

IOWA AREA SPRING ASSEMBLY
Clear Lake, IA -- June 8-10, 2018

Virginia B., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 3:00 pm. Total attendance was 75 Al-Anon, 8 Alateen of which 40 were voting Group Representatives or their Alternate.

Secretary Report (Lori R. Acting Secretary): The minutes from the 2018 March AWSC were read and approved as read.

Treasurer Report (Jean L.): The Treasurer read the financial statement from March 1, 2018 – June 1, 2018. Balance brought forward was \$21,600.79. Total receipts for the period were \$6,952.40. Total disbursements were \$4,225.91. Balance brought forward on June 1, 2018 was \$24,327.28. The report was filed as read.

Delegate's Report: (Beth K.): The Delegate's Report was read, will be filed with the minutes and are attached (full report from WSC).

Alternate Delegate's Report (Katy P):

2018 Spring Assembly – Thank you to District 3 for all of your hard work along with Co-Chairs Deb B. And Lorelei R. Many thanks for Sabrina L., the Alateen speaker, Mary H., the Al-Anon speaker and Gary B., the Spiritual Speaker for sharing their stories of recovery. A shout out to Mary H. for her workshop on Saturday! A final report will be given at the August AWSC meeting.

2018 Fall Assembly – Davenport, IA October 12 – 14, 2018. Flyers are available this weekend. An outline of our agenda is on the AA flyer. A walk through will be held at the facility soon. Registration will be by check only and due on October 1st. Workshops will include a presentation on Concept 9 by our speaker Sarah S. And Katy P. will be sharing on the Forum.

The 2019 Spring Assembly – Grinnell, IA, June 7 – 9, 2019. Theme TBD. AFG Speakers – Luncheon – Rachelle C., MN N Delegate Panel 56, Zimmerman, MN and Spiritual Speaker on Sunday – Lorraine R., Des Moines, IA. Alateen – TBD. A walk through is scheduled for June 16th. More information will be in Katy's August AWSC report. Katy will be touring the campus with Lisa G. And Co-Chair Katelyn from Grinnell and the committee.

Forum Report: Mark S., the Forum Magazine Editor, has a great article in the June Forum about the process involved in taking a Forum sharing from its initial submission all the way through to print. Sometimes an error is found after it has been distributed. Please be sure to black out the last name above the photo on the back cover of the April Forum. The last three Forums have an article or photo submitted by Iowans, Virginia B., Diane S., Helen P. and Lorraine R.

Note: The Coordinator, Action Committee and the DR reports were not read due to a tornado warning during the Business Meeting.

Coordinator Reports:

Alateen – Regina K. – The Alateen Serenity Weekend was a big success! 41 people in attendance, 12 AMIAS and 29 Alateens from Districts 3, 7, 8, 11 & 13. All in attendance received a water bottle. A big thank you to Ann H. for being our certified nurse of the weekend and LeAnn T. who came to support the event from Iowa City. On Saturday, April 28th, 18 AMIAS from Districts 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 were certified at the AMIAS training.

IMPORTANT reminder – July 1st, 2018 is the deadline for AMIAS recertification. Those who do not get certified before this date will be deactivated as the AMIAS at the WSO database.

Archives: Lori R.: Lori has three areas in her house with Iowa Archives – one is the ‘No Keep’ area, another is a ‘Should We Keep’ and another is ‘Will Keep for Sure’. Linda A., Jean L., & Lori will go through each area and decide about what to do with it all. Lori will bring the things to dispose of to the August AWSC. Lori’s hope is to go from 3 four drawer cabinets down to one.

Group Records – Becky V.: Asked how we like the new group on-line change forms? A few GRs and DRs are using this method which changes the group’s information almost immediately! WSO stated that more than 125,000 meeting searches are done by members and newcomers PER MONTH! GRs & DRs, whenever you make changes in the WSO site, send the updates/corrections to Becky also because:

1. WSO automatically makes the GR the CMA (current mailing address) for the group if there is no information in that section. Not all GR’s want to be the CMA. Becky can assist if needed.
2. WSO does not use information involving Alt GRs. However, it is important that Becky has this information for voting purposes, especially when the GR is not present at the Assembly. This is extremely important during election years.
3. If the information on the on-line form has been entered incorrectly; Becky can contact WSO and work with them to correct the problem.

Literature – Missy Y – Excited to about the completed pamphlet, Understanding & Hope for Parents & Grandparents (P-94). It is available for purchase in English, French and Spanish for \$.75 each.

The WSC gave conceptual approval for a new “Just for Tonight” bookmark. No date has been set for publication yet.

2019 CAL Catalog (S-15) and CAL Order Form (S-16): Currently in the works, these free service tools will be available beginning this summer.

Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships—A collection of Al-Anon personal stories (B-33): This new 144-page book is at the printers! It will be introduced in English at the 2018 Al-Anon International Convention in July for \$11.00 US each. (French and Spanish translations are expected to be ready on February 2019.)

