

Iowa Area AWSC Meeting
January 16, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Virginia B., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. There were 32 registered members attending of which 25 were voting members of the AWSC. This meeting was held virtually due to the snow storm that made traveling unsafe for members. The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Kristine N. and Luanne T. 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 2021 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, 2021 to December 31, 2021 was presented virtually via screen share and was discussed. Balance brought forward was \$30,409.35. Total receipts this period were \$7,902.08. Total disbursements were \$10,111.78. Ending balance on December 31, 2021 was \$28,199.64. The financial statement was approved by a consensus via virtual polling.

Delegate's Report: 2022 is full of possibilities which we've already begun laying the groundwork for. Here are some ways we are increasing our understanding:

- The Electronic Group Work Group (EGWG) will present its findings and recommendations at the January AWSC. A gallery walk will invite discussion to further the understanding of our Area's needs as we move forward in our consideration of the impact of including electronic groups into our structure.
- The Google Admin Task Force will share its perspective on incorporating this service into our business intelligence strategy to aid in cohesive communication, shared work projects and document storage.
- Online payment processing allows all members to contribute to the financial well-being of the Area. We will explore what we learned from Serenity Weekend, our web-based store and what a donations tab could mean for us.
- Reviewing our needs for a Technical Coordinator to support our Area in providing an optimal virtual/hybrid environment to conduct our business and events.

Abundant thinking isn't only about financial growth. Expanding our capabilities, trying new applications, keeping an open mind to the next best thing for our Area are ways we demonstrate an abundant mindset. We increase unity by focusing on similarities and finding solutions that we can all live with. By keeping an open mind we broaden our understanding of our world, replacing fear with knowledge allows us to be open to possibilities for growth.

News from the World Service Office

The October Chairperson of the Board Letter, along with updates from the Conference Leadership Team, Finance and Policy Committee were emailed out to the AWSC shortly after receiving them. They can be viewed under the Delegate's Corner on the Iowa Area website.

Literature sales continued to trend down. The WSO's literature supply is low due to

paper shortages, staffing and shipping delays...more pandemic backlash. Contributions continue to exceed literature sales and our donations are gratefully welcomed and needed. Please, if your group is sitting on excess funds, practice abundant thinking and pass it on where it will benefit the member in need. The back of the appeal letter is a great resource for how our donations are used. The following information from the World Service Conference Summaries might be helpful for you to read. See page 25 of 2020 WSC Summary and pages 102 and 103 of the 2021 WSC Summary.

The WSO Policy Committee is focusing on using social media as a public outreach tool while maintaining anonymity. Updates to Announcing Events were pushed over from 2021 WSC when it was determined that the language needed further review. The Committee is also reviewing Group Autonomy and Local Services. The policy changes brought forth inevitably affect each member as it provides guidance on how we can work together to create a unified fellowship to help families and friends recover.

Preparing for Conference

Last year I submitted two Agenda Items for discussion at the World Service Conference and one was chosen. The topics I submitted were maintaining the relevancy of the links for service in a time of instant information sharing and rebuilding our Alateen groups during a pandemic. The Alateen topic could be reformulated to reflect the changes we've experienced over the last year and resubmitted. I welcome your thoughts on topics that are affecting members and groups worldwide and at home. Please reach out to me by March 20th, 2022 with your suggestions.

Opportunities to Serve in 2022

The WSO invites members to sit on Selected Committees or Thought and Task Forces each year. At the 2022 Conference, my Thought Force, Maintaining a Sustainable Future using Abundant Thinking will present a skit and worksheet to increase member awareness of how abundance and sustainability impact us locally and globally. We will also have presentations on Diversity Today and Encouraging Service Participation. We will review one of these at the June Assembly. District Representatives; please reach out to me ASAP if you would like me to bring one to your district meeting.

During 2022, I will serve on the Task Force: Web Tech Coordinator Guidelines which is charged with exploring the roles of both Web and Tech Coordinators and offering suggestions for best practices to include in comprehensive guidelines. I am looking forward to both sharing and gleaning information with the other members on my Task Force. An additional Task Force will be focusing on the evolution of the Road Trip event. I look forward to hearing about it from the Panel 63 Iowa Delegate.

Love Gifts

I would love to share your handiwork with the members of Conference as we meet face to face FINALLY! in Tarrytown, NY, April 26-30th, 2022. I invite you to use this deep winter to create small, portable expressions of recovery that I can hand out to about 100 people. Love gifts can represent your group, a program idea, Iowa, or any type of recovery notion that you are inspired to create. Items can be brought to the March AWSC meeting or connect with me to make alternate arrangements. Thank you in advance for your help!!

As a last year Delegate, I will submit a 3-minute talk sharing about the Conference theme based on my own experience. I have also been asked to be one of the spiritual speakers for this year's Conference. I ask for your prayers as I prepare this 20-minute talk. You are all a huge part of the SPIRITual experience that continues to grow in me as a member of Al-Anon. I truly know that service is Al-Anon and service is spiritual. Our Area has been Higher Powered these past two years and I know this powerful force of

goodness and love will continue to guide us into 2022 year. Our election year. I am dreaming big as I look at 2022, excited to see how we move forward enhancing our recovery through abundance, unity and understanding.

