting. A correction is needed to change the date in the Treasurer Report for the financial statement. The dates are to read October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. A consensus was taken and approved the revised minutes.

**Treasurer Report (Linda A):** Linda A. read the financial statement from January 1, 2020 to February 29, 2020. Balance brought forward was \$26,006.12. Total receipts this period were \$2,179.41. Total disbursements were \$2,248.84. Ending balance on February 29, 2020 was \$25,936.69. A consensus was taken and approved for the treasurer report to be filed.

**Delegate's Report (Katy P):**

Those with communities on AFG Connects will also have a tab called Digest. You may set your notifications to come to you daily or weekly. You will not need to share these announcements with the AWSC. Up to date information is available to all members by signing up for In the Loop on the WSO website as well as our Iowa Area Website. DRs, it's never too often to remind your GRs that these links are available. They, and members of their group, may sign up to receive emails directly to their box.

Recent Announcements from the WSO include:

Version 2 of the Service Manual is now available free of charge on the website: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/manual-and-guidlines/servie-manual>, or by ordering it through one of our local LDCs.

AFG Headquarters Inc. recently updated its LinkedIn business profile with the intention of reaching more professionals and providing content more relevant to them. Our service arms are welcome to add al-anon.org/LinkedIn to outreach materials such as websites, business cards and posters.

Save the Date for the following:

The 2020 Area Serenity Weekend will be held September 25-27 at Twin Lakes Camp in Manson, IA.

The United States North Central Regional Delegates Meeting (USNCRDM) will be held March 20-22, 2020 in Indianapolis, IN. This gathering is intended to acquaint the incoming Delegates with what to expect at the World Service conference in April. I am looking forward to travelling with six other officers and past delegates, as well as Jean L., our Regional Trustee.

The AA International Convention will be held in Detroit, MI July 2-5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The theme is "Love and Tolerance is our Code". Advanced registration for the Convention is available through April 15, 2020 for \$115.00. Registration after April 15, 2020 will be \$140.00.

## Area Highlights:

I'll be submitting our Area highlights to the Delegates of the 60<sup>th</sup> World Service Conference in early March. The Area Highlights are meant to be a brief introduction leading to a broader conversation among Delegates about their Areas. Topics I identify as our strengths are: using Thought/Task force to incorporate positive changes to the AWSC agenda; all AWSC positions are filled; streamlined Newsletter; updates to links on our website; continuity in Alateen leadership which will hopefully bring growth in membership and participation at the Alateen Serenity Weekend; budget updates that include our Past Delegates. Are there other mentions you suggest I include?

## MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Each DR received a Biannual Group Contribution report in their folders. Your groups should confirm that these amounts reconcile with their donations. Please let me know if there are discrepancies.

An update from WSO based on the unaudited financial statements for the period that ended December 31, 2019 shows income from literature sales and contributions were both up from 2018. The total included two large bequests. Expenses decreased and the November 2019 Quarterly Appeal Letter to members were the largest in recent history. The distinction between member donations and group donations is easier to discern when members note Appeal in the memo line and use the appeal envelope.

The Resume Solicitation letter was sent to everyone earlier this month and is now posted on the Iowa Area Website under Announcements. Refer to this letter to find the links to the resumes should you, or anyone you know, wishes to serve on an At-Large Committee.

The Chairperson of the Board (COB) letter is included with the reports that were sent out for advanced reading prior to the March AWSC meeting.

The World Service Conference will be held in Virginia Beach April 20-24, 2020. Cards of support and encouragement may be sent to Katy P., Debbie G., and Jean L. at the following address:

Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel

Attn: Their name (hold for 4/19-4/24, 2020)

3501 Atlantic Avenue

Virginia Beach, VA 23451

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

## Delegate report addendum

Confirmation has been made that the Delegate will be getting a phone call from the Trustee and Katy P. is looking forward to hearing from the Board. Katy P. also received a notice that she will be reading the Serenity Prayer at the Conference on Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the morning. Please think of her by putting a reminder in your phone to offer encouragement and support on that day.