NEW DAILY READER (working title): This book is intended to include inspiring thoughts on a wide variety of Al-Anon topics from the perspective of Al-Anon members. Please continue to encourage members to submit sharings for this project, especially on the Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service.

Sharings are needed for “CAL Corner” and about how CAL has helped members with their recovery. Please urge members to send sharings about: In All Our Affairs (B-15) due before the end of June, and sharings about Discovering Choices (B-30) due before the end of August. We’d also love to hear members thoughts about Hope & Understanding for Parents & Grandparents (P-94) and Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships (B-33). Remember to keep your sharings to 350 words and to keep the focus on what this piece has meant to you rather than the content.

50th Anniversary Edition of One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (B6-50): In celebration of this classic book’s 50 years, a souvenir edition with a special anniversary cover, ribbon and commemorative bookplate will be available at the International Convention in July in English, French and Spanish for \$15.00 US each. The text of the book remains the same.

Check out the website for a wealth of information including sample chapters, downloadable literature and much more. Continue to support local Iowa Literature Depots.

Newsletter – Mary S – Did you know:

1. The Iowa Reaches Out newsletter is distributed quarterly to all Area Officers and Coordinators, GRs, Past Delegates and interested subscribers;
2. Each quarter 208 copies of the Newsletter are sent out with 198 being electronic and 10 USPS;

3. The purpose and intent of Iowa Reaches Out is to report information about the activities of the Area World Service Conference (AWSC);

Public Outreach – Lisa G. – There are two important announcements from the WSO:

1. 2018 Membership Survey: More than 13,000 members participated in Al-Anon's twelfth survey. There was an increase from 8,517 participants in 2015. The results of the survey will be available between September and December 2018. The findings will be posted in the WSO website and announcements will appear on AFG Connects, the Loop and other WSO publications.
2. Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2019 (AFA): the new 2019 public outreach magazine issue is being prepared for publication and shipment in August 2018. The deadline for orders for the AFA 2019 first printing magazine is July 11, 2018, 5 pm ET.

Web Page – Hedi M.- Please check the website for new trivia questions. Recently, a document was received and the identity of one of our members was compromised. I would like to ask everyone, including myself, to carefully check the information sent to be posted. The Web Page Committee discussed a few web page issues at this Assembly; the results will be discussed at the August AWSC.

District Reports: (Not read). Please read the reports given out at Assembly. Districts submitting reports: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 14. No reports were submitted by Districts 5, 6, 10, 12, 13 and 15.

Action Committee Reports: (Not read)

Public Outreach Action Committee Minutes: Chair – Lisa G. Recorder – Michelle K.
The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am with 24 members participating.

2019 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is available in 3 languages; English, Spanish & French. The deadline to order 1st printing is July 11, 2018 5pm EST for shipping in August. If you're not familiar with the newer look of AFA, it says "Help and Hope" and "free" on the front cover. The back cover has extra room for sticker or stamp with your local PO number. Shipping is included with the cost.

2018 membership survey: More than 13,000 members participated which is the largest survey response since the survey began in 1984. The results will be posted on WSO website, AFG Connects, In the Loop and other WSO publications between September and December this year.

Discussed public outreach tools on the WSO website as previously shown at October Assembly PO Meeting. The tools discussed were how to get the new bookmark for free, use of the media kit for Public Service Announcements and how there's a DVD available for purchase (\$5). The website is very mobile-friendly. Lisa demonstrated the Media Releases section. Discussed different ways to get Al-Anon's name out there in respect to National Recovery Month (September) due to the need for family recovery. Discussed methods of getting AFA into ER's, mental health facilities, in the hands of social workers, etc. Discussed the possibility of requesting that WSO bring back the Crying House bookmark because community professionals have asked for them. Our action until Fall Assembly is to get as many AFA's out into our communities as possible for National Recovery Month.

Lisa also shared with us some direction from Claire R at WSO regarding participating in public events. She referred to definitions of attraction vs affiliation from pages 117 & 118 in the Policy section of our Service Manual - "when Al-Anon cooperates with others, we reach many more families of alcoholics than we would when we operate in isolation". We shared ways of becoming more visible in our communities including cooperation with AA's Public Outreach in our District's. We are not "promoting" our program but rather providing information about our program at booths/tables in hopes of "attracting" more newcomers to Al-Anon.

Discussed District 7's presence at the 41st annual Iowa Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse held in Des Moines in April. Funding for the 2019 conference will be discussed at the Fall Assembly.

While it was very expensive, it produces other PO opportunities to those not aware of Al-Anon. We will be discussing how to fund this opportunity at the Fall Conference, October 13th.

Meeting was promptly adjourned at 11:15 am.

Group Services Action Committee Minutes:

Chairs: Lori R, Becky V. Recorder: Val. Meeting was opened at 10:15 AM

Meeting Cards: Website Committee met and reviewed meetings on website. GRs - please connect with the individual who updates meeting cards to verify they are accurate. Becky said that if you don't have an updated meeting card (within one year) it will be removed from the website. Dates may vary by district, but each card should have a date included. Tricia prints 200 per month (front/back). Lori takes updated copies to the treatment center. Lori asked if others are using a QR code, which is optional.

