

Iowa Area AWSC Meeting
January 10, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Virginia B., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. There were 25 registered members to attend of which 24 were voting members of the AWSC. This meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Mary E. and Audrey U. read the Concepts of Service/Warranties. Virginia B. read the review of etiquette and the AWSC evaluation questions for all members to think about throughout the meeting.

Secretary Report: The minutes from the October Fall 2020 Assembly were e-mailed electronically earlier to be read before the meeting; they were not read during the meeting. The minutes were approved by a consensus via virtual polling.

Treasurer Report: The financial statement from October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 was presented virtually via screen share and was discussed. Balance brought forward was \$26,629.06. Total receipts this period were \$3,250.78. Total disbursements were \$2,759.30. Ending balance on December 31, 2020 was \$27,120.54. The financial statement was approved by a consensus via virtual polling.

Delegate's Report: Just as our groups, districts, and now in this second year of our term, our Area will take an inventory I thought I should review my role and pulled out my Service Manual and the IA Area AI-Anon/Alateen Policy and Procedure Guidelines. After consideration, I have done the best I could. I know you have too! The second year of a term is when I usually feel that my feet are on the ground and I gain deeper traction. This year, I'm hoping to visit a few more of you virtually. I was able to visit Districts 3, 7 and 8 in 2020 and would be honored to present virtually on topics of interest to other districts.

The WSC solicits Area highlights to be shared with our fellow Delegates. This was another opportunity to take an inventory, but in this case I was looking at our Area's performance. My summary shared that our Area had a remarkable amount of success in 2020. We ensured our trusted servants were adequately reimbursed for their service, we dug (still digging) with great depth into the IA Policy and Procedures, we learned how to incorporate technology into our business operations and events, we added a new DR (D9), all of our service positions were filled, we increased attendance at our Assemblies topping 100 people and closed the year with the AI-Anon tenets of Gratitude and Joy. Magnificent work, team!! I am looking forward to seeing how we can incorporate the positive aspects of including technology into our Area operations as we move forward to meeting in person in 2021. We've longed to increase attendance at our Area gatherings and have seen record numbers this year. Let's keep an open mind and focus on solutions so that all members that wish to participate will be able to do so. I know we will be hearing more about hybrid events at the 2021 WSC and I look forward to sharing those insights with you.

In the month of January, Florida North hosted a WSO Town Hall meeting and CA South hosted a Sharing of Service Workshop, both virtually. These events were brought to us through their Area service structures. Events that are hosted through the service structure (Area to District to Group) can be shared at our meetings. Not all events qualify since many private events are formed by individuals who also happen to be members of our program. A good practice is to bring events to our meetings that we have made aware of through District Representatives or on our Area or District websites. AI-Anon WSO on Facebook has three virtual events. WSO Town Hall affirmed that these events are hosted in conjunction

with a service arm. Using this understanding as a guidepost ensures a reduction in conflict and allows us to focus on what unifies us as a fellowship 70 years in the making.

The World Service Conference 2021 will be virtual and some sessions will be held in advance of the Conference. Some sessions will be on AFG Connects and the rest will be held the week of April 12-16. The days will be full running 8-10 hours with breaks.

Finances: The WSO issued a revised budget in December 2020. The extraordinary circumstances of 2020 prompted them to publish the revised version which is not normally done. The WSO had a record-breaking year for contributions thanks to the generosity of our members. A resounding round of applause to each member or service entity for their contributions!!

There were 380 Holiday Bundles sold in the month of November. The books included in the bundle were *Hope for Today*, *In all our Affairs*, *Making Crises Work for You*, *When I Got Busy, I got Better* and the *Just for Today Bookmark*. WSO also extended the \$5 reduced shipping through January. We are all anticipating the electronic newcomer packet which will be available for \$2.99 per each individual purchase. It will be available on Amazon, Apple, Google and Barnes & Noble. The expected roll out will be in the next few months along with an update to the print version.

New Meetings: The Winterset AFG Tuesday Meeting registered with the WSO. A new permanent virtual meeting has been formed by lowans on Friday morning with a focus on the Three Legacies. This meeting is available by searching the WSO website and including the day/time information in the perimeter fields. Permanent electronic meetings are not under the Area jurisdiction, so you won't find this on the Area or any District website. There will be more information about the inclusion of the electronic meetings in the service structure at the 2021 WSC.

