

**Iowa Area AWSC Meeting
August 9, 2020
Virtual Meeting**

Virginia B., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:00 am. There were 26 registered to attend of which 23 were voting members of the AWSC. The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Luanne T. and Concepts of Service were read by Jamie V. Virginia B. read the review of etiquette and the AWSC evaluation questions for all members to think about throughout the meeting.

Secretary Report (Becky V): The minutes from the June Spring 2020 Assembly were e-mailed electronically earlier to be read before the meeting; they were not read during the meeting. A consensus was taken and approved for the June minutes.

Treasurer Report (Linda A): Linda A. read the financial statement from June 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020. Balance brought forward was \$25,108.69. Total receipts this period were \$2,781.24. Total disbursements were \$32.08. Ending balance on July 31, 2020 was \$27,857.85. There was a clarification of the Misc. expense of \$32.08. This is a two month expense for Zoom for AWSC meetings to be held virtually and for other committees to use for their virtual meetings when needed. (ex: Inventory Committee, Budget Committee etc.) A consensus was taken and approved for the treasurer report to be filed.

Delegate's Report (Katy P): The Mobile App is on the minds of many as a resource to keep us connected even after we begin to interact in face to face settings. I received news in late July that a mobile app launch party is expected to be held in early August however it experienced a temporary glitch. More updates to come and it will be available to our members very soon!

The Conference Leadership Team announced that they will be honoring the outgoing members of the 2020 World Service Conference (WSC) with a virtual event in late summer or early fall. This 4 ½ hour event will feature 3-minute talks by each of the Panel 58 Delegates and two Spiritual Speakers. The event details will be released once they are finalized.

The World Service Conference Summary is now available as a pdf. If you visit the Iowa Website and read my Delegates report, there is a link to click on for you to view it. If you have any questions regarding the Summary, please contact me or email me at iowadelgate@gmail.com

My June Assembly report included many of the details from the Electronic Workgroup Meeting which is presented in the Discussion segment beginning on page 25, but as the Conference Summary reveals there are many more items to discuss:

Chosen Agenda Item:

1. How is AI-Anon going to reach new members in the 21st Century and the millennial generation?
2. Our Envisioned Future sees AI-Anon being a global organization with barrier-free access to the program, how do you see this manifesting?

Task Force: Reaching and Unifying Rural and Large Geographic Populations

Thought Force: Fear of Change

Thought Force: Identifying Ways to Look at Service in Relation to Role, Term, and Possible Roadblocks
I would gladly accept an invitation to share on any of these topics with you and your members at your district's service workshop or event. I appreciated participating in District 8's celebration in June and found a virtual platform worked very well!!

The WSO continues to send limited mail through postal means to the Current Mailing Address (CMA) contact listed for each group. In the past, returned mail had a larger financial impact than it does today due to the volume sent out. In May, the WSO updated their No Mail status policy to include a group only if the mail is returned with no forwarding address. Prior limitations included groups that had returned mail **and** a CMA that was more than 25 miles from the group's meeting address. It was thought that a CMA that lived 25 miles away was probably inactive at that group and had likely been replaced by a CMA that lived closer, however in our more rural counties this isn't the case.

Your abundant donations gifted the WSO with \$509,058 in June alone, creating the real possibility that member contributions will exceed literature sales as the top source of revenue for the first time since 1954. A deficit of \$420,000 is still projected due to diminished literature sales. Members can help by purchasing literature (Iowa has two literature depots¹) and e-sales do count. Electronic literature and monetary donations can be accessed through links on the WSO website at al-anon.org

A "thank you" goes out to Beth K. and Kristine N. for reaching out through the links of service. Because of their work I was able to connect with Dist. 5. A warm welcome to Judy T. who is joining us today to get a feel for DR responsibilities. Also, thanks to Lorraine R., our Area Alateen/ AAPP Coordinator, for sitting in on the meeting regarding the Alateens, as it was a very informative meeting.