Open GR positions: Question: Does each group have to have their own GR? Answer: one GR per registered meeting. It is preferred to not have one GR for two meetings, but acceptable but only has 1 vote. Question: How do you encourage others to step up to be GR? Answers: I was "voluntold." Question: Did you feel abandoned by the former GR? Answer: I don't feel like I was abandoned because my sponsor helps me. I would have like to have had a mentor. There is also a guideline on the WSO website for Group Representatives. Question: How do groups react to bringing information back from Assembly? Answers: Depends how long it takes to discuss.

Beginners Meetings: Question: Do you have a beginner's meeting, and do you have a GR? Answer: No, it is an institution meeting. Different districts have tried to make it a regular meeting and switched back and forth from institution meeting. Some experience has been the meeting at institutions is not positive. Beginner's meetings are less structured. It is difficult to keep GRs for those meetings.

Archives: Lori will bring boxes of things that do not belong in the Area Archives (mostly district flyers) to the August AWSC. Question: Audrey has chosen to close a meeting in her district: Is there a list of things I need to do? Answer: No, but remaining finances/literature goes back to district. Other items can be archived at district level. Question: Ashley asked about wanted to know what to keep? Answer: Lori said things that are related to the district. Check the WSO website for guidelines.

WSO doesn't have information on groups formed prior to 1985 as they were lost in the move. Lori has some information, but might not be accurate. Groups are encouraged to research their history. Lori has long-term member questionnaires she can forward. GR's were encouraged to start a journal for your group. Also, you can tell how old a meeting is by the number of digits in meeting number.

Lori encouraged members to consider Archives as a service position. Lori has been organizing the information. AA Archivist serves 2 terms (4 years), perhaps we should consider 2 terms as well. Nothing is currently online. There are many things to consider when scanning archive documents: who can maintain it (some are tech savvy, some are not), if paper is destroyed (fire, flood) an electronic record would remain. A scanner has been donated to the Area if needed.

Alateen: Roll was taken of which districts have Alateen meetings. Question: What do we do for Alateen archives? Answer: Alateen sponsors come to district meeting to report, ends up in archives that way. Question: How do you draw Alateens? Answer: District 8 had a well attended AA and Al-Anon meeting in same location, so Alateen meeting was started. Alateen members have shared stories at events, fundraisers, and pizza nights so they are visible to AA members. There has been good networking between District 7 and 8 Alateens. District 7 has done similar activities. Some districts have difficulty finding and keeping sponsors. Question: Can AA members help with Alateen? Answer: Yes, as long as they attend Al-Anon. Sometimes sponsors get burned out because are pulled from their Al-Anon meeting to assist with Alateen meeting. One issue is the age differences of kids in Alateen meetings; we

have older kids, younger kids, and nothing in between. Grouping together silences voices of older teens. One district has solved this issue by separating by age groups.

Upcoming topics for Action Committee: Alateen / Archives / testing group changes from WSO website.

Fellowship Communications Action Committee Minutes:

Missy Y – Chairperson. Tracy H.G. - Recorder. Meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer. The sign-in sheet was passed and the mission statement was read. There were 24 members present. Missy passed out and read the Book Report “Lois Remembers” by Kory S. Several ideas that were thought of to help members know what literature was available to purchase from depot or online. Discussion was about how to get people reading the other CAL besides what they read during the meetings. One member said that she would like to have a place to find out what each piece of literature entailed so she could help members find the appropriate book for that individual. There was discussion about:

1- Having a contest for people to write a book report on CAL and bring it back to the group and have some kind of prize.

2- Write a paper or book report on: What did you get out of that book?

3- Write a paper or book report on: an excerpt, chapter, section from a book

There was also discussion on composing these and giving each member a copy of them to help members know what the books entailed.

Two of the actions that were decided on for the next Committee meeting were:

1. Encourage to do Cal-Corner, daily readings and forms to write about books
2. Top 5 books read in the groups

Hedi asked every District to get their meeting cards up to date.

Meeting closed with the Declaration at 11:05am.

Old Business: Old Business was delayed due to a tornado warning. We gathered together in a safe area to finish our business meeting led by Virginia B. - Chair. There were 39 GR's for voting purposes which made up a quorum. Reminder for the recorders for each Action Committee to send the reports to Linda A. - Secretary.

Serenity Weekend - Beth K. - Reminded us that the flyer is out for the Area Serenity Weekend which is September 21 – 23, 2018 at Wesley Woods. The map on the back of the flyer is wrong. A new map will be posted in the web page. Beth will put a date on the bottom of the new map so that we will know that it is the correct one. Do not use Google maps as it takes you to a wrong location. Serenity Weekend will have 4 meals and the price will stay the same. Twin Lakes Camp has been reserved for 2019. The registration form for Serenity Weekend must be post marked by August 31, 2018.