## Big Brain

The question on all levels of service is how can we involve those that aren't connected? Katy P. sent out an email inviting each GR and CMA to join us at the AWSC and called groups that did not have an email address in an effort to reach disconnected districts. There were a few responses so she would like to keep the momentum going. Our June Assembly is an opportunity to connect with district 15 and the Fall

Assembly to invite districts 10 and 12 to connect. Together we have a bigger brain, so begin brainstorming about how to reach out to dormant districts during this next year.

**Alternate Delegate's Report (Missy Y):**

The 2020 Spring Assembly will be held in Storm Lake, IA June 5-7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Registration deadline is May 20, 2020. The luncheon speaker will be Lynette K, Trustee, Baltic SD and the Sunday Spiritual speaker will be Connie H, Arnolds Park, IA. Alateen TBA. Flyers are available on the Iowa Area Website [www.iowa-al-anon.org](http://www.iowa-al-anon.org). The theme is *A Vision for You*.

The 2020 Fall Assembly will be held in Coralville, IA at the Radisson Hotel October 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The luncheon speaker has been confirmed and we are privileged to have Sue P., Associate Director-Group Services, WSO at our fall assembly. Sue has graciously agreed to do a workshop while she is with us in Coralville. Though space is going to be tight during our breakout sessions, we will have our large meeting room, a board room and a suite for our breakout rooms.

The Forum: The Forum is a great tool to use in meetings, leave at a professional office or to keep in our cars for a quick minute of serenity. There is a paper order form in the back of any Forum or you can order online at Al-Anon.org-click on the Al-Anon store then find the tab for The Forum.

Consider submitting your sharings on our three Legacies (Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service). Let others benefit from your experiences and submissions should range from about 200-400 words. You may submit your articles to *The Forum*, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617 or to [wso@al-anon.org](mailto:wso@al-anon.org) or [al-anon.org/forumshare](http://al-anon.org/forumshare).

**Coordinator Reports: (Reports were electronically submitted to the AWSC and not read).**  
**Additional briefings were given by the Coordinators.**

**Alateen** – (Lorraine R) –Alateen Serenity Weekend will be held at Wesley Woods in Indianola, IA, April 17-19, 2020. This year's theme is "Paths to Serenity" and each attending Alateen will receive a white T shirt with a red logo stating "IOWA SERENITY WEEKEND".

**AMIAS RECERTIFICATION:**

The window for AMIAS Recertification is January 15 to June 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a change from the past when the date was March and ended in June. Iowa is in line with compliance as we started with 68 AMIAS to be recertified and have 38 left that need to complete the form and send it in.

The first Fall Assembly of each term the Area Alateen Coordinator/AAPP presents the Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements to the Assembly. This is a great time for all IOWA AMIAS to come and refresh their understanding of any changes to the guidelines and to share with other AMIAS.

Thank you to the Area Alateen Committee for their dedication updating the Area Al-Anon Policy and Procedures Guidelines.

**Archives:** Tracy V– The archives have been delivered and the search is on to purchase new filing cabinets. Tracy has received a request from AFG connects this month and she has set up a group email.

**Group Records:** Tracy HG – Groups have been sending in their changes and they are getting updated as they come in. There is a scheduled training meeting with WSO in March that I will be attending. If there are any questions or changes regarding your group information please contact me at [thggr2023@gmail.com](mailto:thggr2023@gmail.com)

**Literature:** Mary E – *The New Daily Reader* (working title) still needs sharings from a list of 20 topics so please send in sharings. This request has been posted In the Loop and will be in the March issue of The Forum. These writings need to be submitted by 6/1.

There was a three-Part ‘Inside Al-Anon’ series on the CAL process published in The Forum to hopefully improve membership understanding of our literature. In the May issue there was an article about how CAL originates from idea to book or pamphlet. The June article was over discontinued literature and the October covered the process for revising CAL.

“CAL Corner” topics: This is featured each month in The Forum; it contains members’ sharings on how a piece of our literature has enhanced their recovery. March is on *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* and April’s will be on *Blueprint for Progress*. Sharings of how Cal has helped members’ recovery is always needed.

