

IOWA AREA FALL ASSEMBLY
Davenport, IA -- October 12-14, 2018

Virginia B., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 2:04 pm on 10/13/18. Total attendance was 72 Al-Anon, 7 Alateen of which 37 were voting Group Representatives or their Alternate.

Secretary Report The minutes from the 2018 August AWSC were approved by consensus vote and filed.

Treasurer Report (Jean L.): The Treasurer read the financial statement from August 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018. Balance brought forward was \$24,259.63. Total receipts for the period were \$5,132. Total disbursements were \$1,903.03. Balance brought forward on September 30, 2018 was \$27,488.60. The report was approved by consensus vote and filed as read.

Consensus vote was taken and approved to pay the full expenses for the Delegate to attend the World Service Conference (WSC) in 2019. Equalized expense is \$1,302; actual expense is \$1,972.

Delegate's Report: Beth K. was ill – Katy P. read the report: The Delegate's Report was read and will be filed with the minutes (full report attached). Katy P. will help with Alateen as needed until a replacement is found. Anyone interested, send your resume to Beth K.

Alternate Delegate's Report (Katy P.):

2018 Fall Assembly – Davenport, IA - October 12–14, 2018. Thanks to District 9, Michelle K. and the Committee for the wonderful Assembly in Davenport.

The 2019 Spring Assembly – Grinnell, IA - June 7–9, 2019. Theme: Keys To The Kingdom. AFG Speakers – Luncheon – Rachelle C., MN N Delegate Panel 56, Zimmerman, MN and Spiritual Speaker on Sunday – Lorraine R., Des Moines, IA. Alateen – TBD. Flyers are available. Committee is well ahead of schedule and is meeting bi-monthly. Thank you to Lisa G., Tricia K., and Katelynn T. for stepping up to chair. Items to note: campus is snug and will require some walking. Check out the link to the campus map: <https://www.grinnell.edu/sites/default/files/documents/campusmap.4.12.pdf>. The business meeting, workshops and meals will be in the Rosenfeld Center, housing will be in Lazier, Kershaw and Rose Hall and the speakers will be in Cowles Hall.

Meals will be cafeteria style; Sunday breakfast is an additional option. Housing, meals and registration costs are minimized at this facility. Parking is limited. Participating in the full meal plan will allow you to support the event fully and save you from parking and re-parking hassles.

The 2019 Fall Assembly – Carroll, IA – October 11-13, 2019 (Elections!!), Carrollton Hotel and Event Center. Mary E. and Judy have volunteered to be the Chairs. The luncheon speaker will be Vali F., Executive Director at WSO. The Spiritual and Alateen speakers – TBD. Bring your incoming GR to introduce them to the Assembly culture and procedure.

Forum Report: Where in the world is your Forum? Discussed subscription information. Remember to subscribe to the Forum for your group, sponsee or use for public outreach. Iowa subscriptions are slightly higher than previous years.

There will be a writing workshop on Sunday. Articles can be submitted to WSO if you are willing. WSO is looking for articles on the Three Legacies, Alateen stories, AMIAS group sponsor experiences and newcomer perspectives.

Coordinator Reports:

Alateen – Read by Katy P. – Thank you to the AMIAS who attended the Assembly for the workshop and for all who sent in comments.

Actively looking to fill the Alateen Coordinator position for the remainder of the term. Until then, Officers are working together to meet our younger members' needs. A big thank you to Regina K. for her enthusiasm and willingness to take on the position.

The 2019 Alateen Serenity Weekend will be held April 26-28, 2019 at Wesley Wood in Indianola. Flyers were placed in DR packets. Alateens are actively raising funds for the weekend which is the highlight of the year for the Alateens. The registration deadline is 3/31/19.

Current statistics: 16 registered meetings @ WSO, 12 of which are active, 4 are inactive, 7 are regularly attended and 1 is an institution's meeting. Currently there are 56 AMIAS and one application pending.

Archives: Lori R. - Has begun to separate the information that needs to be shredded and the information to be distributed to whomever wants it. Hoping to bring 1-2 boxes to the January 2019 AWSC. Has long-term forms for long-time members to complete. Once completed, give back to your DR or Lori.

Group Records – Becky V. - Currently there are 162 Al-Anon and 12 active Alateen groups in Iowa.

The WSO on-line registration and/or change forms have been a hit and are being used. Reminder – on-line registrations are immediate.

Literature – Missy Y. – absent – Read by Maddie P. - Hopefully you have had time to read the two new pieces of literature, Understanding & Hope for Parents & Grandparents (P-94) and Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships – A Collection of Al-Anon personal stories (B-33). Share you and your groups feedback to Missy Y. @ missyy@smunet.net.