Alateen – Regina K.: See Regina's original Alateen report on page 1 of these minutes for more information about the recertification deadline.

New Business: Virginia B. - There was discussion on the USNCR (United States North Central Region) Trustee. Debbie G. is our current Regional Trustee for this Region; her term is up in 2019. There are 9 areas in our region (Minnesota North, Minnesota South, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois North, Illinois South, Michigan, Indiana & Ohio). Each Area can submit one candidate for a three-year term. There were 39 voting GR's present to vote on our candidate to be determined by a simple majority vote. The resume for Jean L. was sent out ahead of time for each GR to read. The results were that Jean L. will be Iowa's candidate for North Central Regional Trustee.

USNCR Delegates Meeting wrap-up – Beth K: Once a year there is an RDM (Regional Delegates Meeting); Past Delegates & Current Officers may attend. It was held March 16–18, 2018 in Duluth, MN and hosted by Minnesota North. Iowa was represented by 4 Past Delegates and 3 Officers. The purpose of the RDM is to prepare the new Delegates before they go to WSC (World Service Conference).

Area Inventory - Katy P: –The Area Inventory is done at the second Spring Assembly of each term. Katy reminded everyone to pick up the Inventory form, fill it out and put it in the bag at the back of the room. Or you can take it with you, fill it out and return to Katy by mail. You may also complete it on-line with the electronic version and email it to Katy P. The results will be given at the 2018 Fall Assembly.

Virginia B.- Reminder that the date for the August 2018 AWSC meeting has been changed to August 5, 2018 and that the August 2019 date for AWSC may also be changed.

Virginia B.– The votes were counted and Jean L. will be our candidate for the North Central Region. A motion was made to destroy the ballots by Geri G. and seconded by Jamie V.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 and closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

In Service,

Lori R, Acting Area Secretary

(Linda A was absent due to a family event. Thank you Lori for helping out!)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 1, 2018	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
August 5, 2018	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
September 21-23, 2018	Serenity Weekend, Wesley Woods, Indianola, IA
October 12-14, 2018	Fall Assembly, Davenport, IA
November 1, 2018	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
January 19, 2019	Service Workshop, Marshalltown Community College, Marshalltown, IA
January 20, 2019	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
March 10, 2019	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
June 7-9, 2019	Spring Assembly, Grinnell, IA
August 4, 2019	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, 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.AI-Anondesmoines.org 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-AI-Anon.org>

Delegate Report – 2018 Spring Assembly
June 9, 2017
2018 World Service Conference - “AI-Anon—there is no standing still!”

The theme is an excerpt from a statement made by our Co-founder Lois W., “AI-Anon—there is no standing still!” What this says is “we are always changing, continuing to grow.” This is a call to action. It reminds all of us there are many others affected by the disease of alcoholism that have not heard of AI-Anon.

The Conference theme lays the foundation for the tone of the WSC. It encourages members to use the Legacies of the AI-Anon program to empower members to success in service. Many of the breakouts, discussions and items in the agenda build from this. Even the three-minute talks by the outgoing panel of Delegates may build from this. So, it “sets the stage.” The Conference theme keeps us all moving in the same direction.

SUNDAY

I had only one hitch on Sunday. Iowa’s winter decided to show up again early Sunday morning. It caused my flight to be delayed because the plane had to be de-iced! No worries, American Airlines had already rescheduled me by the time I landed in Chicago, so I was good to go. On to New York. There was some confusion about my transportation from LaGuardia to the hotel, but that got ironed out, and off I went w/ Mintie, the Delegate from Manitoba / Northwest Ontario. It took her over 24 hours to get to conference including a night in the airport because of their weather!

I checked in and met up with members of Panel 57 (Rockin’ Step 11), went to dinner at a local diner, ate too much, laughed a lot and caught up. This year, I was able to interact so much more with my panel members and others.

One of the most valuable experiences in service are the relationships I develop. The first year of any term you spend time getting your feet underneath you. Sometimes you are overshadowed with doubt “can I do the job.” As we move through the term we grow in confidence and gain assurances we have embarked on a life changing experience.

MONDAY

Monday is not an official day for the World Service Conference (WSC), but it is a day of preparation. I had no formal commitments in the morning, but I jumped out of bed and checked my new app “**Attendify**”. It is COOL. It had our Agenda/Schedule, meeting rooms, breakout lists, announcements, the Service Manual, and a social media capability. This app is also being used during the International Convention. See me during Assembly if you would like to see it.

We had lunch and then was introduced **Vali F., the new Executive Director**. She served on panel 53, is from Arizona, and was one of closing dinner speakers in 2015.

If you would like to know more about her, you can read her sharing in the 2015 World Service Conference Summary (it is on-line). Vali comes from a background in technology. She had hoped for many years for the opportunity to leave her field for something more meaningful. She is very excited and it shows!

