

Iowa Area AWSC Meeting
March 21, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Virginia B., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. There were 23 members in attendance, which all 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 Tracy V. and Jill G. 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 January 2021 AWSC meeting 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 January 1, 2021 to March 14, 2021 was presented virtually via screen share and was discussed. Balance brought forward was \$27,120.54. Total receipts this period were \$1,128.70. Total disbursements were \$65.56. Ending balance on March 14, 2021 was \$28,183.68. The financial statement was approved by a consensus via virtual polling.

Delegate's Report: Al-Anon service helps me grow in so many unexpected ways. I have been given the opportunity to serve on a Thought Force in 2021 entitled Maintaining a Sustainable Future using Abundant Thinking. I have taken comfort in seeing the way our groups, districts, Area and the WSO have been financially supported this past year.

New adventures!

The WSO is looking for a new Director of Programs beginning September 1, 2021. Marsha W. will retire following the World Service Conference. If you have been an active member of Al-Anon for at least the last 7-10 years, please visit the WSO website for more information.

Update on Announcing Events

An increase in event announcements on AFG Connects prompted the WSO to encourage members to post events on the WSO Calendar. These events must be connected to a service entity, such as the Area or District, hosting the event. The Al-Anon WSO Facebook page is another resource for virtual events. There has never been a better time to understand Al-Anon as a world-wide fellowship!

Group Donations

Each District Representative received a financial statement of the amount of money their groups donated to the WSO from July 1 through December 31, 2020. DRs, please forward this information to your groups so that they can verify that the amounts are correct. There are many ways the money is used and according to the information from last year's WSC, each group costs the WSO \$304.39. There is a chart to show how calculating this down for Iowa groups equals approximately \$87.52 per Iowa group. More information will be shared at June Spring Assembly in Storm Lake.

Conference Connection

Anyone that would like to send texts, prayers, gifts and/or cards to Jean L., current Regional Trustee, Debbie G., past Delegate, and Katy P., current Iowa Area Delegate while they are at Conference, you may get their contact information from your District Representative. Help support them all while they are at Conference April 12-16, 2021.

Love Gifts

All the love gifts made by our Iowa districts will be sent to other Delegates and members of the 2021 WSC. If crafting is not your districts forte, there is a Love Gift Certificate that you may share with your

groups in which all monies sent will be attributed to Iowa and the groups or districts that sent them. This certificate is available on the Iowa website.

World Service Conference

The Chairperson of the Board (COB) letter was emailed out to the AWSC on March 1st. Many topics will be discussed in greater detail at the virtual World Service Conference April 12-16th 2021. There will be many topics discussed in greater detail, including, but not limited to:

- French and Spanish interpretation at Conference
- Incorporating electronic meetings into the Service Structure
- Regional and Trustee at Large Nominations
- Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect event in Cleveland, OH on October 23, 2021.

Matters of Policy under discussion and scheduled for voting on will be:

- Revisions to the Announcing Events section in the Service Manual.
- Revisions to the Electronic Meetings section in the Service Manual.
- Relocation of a paragraph from Bequests to Contributions in the Service Manual.

Financial information was also included in the COB letter and there is a revised version of the budget which was issued in December 2020. WSO wishes to send a super-sized THANK YOU to all members that gave generously in response to the appeal letters the WSO issued throughout the year.

To read the complete COB letter, visit the Area Iowa website at www.iowa-al-anon.org or contact Katy at iowadelegate@gmail.com

Alternate Delegate's Report:

The Spring Assembly is scheduled for June 4-6, 2021 at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Ia. The Al-Anon Co-chairs are Mary E., Fort Dodge and Judy V., Carroll. Our Al-Anon Luncheon Speaker will be Jean L., North Central Regional Trustee, Dubuque, IA. and the Alateen speaker is Johanna M. The location of the Fall Assembly will be held in Des Moines at the Embassy Suites on the river October 8-10, 2021. The Al-Anon chair and co-chair will be Shelly P. and Julie N. from District 7.

The Alternate Delegate is part of the Iowa Area Inventory Committee and the committee has reviewed the questions to be distributed at the June Spring Assembly.

Do you have the Al-Anon mobile app? Did you know you can subscribe to the premium content in the al-Anon app? In doing so you will receive a years' worth of Today's Reflections entries. Why not give it a try! To subscribe please visit al-anon.org/mobileapp.

The Forum: Please use The Forum in your meeting and share with your groups about it. We only had 314 subscriptions compared to the past months in the mid to high 300's. It also makes a great gift. There are two easy ways to order, a paper order form from the back of any Forum or you can order online at al-anon.org –click on the Al-Anon store, then find the tab for the Forum.