Alternate Delegate's Report (Missy Y):

We are making history in Al-Anon! Lynette K. did a great job as our speaker at our virtual June Assembly. I enjoyed listening to her share. Katy did a great job on her report, sharing a large amount of information in a small amount of time.

We are looking at making some changes to the schedule for the Fall Assembly. AA has cancelled the contract with The Radisson in Coralville due to the current pandemic. WSO has suspended travel for the remainder of 2020 so Sue P., Associate Director- Group, will be joining us virtually. We will have more discussion later today what our October Assembly will look like. I am confident that we will have a great Assembly in October just as our Higher Power guides us.

The Forum: COVID 19 has changed a lot of things over the past months. One thing in my life that has not changed is; I still receive The Forum magazine in my mailbox each month and it is like a meeting in my pocket and a little pick up for the day! Please encourage member subscriptions. In June I put out the challenge for Iowa, to get our monthly number of subscriptions up to 500. We all know someone who could use a monthly pickup? Encourage them to subscribe or give it as a gift. There are two easy ways to order, a paper order form from 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.

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

Alateen/AAPP: Lorraine R. –This has been a challenging time for Alateen in many Areas. Iowa has four successful virtual meetings. Lorraine is having conversations with Alateen Coordinators in the US and Canada. The Iowa Alateen Serenity Weekend 2020 had to be canceled due to financial issues complicated by the pandemic. Due to lack of participants, the Area would have lost \$1000 plus the deposit if we had moved forward with the event. Camp Wesley Woods agreed to put our deposit of \$300 toward next year and not hold us to our 2020 contract. The Alateen Serenity Weekend has been rescheduled for April 16-18, 2021.

Sue P., Associate Director-Group Services, who is in charge of Alateen Service at the WSO will be our speaker at our virtual Fall Assembly October 9-10, 2020. Lorraine will be presenting our Iowa Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements to the Assembly.

Since March, the Alateen Committee, (Lorraine R., Katy P., Beth K., Samantha M. and Kristine N.) have been meeting virtually, on the phone and through email to update the Alateen portion of the Iowa Area Al-Anon/Alateen Policy and Procedure Guidelines. The final product will be part of the greater Policy & Procedure Guidelines presentation at the January 2021 AWSC. Thank you all for the hard work!

Recertification and Renewal for AMIAS: All AMIAS who wished to continue as AMIAS returned their signed form to Lorraine who then submitted them to the WSO data base. WSO notified Iowa on July 1st that we had completed our recertification. All AMIAS with more than five (5) years of service to Alateen were sent another State of Iowa Criminal History Background Check form to complete and sign. All forms were returned and we didn't lose anyone for cause!

Archives: Tracy V. – No Report

Group Records: Tracy HG. – If anyone is interested in getting their online meeting on the Iowa Al-Anon.org website or even to see information regarding other meetings, they are encourage to visit the Iowa website and follow the links. If there are any updates or questions regarding your group feel free to contact Tracy via email at thggr2023@gmail.com

Literature: Mary E. – WSO appreciates all the sharings they have received for *Our New Daily Reader* (working title). They now have plenty to choose from so are no longer accepting sharings for this project. They will gladly accept sharings for the *Forum* and *Al-non Faces Alcoholism*.

Please encourage your members to read and write on the member Blog at al-anon.org/member-blog. Each month there are new topics added. You can also share about the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service.

Each month in the *Forum*, we have "CAL Corner" topics. WSO is always in need of sharings from members on how CAL has helped with their recovery. The writing guidelines for "Cal Corner" are in the Guidelines & Procedures folder under the "Library" folders in the Literature Coordinator community of AFG Connects or at: <https://al-anon.org/pdf/CALcornerSharing>

Newsletter: Luanne T. – No Report

Public Outreach: Michelle K. – Many facilities do not want any magazines lying around due to germs. However, there has been success mailing or putting literature in the hands of professionals who can directly refer family members to Al-Anon. The new Public Outreach Bookmark (M-76) is compact and has a small space on the back for website information and contact phone numbers.

Every September is National Recovery Month. By working together and sharing information we can reduce the stigma around seeking treatment and together we can all recover from the family disease of alcoholism.