I am very excited to serving on the **PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE** again this year. I was on the Social Media Task Force. We are looking at ways for that platform to be more meaningful and effective; more to come! Other things we are working on are:

- Developing Culturally Sensitive Public Outreach Materials
- Developing Public Outreach tools for Incarcerated Members
- Working on future PSA (Public Service Announcements). I believe there will be three new ones this year.

- What are the most important audiences for Public Outreach messages to target in the next two years? This will be the top item for discussion during the June meeting.

Last thing of the afternoon was **SHARING AREA HIGHLIGHTS DELEGATE'S MEETING**. All delegates submitted Highlights / Successes and Challenges / Concerns. There were three round table discussions regarding what the areas were involved in. This included

- Obtaining liability Insurance for the Area
- Creating or updating By-laws
- Discussions on finances; including a financial inventory and necessary reserve fund, Fund Raisers
- Area wide Public Outreach projects (Bill Boards & Digital signs, AFA)
- Accommodations for Spanish speaking and obtaining and use of translation equipment.
- Utilizing technology more (web-pages, zoom)
- Emphasizing service sponsors
- Redistricting

A report was distributed after Conference with each Areas' Highlights / Successes and Challenges / Concerns.

After a full day, I went to the Hospitality Room and gathered all kinds of goodies to bring home. I also got my mail, went to my room and read them all. As the week went on I received more cards, a poem and flowers! Thank you for all your love and support!

MONDAY NIGHT – After dinner the new Panel 58 Delegates received their conference pin. This year I was a Sponsor Mentor. My Mentee was Marcia M. Panel 58 from Southern California. The HP was at it again. She lives close to my sister and Marcia and I had so many common life experiences!

TUESDAY

The morning was full of welcome, and presentations of Conference goals, Conference theme, Conference etiquette and voting procedures. We practiced utilizing the electronic clicker to vote and tally the results.

A Task Force presented a **FACING OUR BIASES SKIT** and an exercise on taking a “personal biases” inventory, using a handout. The skit defined **BIAS**. It challenged me to consider own personal biases that keep me from embracing those different from myself. The family disease of alcoholism thrives on keeping us isolated from each other, concentrating on our perceived differences. The **PERSONAL BIASES INVENTORY** had questions such as “How do I feel if I walk into a meeting and everyone looks different from me?” and “How do I feel when a member shares their experience with a Higher Power different than mine?”

Then there were questions pointing us to utilizing **AL-ANON'S SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES** such as “Unity and Participation—How can I remind myself that our common welfare should come first, as stated in Tradition One?” and “Respect and Open-Mindedness—How can I put “principles above personalities” and show loving respect to every member?” Someone this shared afterwards “Instead of My way or the Highway think about this: My way gets me to the Highway of insanity”

We began our discussions on **CHOSEN AGENDA ITEMS (CAI)** and these continued throughout the week. This year we had five Chosen Agenda Items; two as full Conference discussions and three discussed in breakout sessions. These are items submitted before the end of 2017. There can be 5-10 sub-groups under a topic. The full conference discussion CAIs were on Group Autonomy and Leadership. The breakout sessions CAIs discussed Public Outreach (increase membership, PSAs, Tradition 11, anonymity), Rural America and how Al-Anon fits into those communities, and former AA members.

The intent is just to have discussion. We have no illusion of solving these items during Conference, but by sharing our experience, strength and hope we may be able to generate ideas for our Areas to deal differently with the Item.

Throughout the week the individual **TRUSTEES SHARED** their experience on being a Trustee. They started with filling out the resume. It is important to follow instructions and allow time to complete it and the interviewing process. The interview process is extensive, including a trip to the WSO to be interviewed by current Trustees. Travel is a large part of a Trustee's position. Travel includes

We reviewed and approved the **2017 ANNUAL REPORT**. The Annual report is just that; the report covers all decisions and activities within WSO for 2017. During Conference we are given 5-minute report from each Department updating us on what has happened between January 1 and April 2018.

The report describes the role of Board of Trustees (BoT), Executive Committee, Executive Director and AFG, INC. The Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and each department has a section to share highlights, concerns and progress. Details include

- ❖ BOARD OF TRUSTEE reports on the actions it took in its legal and financial capacity, in its oversight capacity, in Strategic Planning, Together Empowering AI-Anon Members (TEAM), and Road Trip? You and Your Board Connect. ***There are 3 Trustee at Large positions open! See me if you are interested.***
- ❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE reports on its on-going work including actions approved and presented to the Board of Trustees.
- ❖ POLICY COMMITTEE reports on policies items brought forward from members.
- ❖ ADMINISTRATION includes the Executive Director, Staff Leadership, Copyright & Trademark, Electronic meetings, Working with Areas, Strategic Planning, and the 2018 International reports
- ❖ PROGRAMS include reports regarding the 2018 & 2023 International Conventions, the 2017-2020 World Service Conference, the Conference Leadership Team, Groups, International, Literature, and Public Outreach. Highlights:
 - Group Services -
 - Total number of AI-Anon/Alateen groups worldwide in 2017 is 24,395.
 - Total Electronic meetings are 170.
 - New Service Manual; discovered and correcting errors and omissions in the publication. In the process of complete review. Once done a new version will be posted on line and will be sent for Spanish and French translation.
 - Thanks for the Happy 60th Anniversary Cards to Alateen
 - First time in five years there have been 21 new Alateen groups were registered so far in 2018!
 - 4,354 AMIAS were certified in 2017.
 - To become an AMIAS or be supportive of Alateen, see our Regina K., Iowa's Alateen Coordinator.
 - International –
 - Communicating with and providing guidance to 36 General Service Offices, 14 Service Boards, and local meeting contacts in 68 other countries where AI-Anon has a presence.
 - Russian Service Board is having a 3-day event in November to celebrate AI-Anon's 30th anniversary in that country
 - South Korea completed a translation of Hope for Today.