**Newsletter:** Luanne T - The “Iowa Reaches Out” newsletter has been emailed out and it has a new look! There were a few emails that did bounce back as undeliverable. Those emails have been forwarded to Group Records so they can be updated. If you or your group did not receive a copy, please contact Group Records or myself and we will see how we can get a copy sent to you. The next deadline for “Iowa Reaches Out” is May 1, 2020.

**Public Outreach:** Michelle K – The new 2020 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism magazines are now available. You can order in bundles of 25 (for \$8). There are articles from several doctors, mental health professionals along with Al-Anon & Alateen members sharing help and hope.

WSO has revamped their LinkedIn profile! Along with optimizing their profile so more professionals can find them WSO is also posting new content that is more relevant to professionals. Service arms are welcome to add to the profile link to outreach materials, including posters and business cards or to their District or AIS websites.

On April 21-22 the Iowa Governors’ Conference on Substance will be held. A district from our Area will be attending and if any district is interested in sending monetary donations or copies of meeting schedules please let Michelle know.

Alateen literature was presented to a Scott County Kids provider panel at the Health Dept. in Feb. It was a wonderful opportunity to get the message of help and hope in the hands of professionals.

**Web Page:** Beth R – The Website Committee met in February and the agenda and notes from that meeting were attached. Please feel free to provide any flyers in .pdf format to me at [IowaAlanonWeb@gmail.com](mailto:IowaAlanonWeb@gmail.com) and they will get posted.

**District Reports:** Reports were submitted electronically but not read by the following DR’s: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13 and 14. There were no reports from 5, 6, 9 10, 12, or 15.

## Old Business:

**2020 Budget Update** – Linda A. presented the 2020 revised Budget. A motion was made by Lorraine R. and seconded by Tracy V. Motion passed and the revised 2020 budget will be filed.

**Presentation – Group Records** – Tracy HG shared a PowerPoint presentation on what and why accurate information is needed for Group Records. It is important to have a CMA (current mailing address) and/or a GR for all groups to receive information from the Area and WSO. There are newcomers looking for a meeting and the more information we can share about our meetings perhaps the more comfortable a newcomer will feel coming to your meeting. Handouts of the presentation were given to all AWSC members.

## New Business:

**2020 Serenity Weekend** –The attendance for the Serenity Weekend planning meeting was 16. The theme for our 2020 Serenity Weekend is *HEE H.A.W- How Al-Anon Works*. All the meetings and buzz sessions have been filled by districts. The T-shirts and sweatshirts will be olive colored with the logo in white. Registration due date must be post marked by September 4, 2020. Districts are asked to bring a Scarecrow. The winner of “best Scarecrow” will win a special surprise. The weekend will be September 25-27, 2020 at Twin Lakes Campground in Manson, IA. A recommendation was made to include an online payment option such as PayPal on our Area Website for the registration of Serenity Weekend. A consensus was taken and passed.

Some members have been curious to explore Hidden Acres Christian Center in Dayton, IA. There will be a tour on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am. This is only a fact-finding mission. Please RSVP Katy P. if this is something you would like to explore or if you know of any other sites that are centrally located that would be an appropriate venue for the Serenity Weekend in 2021.

## **2020 Alateen Serenity Weekend Update**

Lorraine R. reported that the Alateen Weekend is looking like it will be a great time. It will be at Wesley Woods in Indianola, IA April 17-19, 2020. Be sure to get all the necessary paperwork to her in a timely manner.

## **Alateen Policy Suggested Update**

Lorraine R. made a motion to have the following changes in the Iowa Area Al-Anon/Alateen Procedure Guideline. Changes that are suggested are in bold and underlined.