Mobile App: The new Al-Anon Family Groups mobile app, free to all members, has 17 Al-Anon and 7 Alateen meetings registered on it. The app allows us to interact with "members only" on a safe and secure platform. To date there are a total of 582 electronic meetings, 209 registered in 2020. These were initially intended as a supplement to physical meetings according to the Fact Sheet for Electronic Meetings but now appear to be here to stay. Electronic Al-Anon Meeting Guidelines are available at al-anon.org under the members/member resources/guidelines tabs should you be interested in starting one.

The October Chairperson of the Board Letter and Policy Committee Update mentions the Electronic Meeting Work Group's discussion on incorporating these electronic meetings into our service structure. Any specific information you would like more information on, please send your questions via email to iowadelegate@gmail.com.

Alternate Delegate's Report:

The Spring Assembly is scheduled for June 4-6, 2021 at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake and will not be virtual. The Al-Anon Co-chairs for this are Mary E., Fort Dodge and Judy V., Carroll. The Alateen speaker will be chosen at a later date. Our Al-Anon Luncheon Speaker will be Jean L., North Central Regional Trustee, Dubuque, Ia. The location of the 2021 Fall Assembly will be held in Des Moines, Ia. The date is yet to be determined.

The Forum: Please use The Forum in your meeting and share with your groups about it. It also makes a great gift. Iowa had a total of 401 subscriptions to The Forum in November 2020. That is down 8

subscriptions from Oct 2020. 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.

The Alternate Delegate is part of the Iowa Area Inventory Committee and the committee will be meetings soon. If there are any questions you would like to see on the Area Inventory, please send them to iowaaltdelegate@gmail.com by February 1st, 2021, and the questions will be presented to the committee for consideration.

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

Alateen/AAPP: Thank you AMIAS, for keeping the doors of Alateen open in these difficult times. Alateen meetings continue in the Des Moines area. There are three active Alateen meetings every week, two are virtual meetings and one is a meeting face to face. In other areas of Iowa the AMIAS stand ready but the teens are meeting virtually at this time. If you would like the virtual address for the two District 7 Alateen meetings please go to al-anondesmoines.org website for the information.

Iowa Area Al-Anon/Alateen Policy and Procedure Guidelines: Thank you members of the Alateen Committee: (Katy P., Delegate, Beth K., Past Delegate, Samantha M., District 7 Representative and Kristine N., District 4 Representative) for your collaboration with the larger Policy and Procedure committee in getting the Alateen portion of the guidelines ready to be processed.

The Alateen Committee met on December 27th to discuss the 2021 Alateen Serenity Weekend. Contact will be made with Camp Wesley Woods to see what is happening at the camp due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We will go from there to formulate the best date for the 2021 Alateen Serenity Weekend. More information will be coming.

Recertification and Renewal forms for AMIAS will be sent out to those members that need to update for 2021.

Archives: Archives is having a pretty slow time of it for the first year. Not much to report about things coming and going to me. I had a request for two of our archived notebooks. Nothing has come to me to file. Please take some time to consider if your district or group has done anything that would be considered something to keep in the Area Archives.

Group Records: Thank you to everyone for your help in keeping group records up to date. A printable document will be emailed to the DRs so they can review and see if there are any changes. Since Covid-19 has kept people from meeting face-to-face there are groups that are meeting virtually. This has been a trying task for Group Records and the Area Website to keep up to date. Please check the website to see if your meeting information is correct. If there are corrections for the virtual links, please send them to the Web Page Coordinator. For all other updates or questions regarding your group's information, feel free to contact Tracy.

Literature: Since May, the WSO Literature Committee has been hard at work reviewing 50 sharings a month of our next daily reader. They are almost done with the first draft. The work ahead will include translation into French and Spanish so that all three editions can be released at the same time. A big thank you to all our members who sent in sharings. WSO received over 1,600 in all. Those not included

will be submitted to the Forum Editorial Advisory Committee and be considered for our monthly magazine.