- Over sees translation from English to Spanish and French.
 - Planning international trips that bring members of this network together is part of ensuring that help and recovery will be available in every community.
- Literature – Been busy!
- 2019 Calendar Quotations
 - New Pamphlet: Hope & Understanding for Parents & Grandparents (P-94); available to the fellowship in May for \$.75.
 - Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships: A Collection of Al-Anon Personal Stories (B-33); 144-page book will be introduced at the International Convention in July for \$11.00
 - Fiftieth Anniversary Edition of One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (B6-50); In celebration of this classic book's 50 years, a souvenir edition with a special anniversary cover, ribbon and commemorative bookplate will be available at the International Convention for \$15.00 each. The text of the book remains the same. Any books remaining after the Convention will be sold.
 - New Daily Reader (working title); received over 1,258 sharings so far.
 - The Forum Book (working title); Members submitted over 748 titles and publication dates of past Forum articles. WSO welcomes additional suggestions.
 - Magazine Coordinator; In July 2017, Mark S. joined the WSO staff as Magazine Coordinator. He is responsible for selecting and editing The Forum and Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism, and serves as staff liaison to the Forum Editorial Advisory Committee and the Forum Coordinators.
 - See Missy Y., Iowa's Literature Coordinator for up-to-date information about Literature.
- Public Outreach-Media/Group Services
- The Nielsen TV Rating Service recently announcing that the Al-Anon TV public service announcements in the US earned a Top Five Percent Award for 2017. This award recognizes nonprofit organizations with the most PSA broadcasts during the year. Our PSAs appeared 51,000 times for an estimated audience of 325,000,000. The radio PSAs played 65,000 times to an estimated audience of 338,000,000. WOW!!! It is easy to get a PSA to a network or radio broadcast. Contact Lisa G., Iowa's Public Outreach Coordinator for more information.
 - The purpose of all Public Outreach messages is to help people find a meeting where they can hear the message of hope. It is critical they can find a meeting at the first place they look. The group information a vital link to reaching the new comer.
- The meeting search on the Al-Anon.org web site has a new "report a problem" feature. It generates an average of 30 reports a week. This usually means the meeting data is out dated. Maybe the meeting has moved or has closed, but a newcomer cannot locate the meeting listed on the website. When this happens WSO temporarily places the group in "Reported not Meeting" status and removes the meeting information from the meeting search and the WSO toll-free meeting line until the group can verify the status of the meeting. Please contact Becky V., our Group Records Coordinator.
- Public Outreach-Professional (&Archives)
- WSO has shipped 208,050 copies of the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA) magazine 2018 second printing
 - Since AFA's inception in 2006, a total of 400,325 copies were ordered.

- The deadline for 2019 1st printing is July 11, 2018, 5 pm ET. Again, contact Lisa G., Iowa's Public Outreach Coordinator for more information.
- WSO continues to cooperate with professionals and participate in sponsored events.
- Archives
 - WSO continues to digitize documents and photos; many are stored "in the cloud."
 - October 5, 2018 marks the 30th anniversary of our cofounder, Lois W.'s death. The December/January 1988-89 Memorial issue of the Inside Al-Anon newsletter was

❖ FINANCE

- ❖ DIGITAL STRATEGY manages social media, data analysis, website conversion, In the Loop, Group Records on-line form, Group Records search 2.0. The department is responsible for leveraging technology to facilitate communication within the fellowship as well as generating awareness of newcomers and professionals. Interesting 2017 Stats:

- Website Visits – 2,946,238
- Social Followers – 74,392 (+31%)
- Toll-Free Calls – 34,451

WEDNESDAY MORNING

I enjoyed the Audit and Financial Reports because I am a numbers person. I even reviewed WSO's tax return before I went to conference. It is available on the member's web site. Everything is transparent. My boss says I am easily entertained! But numbers speak to me and this year they said a lot!