2019 CAL Catalog (S-15) and the CAL Order Form (S-16) are available in print or as downloads. Catalog is now organized in the same order as the order form, so they can serve as companion pieces to each other.

Sharings are needed for “CAL Corner” and about how CAL has helped members with their recovery. We would also love to hear member sharings about: To Parents of Alcoholics (P-16), Hope & Understanding for Parents and Grandparents (P-64), From Survival to Recovery (B-21), Al-Anon Sharings from Adult Children (P-47), Lois Remembers (B-7) 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) – available for purchase for \$15.

Newsletter – Mary S. – Reminder of the November 1st deadline for the Newsletter. Please make sure that the newsletters are getting to your groups as it is a vital link between the Area and the groups. The newsletter helps to create transparency in the business workings of our fellowship. Subscriptions are available for \$3/year. If looking for a service position for the next term, consider being the Newsletter Coordinator.

Public Outreach – Lisa G. was unable to attend Assembly. Chair Virginia B. read the report.

The deadline for *AFA 2019* second printing orders is February 6, 2019, 5 pm. ET. They will be shipped in March and will be received by April 1, 2019.

Web Page – Hedi M. – Note the information on the web page – district meeting page – 1) the dates next to the district numbers represents the last revision date. 2) For the most up to date Iowa meeting information, please go to the Iowa Districts Meeting list. 3) For the most up to date WSO meeting information, go to WSO Meeting List.

The Web Page Committee will be discussing the pros and cons of acquiring email accounts for officers and coordinators so that emails do not need to be forwarded from the Web Page Coordinator. This would be more efficient and timely.

All DR's were contacted and meeting cards have been updated as of October 2018. If outdated, they are now linked to the Iowa website.

The old Spanish menu item on the Webpage has been changed to "Announcements". This will be used for important information about Iowa and WSO news.

District Reports: Districts reports read: 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: (Full reports will be filed in the Action Committee binders)

Group Services Action Committee Minutes: Michelle K. chaired the meeting. Kris T. – recorder.

- The deadline for 2nd printing of 2019 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism which is February 6, 2019. Orders should be received by April 1, 2019.
- Discussed National Recovery Month (September).
- Discussed the Iowa Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse.
- Discussed placing a sticker on old Forum's for Public Outreach. Everyone was encouraged to take a sticker that gave their local Al-Anon number, the WSO website and a message in red that states **"The contents of this printed material NEVER goes out-of-date. Please read and pass it on!"**

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

- Archives – Passed out a long-term member questionnaire to be completed and returned to Lori. Lori will bring additional copies in January if requested by DR. This form has more in-depth questions than the short form.
- Alateen – Discussion was held on what do we do for Alateen Archives.
- WSO On-Line Group Changes – Becky asked who has used the on-line form for group changes. WSO is working on making the form and welcome any feedback.
- Open GR Positions – Audrey shared that she struggles with "how much and what" to bring back from Assemblies. Some bring district meeting minutes to the group meeting and was asked to cover it in the business meeting. The GR's job is to communicate to members.
- Meeting Schedules/Cards – Becky asked if they have been updated and sent to the website. If they haven't been updated in one year, they are removed from the website.
- Newcomer Literature – Most offer newcomer packet and meeting schedule. Some provide *How Al-Anon Works*, *Merry-Go-Round Named Denial* and the *Detachment* pamphlets.
- Signage informing a new visitor while maintaining anonymity - Be sure that the facility is aware of time and room of the meetings for the newcomer.
- Archives – Guidelines are available on the website.
- Struggling Groups – New groups may need other groups to help to get started.
- What are your feelings on Action Committees? Suggested changing/rotating committees. Keep in mind group reps change every year, and then you can change committees. Covers lots of topics and well organized. Suggested reading the goals at every meeting. No continuity.

Fellowship Communications Action Committee Minutes: Mary S. – Chair, Janelle B. – Recorder. Suggestions: Several discussed CAL contest and book reports of the top five books on the best seller list. Use CAL in meetings. Use Discovering Choices to broaden viewpoints. Use meeting format guide to help members chair a meeting. Use library for CAL. Display literature and free pamphlets at meetings. Raffle books at functions. Have a book depot. District 11 gives away How Al-Anon Works. Give sponsees The Forum as a gift. Reaching for Personal Progress works for everyday life. Use Alateen literature in Al-Anon meetings. Bring your own CAL when there is no format. Contribute to Cal Corner. Purchase literature from WSO or a Literature Depot. Promote books on the best seller list. Present books at Assemblies. Get member's opinion on how specific literature has worked for them.

Old Business:

Serenity Weekend Wrap Up – Katy P. - Camp Wesley Woods, Indianola, Iowa - theme was Mission Possible.