If you need any suggestions or questions on how to get more information out to the public, please feel free to contact Michelle.

Web Page: Beth R. – No Report

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

Old Business:

2020 Serenity Weekend- Serenity Weekend 2020 has been canceled due to the pandemic and the safety of all members as a whole. Twin Lakes Campground worked with the Area and accepted a cancellation fee of \$2,150 and a deposit of \$500 to hold a date for 2021. Twin Lakes Campground offered the Area two weekends that were available for 2021. The dates offered were: Sept 17-19th or Nov. 5-7th, 2021. There was discussion regarding the two dates and after a poll was taken, November 5-7th 2021 was accepted by the AWSC. This date will be presented to the Assembly in October 2020 to vote if they want a Serenity Weekend in 2021.

2020 Financial Update – Linda A. presented an updated March 1, 2020-May 26, 2020 Treasurer's report. A consensus was taken after review and approved as presented.

Equalized Expenses- Katy P. asked members to refer to page 165 in the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual regarding the Equalized Expenses for the Area Delegate. The Board of Trustees had offered to refund the entire amount of equalized expense received from the Areas in the amount of \$96,022.50 back to the Areas. The Iowa Area had remitted \$2,500 in October 2019 to the WSO, which was the full cost for a delegate to attend conference and above the amount of equalized expense which was \$1953.00. After some discussion a poll was taken and the Area voted to have the \$2,500 be donated back to WSO due to loss of revenue because of a downturn in literature sales due to the pandemic.

Presentation – Iowa Policy Committee – The Policy Committee has been meeting regularly since the beginning of this current term (2020). In reviewing the Iowa Policy/Procedure Manual, we have come to realize there are several places in our manual that are *Policies* designed to work with our Area but there are also some places that are just *procedural* items to be used by our coordinators & officers to do their job appropriately. We found that often, Iowa members involved in service get caught in where to find things and which is a policy and needs to be presented to the AWSC or Assembly for a vote and what item is a procedure and can be changed as needed without a specific motion. In reviewing the manual more closely we also realized that throughout the years, some items were just added as a bandage to help the Area complete a specific issue at the time.

The Committee presented a PowerPoint describing the process and progress of the corrections/changes so far. The Committee hoped by the end of the workshop the AWSC would have a vision of the headway that has taken place and will be excited about utilizing our Iowa Area Policy and Procedure manual in the future.

The Committee asked for an ASWC special meeting to be set to review the Area Policy/Procedure guidelines. The Committee presented to the AWSC that the draft would be out in January 2021, and have a special meeting date in February 2021 to review the finished manual by the AWSC. The manual

would then be presented to the AWSC for a vote in March 2021. A poll was taken and was approved unanimously.

New Business:

2020 Fall Assembly Agenda

The Fall Assembly will be held virtually October 9-10th, 2020. The host District 13 will have a Spiritual Speaker and a short workshop from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on Friday night, with a short AWSC meeting following the meeting. Directly following the AWSC meeting there will be a closed virtual Alateen meeting.

Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M. the Assembly will start with a Q & A workshop by Sue P. Questions may cover any AI-Anon topic and DRs are asked to please send all questions from their members to Virginia B. by September 15th.

Sue P. from Virginia Beach, VA will be our Luncheon Speaker and Dayne H. from Ames will be the Alateen speaker.

Alateen- Lorraine R. will present the Iowa Area Safety and Behavioral Requirements for Alateen at the October Assembly. The 2021 Alateen Serenity Weekend will be held at Camp Wesley Woods April 16-18, 2021. A flyer will be out in January 2021.

Area Calendar- Virginia B. asked the AWSC if they would like a calendar for 2021 and if anyone would volunteer to put it together. A consensus was taken and approved to have a 2021 calendar; however, no one volunteered to put it together. After a brief wait, Beth K. (Past Delegate) said she would be happy to do the calendar if no one else was willing to do it. No one else volunteered. DRs were asked to go back to their group/districts and ask for a volunteer for the 2021 Area Calendar.