2016 was a good year! **REVENUE...** Contributions went over \$2 million for the first time! We did not have to dip into our savings (the reserve fund) to pay bills, and we ended the year on a positive note. Even though literature sales were down, I think it may be a good thing. Our contributions were meant to support WSO. I was very happy to see the Forum subscriptions had gone up. Not by a lot, but it is growing! The Non-Cash Contribution was especially interesting. First, we are really getting into the 21st century by tapping into what Google has to offer, but more important, we do not take such a contribution lightly. Just because it is free doesn't mean we can take advantage of it. It must fit into our principles. Highlights of Iowa's contributions:

1. The Iowa Area contributed: \$24,592 in 2016
2. Group contributions were \$15,627
3. An average of \$129.15/group AND
4. Other Contributions totaled \$8,965

The make-up of contributions was interesting. Quarterly Appeal contributions were more than group contributions. This actually surprised me. It really works! I would really like to see members get more involved in giving themselves a birthday present for either the Al-Anon birthday or their belly button birthday!

What did our revenue get us? A fully staffed WSO, a New Digital Strategy Department, New Website Design and an increased Social Media presence, a new piece of literature (Path to Recovery workbook), and TEAM Events (9 in 2016) and Road Trip, You & Your Board (previously Meet the Board). I thought that was a pretty awesome order!

EXPENSES... The largest portion of expenses are salaries and benefits. Other expenses include printing & postage, occupancy, office services/expense, travel & meetings (nine TEAM events in 2016), the World Service Conference, and PSA's. More expenses are due to the 2016 office reorganization; the office is less top heavy and there is an increase in communication. The Digital Strategy Department was

established & Web Master was hired vs. using an outside vendor. Expenses fall into three categories; Program Services, Literature Distribution Services, and General Administration.

THE BUDGET...Budgeted Revenue for 2017 are similar to actual revenue of 2016.

The Board of Trustees voted to accept the recommendation to discontinue the complimentary copies of the WSC Summaries and Service Manuals. This not only saves on printing and postage expenses, but is another step to further use technology. These publications will be available on the member website and can be download to electronic devices. The Board of Trustees recognizes that not everyone has this capability, so these publications will be available to purchase for those wanting a hard copy. The real advantage is that the service manual will always be current.

These are exciting times Tradition 7 states "Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions..." There is more to being "self-supporting." It is helpful to keep in mind the spiritual principals of faith, trust, compassion, gratitude, generosity, prudence and abundance when discussing financial challenges.

We are not asking members to give beyond their means. This allows members to give what they can. Gifts reflecting our financial abundance, need not be huge, just what we can truly afford.

Three task force presentations included skits and workshop material to enable us to talk about money; (never an easy subject)

1. Spirituality in Group Money Decisions
2. Spirituality in District Money Decisions
3. Spirituality in Area Money Decisions

We could incorporate these workshops in a new AWSC meeting format, at an Assembly, or the Service Workshop. These have thought provoking questions that will help all of us with this issue, along w/ teaching us how to bring the spiritual principles to all levels of service. I have given the material over to Jean L., our Area Treasurer, to determine a time we could hold these workshops.

There was an overview of the Regional Trustee Process, the 2017 Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT), out-of-Region Delegate Selection, and lastly the Election of the RCT Chairpersons and Alternate Chairperson. The Nominating Committee on Trustees brought forth the Trustees going through the affirmation process. During this time Board Officers and ECRPM Affirmations were also brought forward.

Next year we will be nominating a member from Iowa to stand for Regional Trustee. I want to encourage members that have the skills, abilities, & talents needed to serve. I will be sharing more about this service opportunity at the Fall Assembly.

JUST FOR TODAY

In 2015 the Literature Committee began discussing requests from two members in different Areas for changes to the "Prayer for Today" which is included in the Just for Today Wallet Card (M-10) and Bookmark (M-12).

1. One thought that although it is beautiful, it is clearly a religious prayer, and should be revised or discontinued.
2. The other requested that the words "O, Divine Master" in the second paragraph of the prayer be changed to "God." Because the prayer is included in the Newcomer Packet (K-10), she felt it could give many newcomers the idea that AI-Anon is a religious program.

The current wording of the "Prayer for Today" is as follows:

“Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy.”

“O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

During the 2016 WSC there was discussion and consensus to take the requests back to the Area to continue the conversation at the 2017 WSC. In the meantime, the Delegates would conduct informed Traditions-based discussions within their Areas to gather further input.

During the 2017 WSC time was set aside to continue gathering information and give all Conference members the opportunity to listen to one another and consider all aspects of this topic w/ an open mind. Delegates reported back and oh boy was there input. This is not a topic we pursued in our Area. I found it fascinating to listen to all the varying viewpoints. Even more fascinating was how people came a complete 360 on the view of the topic once they listened to everything. Acceptance and kindness are very important spiritual principals when working on such a controversial topic. There was no expectation that any conclusions or solutions were to be reached.