Our Members Blog can be found at al-anon.org/member-blog. If you have not read or written a sharing please consider visiting this site. Remind your members that each month they add new topics including the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service. "Cal Corner" Topics is a department featured in our monthly Forum magazine. This is an opportunity for our members to share how a particular piece of literature has enriched their recovery. December's articles are about As We Understood. (B-11) January is on Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses (B-29). Members can also submit sharings for "CAL Corner." Needed are writings on, Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses (B-29); Many Voices, One Journey (B-31); Alcoholism, the Family Disease (P-4) and Hope & Understanding for Parents & Grandparents (P-94). Please see the writing guideline for "CAL Corner" in the Guidelines & Procedures folder under the "Library" folders in the Literature Coordinator community of AFG Connects or at: al-anon.org/pdf/CALcornerSharingRevised%202018.pdf

Newsletter: If you, or any of your groups, haven't received the Iowa Reaches Out newsletter each month; please verify that each group has an email on file. The newsletters are emailed to the CMAs, all AWSC members, and anyone who has requested a copy. That includes the Area officers, coordinators, and DRs. Anyone not on the list can request to be added to the newsletter list by emailing me at iowareachesout@yahoo.com.

As the newsletter coordinator, I also serve on the Policy and Procedures Committee. It has been fascinating to update our Policy and Procedures Manual. The guidelines that we follow as a state help us keep to the traditions and concepts of the world-wide fellowship of Al-Anon.

Public Outreach: By logging on to the World Service Office meetings tab, you will discover Zoom, Whatsapp, FCC, Discord and Messenger meetings. This is important information to have readily available for anyone, anywhere that reaches out for help. Other public outreach suggestions received from other areas

- Click LIKE on WSO and Alateen social media and share if you're comfortable
- Share Public Service Announcements. They're available in 15, 30 and 60 second options.
- Without any in person meetings, consider reading from our 'Meeting in a Pocket' magazine, aka The Forum.
- Be sure to have your district meeting list up to date with electronic and in person meetings listed so you can attach them to copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism
- Don't forget the Inmate Correspondence Service. Member anonymity is maintained at all times by using the World Service Office as the return address
- The good old Postal Service still delivers letters, bookmarks and other messages of help and hope to all the places that may be closed. If anyone has any other suggestions, please contact Michelle.

Web Page: Thank you to the Website Committee for their willingness to review the questions presented by the Policy and Procedure Committee. The website committee came to the conclusion to have the District lists removed from the website and to keep anonymity of members when items are put on the website, only first names will be used on flyers and/or agendas. These changes to the website are positive and impactful.

The Website remains open to your suggestions and input. Please provide any flyers that should be shared at the Area level via email in .pdf format.

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

Old Business:

2021 Service Workshop- A consensus was taken via a virtual polling and the majority ruled to contact the Iowa Valley Community College in Marshalltown to see if the service workshop can be held there if the Covid-19 restrictions are followed. The Service Workshop will be August 7th, 2021 if the college is available.

Equalized Expenses- Iowa AFG received notice in August 2020 of the amount of the Equalized Expense for 2021 WSC to be held in NY. This amount was due by 12/31/2020. At the October Fall Assembly 2020 the Area GRs voted to send the full amount of \$2,500 to WSO.

In November 2020, WSO requested Areas that had not submitted their Equalized Expense to hold off payment as they had now made public to hold a virtual conference and were recalculating the EE. December 2020, WSO announced the EE would be \$0.00 (zero dollars).

The letter states: Taking into consideration the greatly reduced costs of holding Conference in a virtual/electronic setting as well as the incredible generosity of the Areas this year, the revised EE amount for the 2021 WSC is \$0.

For those Areas that submitted the original EE payment (\$1,667 or full amount of \$2,381.81) for the 2021 WSC, we will follow up with a brief survey in early January that will include these options:

- Receive a full refund for the payment submitted
- Contribute all or part of the payment submitted to the WSO.

Areas will have until February 26, 2021 to decide on an option.

Iowa had sent \$2,500 to the WSO in December 2020. The question to the AWSC today is:

Which option above would Iowa like to do?

A consensus was taken via a virtual polling and majority agreed to have WSO keep all of the \$2,500 as a donation.

Presentation – Iowa Policy Committee – The Policy Committee has completed their review of the manual. A draft copy of the Policy and Procedure Manual will be emailed to all DRs after the AWSC meeting today. The districts that do on have a DR will be included in this process also. A member or our Delegate will be in contact with those districts.

Today, (January 10, 2021) the committee will present a powerpoint to lay out the next steps. Those steps are as follows:

Jan. 10-Feb. 15: DRs will share with GRs and members of their district the emailed draft copy.

The input you receive from your district members will be very important as the final affirmation vote will be taken by the GRs at the June Assembly.