There were 44 registered for the weekend, 25 Package A's, 9 Package B's and 10 Package C's for a total of 44. 4 B's cancelled and 1 C – no show. Total – 39, 3 men and 36 women. Small intimate weekend. Attendance was low as many districts had other events scheduled; typically, 75-80 attend.

Virginia B. led discussion about whether the weekend should be held next year. Commitment needs to be made to ensure we have enough registrations; otherwise we may need to share the camp. Twin Lakes Christian Camp has been reserved for next year's weekend – September 20-22, 2019. A consensus vote that taken that the Serenity Weekend be held again in 2019.

Al-Anon International 2018 and 2023: Officers – power point was shown with the highlights of the 2018 convention. Start saving for the 2023 International to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

New Business:

Service Workshop – “Welcome To The Jungle” – January 19, 2019: Flyers are available and Virginia B. is taking registrations.

Area Calendars: Kristine N. from D4 will be assembling the 2019 calendars. Send in your district events by December 2nd to Kristine. Calendar orders are due by December 15th. Either email or snail mail your information to Kristine.

Alateen/AMIAS Update: Linda A. / Virginia B. – Discussed the highlights of the meeting held with the AMIAS. The meeting was very positive with great sharings. Linda A. will forward this information to the Alateen Committee. They will provide suggestions to the Officers.

2018 Member Survey: Katy P. presented in Beth K's absence – Presented a power point with the latest results from the member survey. The survey will be posted on the WSO website.

Area Inventory: Geri G., Lori R., Katy P. - Power point was presented regarding the results of the most recent Area Inventory. The inventory results will be posted on the Area website.

AWSC Agenda/Meeting Format: Virginia B. - Discussed how the AWSC has changed their agenda to try on a trial basis and question whether the Assembly agenda could or should be revised. AWSC reports are currently submitted electronically which saves paper. Not reading the reports allows more time available for workshops and presentations at AWSC. Possibly could try this on a trial basis for the Assembly. There is a task force in place. All are welcome to attend the AWCS and all suggestions are welcome.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm and closed with the AI-Anon Declaration.

In Service,

Linda A. - Area Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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 1, 2019	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
March 10, 2019	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
March 15-17, 2019	RDM, Madison, WI
May 1, 2019	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
June 7-9, 2019	Spring Assembly, Grinnell, IA
August 1, 2019	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
August 4, 2019	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
October 11-13, 2019	Fall Assembly, Carroll, IA (Elections!)
June 5-7, 2020	Spring Assembly, Storm Lake, IA

Iowa AI-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>

Area Delegate's Report October 13, 2018

Alateen Coordinator

Regina K. has resigned as the Alateen Coordinator. I want to thank Regina for all her hard work and dedication to Iowa Alateens. Katy P. will be the interim Alateen Coordinator. The more I work with the AMIAS and the teens the more my admiration grows. I am hopeful someone will fill this position on a more permanent basis. **Please contact me if you are interested.**

World Service Office News

Update on the 2018 International Conference

The Day of Connecting was held the day before the International Convention and had 1,200 attendees. The Board of Trustees planned the service related program.

The 2018 International Convention had 4,044 attendees, which included 49 Alateens. There were over 131 workshops, speaker meetings and panel discussions with main event speakers from New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, Arizona, Netherlands, Denmark and an Alateen speaker from Philadelphia. 500 members from around the world participated in the Language of Love Parade.

2023 International Convention

...will be in Albuquerque, NM. You too can experience this moving event by saving now only \$4-5 per week for 5 years. At the end of 5 years you would have \$1,040, enough to go to the International. I hope you can make this change in your budget because I would like to see you there!

2019 World Service Conference (WSC)

The 2019 World Service Conference (WSC) will be Friday, April 12 - Thursday, April 18, 2019 in Virginia Beach. The theme is "Action is Attraction – There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone". It will be my last Conference!

Chosen Agenda Items (CAIs) are discussed at the WSC. The purpose of the CAIs is to give Conference members an opportunity to discuss ideas and issues of concern affecting AI-Anon and Alateen groups and members worldwide. **Please contact me if you have an item you would like discussed.**

Professional Interpretation Support

A task force of the Conference Leadership Committee updated the Board of Trustees (BoT) regarding a special project to provide professional interpretation to support Spanish and French speaking Delegates who attend the WSC. There was a motion, which passed to approve the project. The professional interpretation support will start in 2019 as a three-year trial.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The last Chairman of the Board (CoB) letter reported important changes. Items in quotes are taken directly from the CoB letter.

"Our AI-Anon groups are spiritual entities, yet we find we are not immune to the same difficulties that affect the world around us. Over the past several years, our fellowship has reported an increase within their groups of the same behaviors demonstrated outside our meeting rooms; stalking, bullying, financial coercion and presentation of outside issues."