Alternate Delegate's Report:

The Regional Delegates meeting will be held March 19th and 20th in Indianapolis, Indiana. This will be the first in person Regional Delegates meeting since the Panel 60 term began in January 2020. Iowa will have several in attendance this year.

The theme for the Spring Assembly at SWCC in Creston is "Getting on the Right Track". We have the privilege to hear Sue C., Sioux Falls, SD for our luncheon speaker. The Sunday morning Spiritual speaker will be Heidi M., West Des Moines, IA. Flyers are now available. Please remember to reserve hotel rooms early if the dorm room life is not for you.

Our Fall Assembly Al-Anon Luncheon speaker will be Nancy S., Cheyenne, WY. Trustee at Large, Board of Trustees, Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters Inc. This will be in Spencer October 2022. The Theme for the weekend will be "A Moment of Clarity".

The Forum

A Forum Coordinator Web conference call will be scheduled sometime in January or February 2022. This is a great way for me to network with other Area Forum Coordinators. It is nice to hear what they are doing to keep The Forum top of mind. It is Conference Approved Literature. Forum sales are slowly creeping back up. October Forum Sales were 325 subscriptions, November Forum sales were 328 with December sales at 339 subscriptions. I am hopeful that the numbers keep going up to pre pandemic numbers of over 400 subscriptions per month.

The Forum is written by you, for you. Please submit your sharing to The Forum for consideration. Everyone has a story to tell, let's hear yours!

Don't forget that you can get an electronic subscription to The Forum. You can order current and past issues of The Forum by going to al-anon.org/electronic-literature.

There are two easy ways to order, a paper order form from the back of any Forum or you can order online at al-anon.org –click on the Al-Anon store, then find the tab for the Forum.

Coordinator Reports: (Reports were electronically submitted to the AWSC and not read).

Additional briefings were given by the Coordinators.

Alateen/AAPP: The Alateen groups are starting to attract new members, due in part to the consistency of the AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen Service), and the various District's Public Outreach programs. I'm always grateful to see Alateen flourish. I wish to thank all who are AMIAS for their service to our youth. Alcoholism is a family disease.

The FORUM

Dayne, an Alateen member from Iowa, is featured in the January 2022 *Forum*. His sharing is on page 17 titled "Dealing with the Disease." Dayne was the Alateen speaker at our first virtual conference.

ALATEEN TALK

The latest *ALATEEN TALK*, summer 2020 (*ALATEEN TALK* hasn't been printed since 2019) has sharings from five Iowa teens: Stevie, Shayla, Kate R., Megan H., and Gabe P. The last page of *ALATEEN TALK* has three spots to write a sharing for the *Just for Tonight Alateen* Bookmark. **NOTE:** the deadline of Dec. 31, 2021 is incorrect; the deadline is now Mar. 31, 2022.

Just for Tonight Alateen Bookmark

Tom C., Associate Director-Literature at the WSO sent out an email which I forwarded on to Iowa's AMIAS, advising us that the due date for submissions to the *Just for Tonight Alateen Bookmark* has been changed from Dec. 31, 2021 to Mar. 31, 2022. Here are the ways you can submit sharings, online at al-anon.org/sharing, by emailing to wso@al-anon.org (with "Alateen Just for Tonight" in the subject line), or by mailing to AFG, Inc., Attn: "Alateen Just for Tonight", 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617.

Alateen Serenity Weekend

Due to the still low numbers of Alateen members I contacted Camp Wesley Woods in Indianola to see if we could rollover our \$300 deposit and set a date for 2023. The camp worked with us, the 2022 Alateen Serenity Weekend is postponed until Apr. 18-21, 2023.

NOTE: I am looking at having an Alateen Serenity day at a camp site, possibly in the Ames area. More will be revealed at a later date. Remember the age range will still be 12-19. I have also contacted another Area to see if we can join their Alateen Conference. Again, more will be revealed.

Archives: No report

Group Records: Is your group meeting face to face, or is it now meeting via hybrid or virtually? Have there been changes to your meeting location or your virtual address?? **Please remember**, all changes should be sent into the Area Group Records coordinator on the Group Records Update form: <https://iowa-al-anon.org/members/group-records/> or <https://al-anon.org/for-members/group-resources/group-records/>

You can also contact your DR to help you with this process.

I am also working on a fillable on-line form to help make it even easier to update your group meeting information. Watch for it on the Iowa Al-Anon website!

One way to verify your group information is available, place yourself as a newcomer and try to find a meeting in your location via the Iowa Al-Anon site (iowa-al-anon.org).

Up to date group information helps members and newcomers find a meeting when they need one! If you have questions regarding group records, feel free to contact me via email at thggr2023@gmail.com

Literature: On October 20th Literature Coordinators had a web conference call. There were thirty who participated out of sixty-seven. They are planning one in the coming months, and I am looking forward to attending this one.