Feb. 15: DRs send need to send any suggestions or changes on or before this date to the Policy Committee at: iowaafg@gmail.com

Feb 20: An AWSC Workshop to discuss the P&P manual in-depth and make any other changes that may come during the day's discussion.

March 21: The Policy committee will make a motion and ask for a vote of the AWSC for approval of the manual.

June 6: The Policy Committee will do a presentation for the Assembly members and make a motion of affirmation from the GRs. All additions, revisions and corrections will go into effect for Iowa Area AI-Anon.

The P&P committee asks all members to focus on content of the manual and ask themselves these 3 questions:

- (A) Does it provide clarity?
- (B) Is it accurate for Iowa AI-Anon?
- (C) Can you live with it?

New Business:

2021 Budget

The Area Treasurer presented the Budget & Expenditures for 2020 and the Proposed Budget for 2021. There were some adjustments made to the lines on the sheets. A line has been added to both forms to help clarify the Delegates' expenses. All the expenditures were explained and due to COVID-19, there were very few expenses in 2020.

On the Proposed Budget for 2021, the Miscellaneous amount was increased to help prepare for the cost of having the Area Assemblies virtually and the possibility of the Policy & Procedure manuals being printed in booklet form. The total proposed budget for 2021 is \$16,340.

The Area Archivist will purchase new filing cabinets and will use the budgeted amount of \$350 from the March report.

The Iowa Area Treasurer received an IRS form 990 and after much discussion it was decided, by consensus, to hire an accountant to help prepare the form correctly and get it submitted.

2021 Spring Assembly Agenda- The Spring Assembly will be held face to face June 4-6th, 2021 in Storm Lake, Iowa. District 14 will host and our AI-Anon Luncheon Speaker will be Jean L., North Central Regional Trustee, Dubuque, Ia. The Alateen speaker will be announced at a later date. The complete agenda is available on the Iowa website.

Area Inventory- The Area Inventory Committee is inviting members to submit questions they would like the committee to consider. All questions are to be emailed to the Alternate Delegate by Feb. 1st 2021 using the email address of: iowaaltdelegate@gmail.com

2021 Alateen Serenity Weekend- Refer to the Alateen/AAPP Coordinator report above.

2021 Serenity Weekend- There will be no increase in the prices of the Area Serenity Weekend. The event will be at Twin Lakes in Manson, IA November 5th-7th. More information to come.

Workshop- Public Outreach

The Area Public Outreach Coordinate and Area Delegate presented a powerpoint presentation on what is happening with WSO Public Outreach. The world has been isolated due to the COVID-19 pandemic however, the disease of alcoholism has not declined. WSO has a Facebook page that is available in 3 different languages, a Twitter page, Youtube and the new Mobile app for everyone to reach out and use.

WSO has a Public Outreach page of its own. Keep an eye out for the new 2021 PSAs as WSO has a new vendor to distribute them electronically now!

A newcomer may find AI-Anon by going on Google. Enter AI-Anon.org/welcome and this will ask them to enter their email. Once their email address has been entered, they will be able to find meetings, literature and much more.

After the presentation, the floor was opened for members to share what they were doing in their districts for Public Outreach. Some shared they have been able to purchase billboards, some had made small packets with literature to hand out and others were making sure someone was at their face to face meeting.

The presentation was very informative and if anyone would like to use the powerpoint for ideas, please contact Michelle K. our Public Outreach Coordinator or our Delegate Katy P. They would be happy to present it to your district or help you know the copyrights of AI-Anon material when making flyers and/or items to distribute.

Unanswered Questions/Review Comments- There was a lot of good information shared today. Many felt the Public Outreach workshop was very informative and got many excited about the different ways to share AI-Anon even with COVID-19! 2020 was a hard year for everyone and it felt good to have a meeting to see everyone again and there were many things accomplished today.

A consensus was taken to close the meeting with the AI-Anon declaration at 1 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky V.
Area Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 1, 2021	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
February 20, 2021	Iowa Policy & Procedure Review- Virtual
March 20, 2021	USNCR Delegates Meeting
March 21, 2021	Iowa AWSC meeting, 9am, Virtual
April 12-16, 2021	World Service Conference, Virtual
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 7, 2021	Service Workshop/Serenity Weekend Planning Meeting
August 8, 2021	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown
November 1, 2021	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
November 5-7, 2021	Serenity Weekend, Twin Lakes, Manson, IA

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.al-anonsiouxcity.org

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