Please contact your DR for the updated email for our Alternate Delegate effective now.

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

Alateen/AAPP: Thank you for your continued service to Alateen in these unusual times. There are some items pertaining to the WSO.

- WSO needs sharings from Al-Anon and Alateen members on how *Living Today in Alateen* impacted your recovery. Please send your sharings via email to groupservices@al-anon.org so they may be considered for an upcoming edition of The Forum.
- Courage to Be Me is celebrating its 25th Anniversary.
- The Alateen Mobile App can be easily found at al-anon.org/Alateen. The Alateen mobile app, powered by ZOOM, is replacing the Alateen Chat. There are currently 7 (6 in English and 1 in Polish), are available in “real time” with two AMIAS in attendance. The App is available for any teen to access, or if under the age of 13, they may use their parent’s access to the mobile app.
- A BIG THANK YOU, AMIAS for your assistance in making IOWA one of the 16 Areas out of 67, who are working on getting their AMIAS Recertification forms completed and updated in the WSO website. Contact Lorraine if you haven’t returned your form, the cutoff date is May 30th.
- September 17-19th 2021 is the date of the Alateen Serenity Weekend to be held at Camp Wesley Woods. Cost of the weekend will be added at a later date on the flyer.

Archives: There have been many requests coming from AFG Connects to Archives concerning *The Forum*. Many different Areas, including as far away as Hawaii, are interested in having a complete time period of their own.

The ordering of the new file cabinets will happen in the next couple of weeks after doing some phone calls regarding the prices and delivery availability.

Group Records: Thank you to everyone for your help in keeping group records up to date. There has been a new group registered in Keokuk. 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: A project has been approved for an electronic version of the *Al-Anon Newcomer Packet* (K-10). There is no release date yet, but it is progressing and expected to be available this year, through a variety of vendors and it should work in the same way as the eBooks do, *How Al-Anon Works* (eB-22), *Courage to Change* (eB-16), *Hope for Today* (eB-27). Electronic meetings can be provided to the newcomer the by using this URL: al-anon.org/welcome, they will email newcomer information to them after they sign up and enter a personal email address to where the digital information will be immediately delivered.

The Literature Committee will soon be reviewing the near final draft of our next daily reader! Their goal is to have the book ready for the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention in New Mexico.

Our Members Blog can be found at the al-anon.org/member-blog. If you have not read or written a sharing please consider visiting this site.

“Cal Corner” Topics: this department is featured each month in our Forum magazine. The sharings are from members on how a particular piece of literature has enhanced their recovery. Sharings are needed for “Cal Corner”. Please see the writing guideline for your sharings under the “Library” folders in the literature Coordinator community of AFG Connects.

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. I am so excited that we will bring the new Manual to the March meeting for approval. This has been such a growing experience. I've learned so much about how our organization functions at the area level and am excited to continue in service.

Public Outreach: On February 21st I got to attend my 1st Public Outreach "Conference Call". I was exciting to see and speak with the folds from World Service and from other Area Public Outreach Coordinators. It was a very informative and motivating call.

What I learned from WSO Public outreach Committee:

- The new Al-Anon Face Alcoholism magazines are available for purchase! There is no date on the cover so this can be used for multiple years. In fact they probably won't publish new AFA's for about 3 years.
- If you need a poster or other items approved they prefer that your area coordinator handle it. If the coordinator has questions we can reach out. WSO doesn't want to be the clearing house for all approvals.
- There was a sneak peek at a new PSA that in its final stages of development called The Benefits of Al-Anon Recovery. It will be released in July or August. The words were taken directly from what members said in the 2018 Membership Survey.
- There are 5 different posters in both landscape and portrait orientation. To see them visit: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/public-outreach/public-outreadh-posters/>

What I heard from other Area public Outreach Coordinators:

- Washington contracted with the company who services all the rest stops on a major highway. They printed the Troubled by Someone's Drinking 20 Questions bookmark on cardstock and added their area contact info and the company distributed them.
- Another area distributed bookmarks with their contact info to libraries.
- Ohio made a wellness video for outreach in schools using the Alateen PSA. They also created a contactless flyer that had a QR code linked to the new virtual AFA. The flyers were distributed in public where allowed and also emailed to school districts, mental health professionals and other offices asking them to print and put up for people to see.
- Another area did an In-reach Challenge where they contacted all the members who weren't coming to virtual meetings any longer.