Under the Area Chairman’s duties, pg. 5 under bullet pt. #4:

1. Obtains completed Form #3. State of Iowa Criminal History Check Request and the appropriate processing fee from the Al-Anon Member involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS), **District or Area.**
2. **The Area Chairman maintains Form #3 for five (5) years until it is replaced by renewed Iowa Criminal History Background check and old documents will be shredded by the chairman.**
3. Notifies the Area Alateen Coordinator/AAPP of the eligibility status (whether the individual passes or failed the background check.), **whereupon the Area Alateen Coordinator/AAPP will notify the AMIAS of their status.**

Under Area Coordinators

Area Alateen Coordinator/Area Alateen Process Person pg. 8, the committee would like to add to pt. 9

1. Annually reconciles and updates the AMIAS certification through the Online Group Records application by **June 15 of each year.**

And have the next bullet pt. read:

1. **Obtains from AMIAS, who have not had a State of Iowa Criminal History Record Check (Form # 3) in the past 5 years from the date of their last Criminal History Record Check, a completed Form #3 to send to the Area chairman for processing. Fees to be paid by the Area.**

Continuing on bullet pt. 12 which reads:

Obtains notification from the Area chairman whether the proposed AMIAS was eligible to become an AMIAS (whether the individual passes or failed the background check) **and notifies the proposed AMIAS of their standing. Form #1 Al-Anon member involved in Alateen Service-WSO and Form #2 Al-Anon/Alateen Area Iowa Group AMIAS Application will be shredded by the Area Alateen Coordinator/AAPP after inputting the information into the WSO Online Group Records Application.**

The motion was approved and seconded by Michelle K.

### **Public Outreach and Iowa Governor's Conference**

Michelle K. was asked to present some information to the AWSC regarding the Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse April 21, 2020. A district in our Area will be participating at said conference and were asking if the Area AWSC would be willing to donate to the conference with District meeting cards and/or money. After some discussion, the AWSC members did not feel they had enough information to approve any money to be sent to support the conference this year. Virginia B. will send an address to all DRs if any district would like to donate their meetings cards for the conference. A consensus was taken and approved.

### **2020 Fall Assembly Agenda**

The Fall Assembly will be held in Coralville, IA October 9-11, 2020. Sue P., Associate Director-Group Services, from WSO will be our luncheon speaker.

### **Task Force- Fall Assembly Agenda Change**

A Task Force (members included the Officers) have completed background information on Action committees and the Fall Assembly agenda. Recommendations for Task Force (Action Committees and Assembly electronic Reports)

1. Recommending to bring for discussion and possible vote the Task Force research information regarding the replacement of Action Committees with a Workshop to the 2020 Spring Assembly. This vote would be for a 2-year trial period starting with the 2020 Fall Assembly. At the Spring Assembly the action committees will discuss how they feel about this and then have the GRs vote during the business meeting. A consensus was taken and approved.
2. Recommend a 2-year trial period (starting with the 2020 Fall Assembly) of providing a link to electronic reports written for the Assembly by Officer/Coordinator/District Representative (ASWC members) on our Area Website. The link may be accessed by all members. Reports will be scrubbed by Officers prior to posting. Reports will still be read. A consensus was taken and approved.

### **Unanswered Questions/Review Comments**

The Webpage Coordinator will present the webpage at the next AWSC meeting in August. Everyone enjoyed the meeting today and felt there was a lot accomplished.

A consensus was taken to close the meeting with the AI-Anon Declaration at 1:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky V.  
Area Secretary

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| March 20-22, 2020     | USNCR Delegates Meeting, Indianapolis, IN              |
| April 17-19, 2020     | Alateen Serenity Weekend                               |
| April 20-24, 2020     | World Service Conference, Virginia Beach, VA           |
| May 1, 2020           | Iowa Reaches Out deadline                              |
| June 5-7, 2020        | Spring Assembly, BV University, Storm Lake, IA         |
| August 1, 2020        | Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline                   |
| August 9, 2020        | Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9 am, Marshalltown, IA |
| September 25-27, 2020 | Iowa Area Serenity Weekend, Twin Lakes, Manson, IA     |
| October 9-11, 2020    | Fall Assembly, Radisson Hotel, Coralville, IA          |
| November 1, 2020      | Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline                   |

**Iowa AI-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

**Iowa Area Website:** [www.iowa-al-anon.org](http://www.iowa-al-anon.org)