The Consensus was that the prayer would be left as is for now.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES BIG QUESTION was a presentation on **How can we empower our members in the use of our Legacies and policies when seeking solutions to issues within the Area, District and Group?** The obvious question is “Why Do Members Seek Solutions outside themselves?” There are a variety of reasons for this. Someone may not be familiar with the Service Manual, they may want the answer now, they can’t find what they are looking for in the Service Manual, or it is an issue or problem they have never had before. It is important to remember that WSO is

- Clearing House
- Does things that a district or area could not do (such as publishing literature)
- The center, not the head, it serves, but doesn’t control or direct. The Al-Anon Family Group Classic Addition (B-5), Pg. 145-146.

The Trustees have developed a form that we can use in a workshop to Empower Ourselves by using Al-Anon’s Legacies and Policies when Seeking Solutions.

As Delegate I am challenged to encourage the members in this Area to look to our Legacies and Warranties when seeking solutions to Group, District, and Area questions.

I would love to come to each district and share the form and how we can use it to find solutions to issues that arise. I will be contacting each DR in the next couple of months to discuss the possibility of attending a district meeting. This is a tool that can really help us not only learn more about our legacies, but will help us instill them in our lives.

The Delegates were able to observe **Open Board of Trustee meetings**. I saw first-hand the open communication, the diverse opinions, the concern for upholding the Legacies, and the weight of responsibility not taken lightly. The Board does an awesome job!

Wednesday evening, we heard Maria de J. from Mexico share her story and service experience. We then attended an open Board of Trustees meeting.

THURSDAY

AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXT OF THE AL-ANON / ALATEEN SERVICE MANUAL 2014-2017

Digest of Al-Anon & Alateen Policies

Financial Matters Section, pages 95-99

The initial idea for re-examining the change was sparked by a Thought Force conversation reflecting on abundance and gratitude as part of giving rather than just the responsibility of self-support. Including core principles of abundance, gratitude, responsibility, trust and unity clarifies how and why we do what we do in relationship to Tradition 7. This was five years in the making!! It highlights to me maybe why asking people to put more than a buck in the basket doesn't always work. I can see a connection what I put in the basket and how I want to give because of the life I have today.

Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions Section, pages 123-124

The Policy Committee was asked to clarify what could be announced at meetings. They were asked to tighten up the language to address specific situations. Know that policy can only interpret basic guidelines. With that said the announcement of Al-Anon events will be a big change for some people; it is much more specific and allowing more latitude in announcing events that are related to AA

World Service Handbook, Text on pages 131-165

In 2014 the Chairman of the Board letter asked Delegates "is there anything in the Handbook" that you believe needs further clarifications or explanation? They got over 75 suggestions and a task force was formed. 2½ years later, the entire text of the Handbook was examined. Proposed changes to text AND change in the order in which the text is written. The Handbook was completely re-arranged and re-written to make it easier to use. Also making it more of a world view, I think you will like it and it should be available in early 2018.

Thursday evening, we heard Kim A from the UK & Eire share her story and service experience. We then had updates on You and Your Board Connect (previously Meet the Board) and on the 7th International Convention **Celebrating One Day at A Time**. It will be held in Baltimore, MD July 6-8, 2018. Registration will be open in September. Have you been saving? I have been. Religiously I put \$3.50 away every week. I will have more than enough to attend this event. Minnesota North is planning on taking a bus, so if you are interested in riding along, let me know.

FRIDAY

A task force shared on the Spiritual Principles of Servicing as Trustee. It was very interesting. Many of us put the Trustees on a pedestal. Many of us could stand for Trust. Please see me if you have any interest.

2019 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

The 2019 WSC will be in the greater New York City area. The Conference will be held Monday, April 16 through Friday, April 20, 2018 at the Renaissance Westchester Hotel in West Harrison, New York. All Conference Members will visit Stepping Stones the morning of Wednesday, April 18, 2019. Oh, my goodness. I never thought I would visit Stepping Stones; a dream come true.

The Closing dinner included two spiritual speakers and what I call a graduation. Each out going Delegate received a scroll, honoring their service.

Well folks, that is my story and I am sticking to it. Thank you for your trust and faith in me. It is an honor to service Iowa. It is even more of an honor to realize that I am (and you also) are part of a vision of recovery. We strive for personal recovery, but we also strive for those still out there searching for help. Here are quotes from the opening session that I believe are also appropriate for a closing.

"I can relay this hope to anyone reaching out." -*The Forum*, February 2017 issue, p. 22

"The hope for recovery and our future rests in our hands, each and every member." -*The Forum*, January 2017 issue, p. 23

“You’re all founders in your own right, carrying the message.”

-Lois W., 1987 World Service Conference *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31), p. 1

P.S.

The planning has begun for the Al-Anon’s 8th International Convention being held in 2023. Saturday after Conference a group of Delegates, Trustees, and WSO staff listened to 13 locations give their pitch for the Convention to be held in their City. I was fortunate enough to be on the committee. The selection was narrowed down to three sites; Denver, Seattle, and Albuquerque. A second selection committee will visit each site to narrow it down to the final site. The will submit this site to the Board of Trustees for final approval. We should hear sometime in 2018 where the 2023 International Convention will be held.

Beth K.
Iowa Area Delegate
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