If you have questions or need help with any Public Outreach in your district, feel free to contact Michelle.

Web Page: The Website continues to try to keep up with the rapidly changing meetings in this time of COVID-19. Thank you all who continue to provide updates as the meetings are adjusting to the changes.

The static District meeting lists were removed from the Website. These lists had not been updated with the drastic, fast-paced changes happening.

The searchable Meeting List tab has been updated and continues to be a valuable resource for meeting in Iowa. However the latest information on virtual meetings continues to be listed on the District Schedules tab.

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, 13 and 14. There were no reports from 5, 6, 10, 12 or 15.

Old Business:

2021 Service Workshop- The Service Workshop will be August 7th, 2021 at the Iowa Valley Community College in Marshalltown. The theme will be “What a Concept” with all the Concepts presented by different districts. A flyer will be available on the Area Website.

Spring Assembly- 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., and Johanna M. as the Alateen speaker. The flyer is available on the Iowa website.

Area Inventory- The Iowa Area Inventory Committee has comprised a list of inventory questions and they will be distributed at the June Spring Assembly.

Serenity Weekend- Serenity Weekend with the theme of HEE HAW (How AI-Anon Works) will be at Twin Lakes in Manson, IA., November 5-7th. The camp has made many updates to the campground which will be exciting to see. There will be more information shared at the June Assembly.

Alateen Policy Update & Alateen Serenity Weekend- The Alateen Policy portion of the Iowa Policy & Procedure Guideline has been approved by WSO after a clarification in the wording of a form. The Alateen Weekend in September is on hold at this time with more information to come.

Presentation – Iowa Policy Committee – The Policy and Procedure Committee presented the completed Policy & Procedure Guidelines. The suggestion of a table of contents was added and the wording in the Alateen section was revised.

The Iowa Policy & Procedure Committee presented two (2) motions to the AWSC:

#1

The 2020-2022 Iowa Policy/Procedure committee makes a motion to approve the Alateen Policy/Procedure section of the Iowa Policy/Procedure manual presented to the AWSC on 3/21/2021.

The motion was approved via virtual polling and seconded by Lorraine R.

#2

The 2020-2022 Iowa Policy/Procedure committee makes a motion to approve the Policy section of the Iowa Policy/Procedure manual presented to the AWSC on 3/21/2021.

The motion was approved via virtual polling and seconded by Maddie P.

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

New Business:

2021 Fall Assembly Agenda- The Fall Assembly will be held in Des Moines, IA at the Embassy Suites on the River October 8-10th, 2021. The host committee from District 7 will be working on the details. There was discussion regarding the workshops and Virginia B. will confirm the speaker at a later date.

US North Central Regional Trustee Resume- A powerpoint was presented to the AWSC by our Delegate regarding the Trustee Resume. Katy reviewed how a person could submit a resume and that there are many different Trustee positions. Iowa currently has Jean L. as the Regional Trustee and there are many past members that have held different Trustee positions. In June, there will be a vote for someone to be approved for this position and be submitted by our Delegate to WSO. Anyone interested in standing for this position may get the resume from the WSO website.

US NC RDM- The North Central Regional Delegate Meeting was held virtually on March 20th. Indiana held the event and there were 11 Iowa members that joined in the meeting. Katy had the opportunity to share her experience, strength and hope along with other delegates that were on the panel that day. The members who did attend the RDM shared with the AWSC what a great learning experience the day was with lots of unity and gratitude to have the opportunity to attend the meeting.

Task Force Charge- The Area officers presented a Task Force Charge to the Website Committee. This would be a KBDM "thought" force that would review questions regarding the generic email address for the website.

Workshop- Literature & Forum

The Literature Coordinator and the Alternate Delegate presented a writing workshop today. They presented a powerpoint to review the guidelines WSO has for submitting sharings. WSO reminds everyone when submitting a sharing it should be in 1st person and it is about our own journey. After reviewing other guidelines, everyone was encouraged to take 10 minutes and write something down. Some people were done before the 10 minutes and others were going to write more after the meeting. Some members read their sharing today while others mentioned they would be sending their writings into the Forum.

Unanswered Questions/Review Comments- There was a lot of good information shared today. A reminder the Policy/Procedure Guidelines will be on the Website and the GRs will get a motion of affirmation of it at the June Assembly.

A consensus was taken to close the meeting with the AI-Anon declaration at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky V.
Area Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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, 9 am, Marshalltown
October 8-10, 2021	Fall Assembly, Embassy Suites on the River, Des Moines, IA
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