These issues have been brought up in a variety of ways; the WSO staff (including the Executive Director), through the Delegates' discussions at the 2018 WSC and increases in member's use of the WSO online meeting.

There was a great deal of discussion amongst Conference staff and, subsequently, the BoT during their

July meeting. After in depth discussions, review, and taking the recommendation of staff, “the BoT identified the need to take proactive action to encourage AI-Anon Family Groups to discuss safety...and to support Areas who have created robust *Do Not Refer* policies, particularly in matters where safety and affiliation with outside entities are involved”.

One motion, which passed, was “that the Board of Trustees directs the World Service Office to send a statement alerting all registered groups on the importance of discussing and creating safety guidelines.”

All groups will be getting this statement. In today’s world it is good to have conversations about safety; what does it look like and what to do if one or more feels unsafe. I remember early in my program I attended a meeting where a number of members did not feel safe. There was a lot of talking and reasoning things out before we were able to minimize concerns.

The other motion, which also passed, was “that the Board of Trustees direct the WSO Staff to utilize the Policy Committee criteria presented at the 2012 World Service Conference to ensure that an Area has established a fair and balanced “Do Not Refer” and “Re-Refer” policy. These criteria allow the WSO to support Area “Do Not Refer” group conscience decisions and remove group meetings from the WSO meeting list. Groups not being referred by the WSO remain active and registered.”

Iowa did review the need for a Do Not Refer Policy.

- At the Spring 2014 Assembly, GRs were asked to complete a questionnaire regarding a possible "Do Not Refer" guideline.
- A Task Force compiled the answers to the questionnaire to identify if the Area even had a need for “Do Not Refer” guidelines.
- The questionnaire did spur good discussion within groups.
- At the Fall 2014 Assembly, the results of the Do Not Refer Questionnaire were presented.
- At the January 2015 AWSC meeting, the Task Force was disbanded; no further action would be taken due to the responses being so divided. The members believed there was a not a need to put a Do Not Refer guideline in place.

The BOT action will not affect the Iowa Area since these guidelines are not in place.

I sent the Chairman of the Board letter to the AWSC members on September 1st. **I asked for anyone’s feedback or comments about the motions, safety issues, a Do Not Refer Policy, etc. so I could share with WSO at conference or within Delegate communication.**

I wonder how many Iowa Districts don't list meetings on their meeting cards and why? GRs, if you believe a Do Not Refer policy is needed, please discuss it with your District Representative to bring the discussion forward to the AWSC.

Finance Update July 2018

There is an operating deficit of \$59,612 as of the end of June.

Income:

Gross literature sales through June 2018 were \$104,000 below budget. Literature sales are expected to pick up in the third quarter due to the release of the new Intimacy book.

Contributions through June 2018 were tracking \$15,000 above budget.

Forum subscriptions are down.

Expenses:

Actual operating expenses are down because of unfilled positions at the World Service Office and general timing of invoices.

Outlook:

The expectation is to have a strong year for literature sales, with new literature being introduced in July. Contributions are tracking as expected. With a very successful International Convention, the outlook is positive for the last half of the year.

As a reminder, during my WSC presentation the 2018 budget I noted if we met the budget the WSC approved we would end the year with a gain of almost \$3,000. That is mighty close to breaking even. Please remind everyone the importance of the Quarterly Appeal letters.

Policy Committee Update July 2018

There has been a lot of review and discussion regarding current policy such as "Digest of AI-Anon/Alateen Policies" and electronic/virtual meetings. Please keep up to date by reading the CoB letters.

Open Service Positions

There are a number of committees, which have a need for at-large members. At the August AWSC meeting, I gave DR's information about what committees have at-large members, what the requirements are and a copy of the resume form. This is another way for people to get involved in service. **Anyone interested in submitting a resume should contact me.**

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect

Saturday, October 20, 2018, the "Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect" event will be held in Houston hosted by East Texas. This is an opportunity for the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and members to interact with each other.

Iowa's World Service Conference Gift

Usually the Iowa Delegate brings a monetary donation in place of love gifts to their last WSC. I really would like to see Iowa give memorials in Lois' name this year.

October 5, 2018 marks the 30th anniversary of Lois Wilson's passing. I would like each group to donate to WSO in Lois' memory. I brought memorial envelopes with me if you did not get one at the Spring Assembly. Individuals can also make contributions. It would be AWESOME to see Iowa's impact in meeting (or exceeding) the budget set by the WSC!

I have been able to visit (or soon to visit) a number of Districts. I would really love to get one more visit in before the end of the year. What about your District? When can I come to visit?

Trust in His timing, Wait for His answer and Believe in Miracles

Beth K. – Area Delegate

Lovemycats2004@gmail.com