Area Service Workshop- A consensus was taken to have an Area Service Workshop. The theme will be "What a Concept". Districts 1, 4, 7,8,11 and 14 volunteered to each take 2 of the 12 Concepts to fill all of the workshops for the day. A discussion took place on how or where the Area Service Workshop would take place because at the current time, we are in a pandemic and the Iowa Valley Community College is not able to promise rooms for the workshop in January 2021. It was decided to have the Service Workshop March 20, 2021 along with the Serenity Weekend Planning Meeting. The location of this meeting is still to be decided.

Workshop- Katy P. presented a workshop on groups transitioning from virtual to face to face meetings based on information from the WSO and insight offered through AFG Connects. Topics of focus were on CAL, Copyright, Newcomers, 7th Tradition, Anonymity, Inclusivity, Infection Control, Electronic Meetings and Alateen. KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) questions were presented as a platform of discussion in small virtual breakout rooms led by 4 DRs (Kristine N., Jill G., Samantha M., Jamie V.) Reporters from each breakout room shared their group's discussion with the whole group.

1. What do we know about the wants, needs, and preferences of our members/groups that are relevant to our discussion and decisions regarding this topic?

- Members are using a variety of ways to connect including face to face meeting, hybrid and electronic.
- The need for meetings has not declined.

- Maintaining consistency with meeting times and dates helps ensure access to all members.
 - Electronic meetings are a helpful substitute for face to face.
 - The convenience and safety of meeting virtually is a positive.
 - Technology problems with electronic platforms can be a barrier.
 - Newcomers are looking for face to face meetings.
 - It can be difficult to connect with newcomers on virtual meetings.
2. **What do we know about the capacity (resources) and “strategic position” of our members/groups that are relevant to this discussion or decisions?**
- Limited space in buildings with social distancing.
 - The location of a meeting determines if face to face is possible.
 - Location may have safety requirements for using meeting space.
 - Virtual capacity is large.
 - Technology issues/constraints/fear.
 - Childcare unavailable.
 - Changes in book sharing, basket passing.
 - Difficult to get newcomer information out.
 - Purchasing literature is not convenient.
3. **What do we know about current realities and evolving dynamics of the existing structure that is relevant to the discussion or decision?**
- We are living in a pandemic which requires us to meet city, state and federal guidelines.
 - Our normal is different now.
 - How can we use our program to focus on unity?
 - Moving from face to face/hybrid/virtual is evolving in different districts and encourages us to be flexible. Use our programs!
 - Accurate and up to date meeting information on websites so newcomers can find AI-Anon.
4. **What are the ethical implications of our choices?**
- Connecting with newcomers is essential.
 - Fear of technology stops members from attending.
 - Virtual meetings are a plus for those members at risk or living with people that are at risk.
 - Encourage members to try virtual meetings again if they had previously tried and didn't like them.
 - Practicing non-judgement for member's choices regarding masks/non-masks.
 - Anonymity, privacy and confidentiality are concerns on virtual platforms.

Unanswered Questions/Review Comments

Virginia B. reviewed the list of questions we were to think about throughout the meeting today. Many members commented on how much was covered and many of them liked the break out rooms today. Many members also commented that they would like to see how well the virtual break out rooms would work at the Assembly in October 2020.

A consensus was taken to close the meeting with the AI-Anon Declaration at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky V.

Area Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 9-10, 2020	Fall Assembly, Virtual
November 1, 2020	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
January 10, 2021	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, Marshalltown
February 1, 2021	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
March 12-14, 2021	USNCR Delegates Meeting, Indianapolis, IN
March 20, 2021	Serenity Wknd Planning Meeting/Area Service Workshop
March 21, 2021	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, Marshalltown 9 AM
April 12-16, 2021	World Service Conference, New York
April 17, 2021	Al-Anon 70 th Anniversary, Tarrytown, NY
May 1, 2021	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
June 4-6, 2021	Spring Assembly, BV University, Storm Lake, IA
August 1, 2021	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
August 8, 2021	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9 AM, Marshalltown

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

Iowa Area Website: www.iowa-al-anon.org