Please let your Alateen members know, The *Alateen Talk* newsletter has the outdated December deadline for sharings on the new, Just for Tonight Alateen Bookmark. The deadline was December 31, 2021. It has now been extended to March 31st, 2022, because more sharings are needed. The new deadline is also included online at al-anon.org/sharing where there is a form and writing guide for the teens.

The sharings can be sent by email, to wso@al-anon.org, on the subject line they need to type in (Alateen Just for Tonight). The mailing address is, AFG, Inc., 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617, Attn: "Alateen Just for Tonight."

The topic in January on our Members Blog, located at al-anon.org/member-blog is "What would you tell your pre-Al-Anon self?" Members can find great ideas for meetings on the Blog but keep in mind these sharings not conference approved, so are not to be used at meetings.

Our Forum magazine has a "CAL Corner" section; January's topic is on *How Al-Anon Works* (B-32). This magazine allows us to share about the experience, strength and hope we have received from Al-Anon. Sharing's needed are on ...*In All Our Affairs* (B-15), *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* (B-33), *When I Got Busy, I Got Better* (P-78), and *From Survival to Recovery* (B-21). If any of this literature has helped you in your recovery, please submit your sharing at

al-anon.org/pdf/CALcornerSharingRevised%202018.pdf.

Newsletter: The next newsletter deadline is February 1st. As each of you prepare your submissions, I hope you'll include something you've learned about your current position and why you'd encourage others to volunteer for a service opportunity. If we don't continue to have great volunteers step up, we can't continue to grow.

Public Outreach: In an effort to share and keep Public Outreach Coordinators revved up to stay charged with enthusiasm, there are Small Group Workshops and Collaboration Meetings each month that WSO does not have a Conference call. The collaboration meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of each month. The Small Group Workshops use Google Workspace/Drives (where have I heard that before...) in conjunction with Zoom, to work on public outreach presentations together. These presentations are used for outreach to professionals, institutions, treatment centers, etc. I absolutely LOVE working with others in public outreach! Taking steps together, to break down the daunting task of carrying the message to others who are suffering from the effects of alcoholism, but are not yet aware of Al-Anon's existence.

Public Outreach endeavors adapted to meet the needs of changing world in 2020 & 2021. We've learned how to reach others through contactless flyers, posters, social media, QR codes and Zoom... so much zoom. I've been thinking of how we can put these tools to good work to fill the deficits that I've experienced as an Al-Anon member active in service. What I've noticed is, at least in my district, public outreach at the group level has dwindled. I would like to give groups the same kick start I receive from coordinators on AFG Connects, to challenge group members to work together in reaching people in their local community. The ideas are spinning around, and I would LOVE to hear your ideas!

Please contact me if you would help like help with group or district public outreach and definitely send those ideas! You can email me at a18d9po@gmail.com.

Web Page: No report

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

Old Business:

2022 Service Workshop- The Area Service Workshop for 2022 was postponed due to the weather. Dates were discussed regarding when to hold the Workshop. A virtual consensus was taken and the workshop will be April 2nd, 2022, with a location yet to be determined. There was some discussion on the \$5 registration for the workshop. More information to come.

2022 Serenity Weekend-The Area Serenity Weekend was held on November 5-7, 2021 in Manson, IA at the Twin Lakes Bible Camp.

We had 37 Package A's, 7 Package B's and 10 Package A's registered for a total of 54. We had

a total of 43 in actual attendance. A complete report along with the financial report and survey regarding the Serenity Weekend is on the Iowa Website.

A motion was made by Margaret M. to sign the contract at Twin Lakes for September 23-25th, 2022 for 50 participants. 2nd by Beth K. A virtual motion was passed by majority.

Area Inventory Follow-up- The Inventory committee found the Friday and Saturday Candlelight meetings were not well attended at Assemblies and would like to forego the two meetings on a trial basis for one year. A motion was made by Missy Y. and 2nd by Lorraine. A virtual motion passed by majority.

Presentation- Thought/Task Force Updates

The Electronic Group Work Group (EGWG): Our Frame was:

The 2021 World Service Conference voted on key changes to allow permanent electronic meetings to formally reach group status, thereby opening the door to an electronic Area represented by an Area Delegate. The electronic Area will be formed by groups through their newly elected group representatives.

Our Area may be petitioned by an electronic group to join us. We need to consider what the benefits and risks would be and how this would impact our service structure. There are many questions and ideas to explore, and what that would it look like for Iowa.

Since we realize that there is a possibility of not only the Permanent Electronic groups (PEGs) requesting to join our Area, we also have to realize the possibility of groups that are meeting virtually temporarily to vote to permanently stay virtual.

Through the discussion and trying to be attentive to future concerns, the EGWG began to develop thoughts of possibility of proposing the establishment of an Electronic District for Iowa to the AWSC and the Assembly.

According to our Iowa Policy manual, pg 12- "Dividing or Realigning Area Districts", it is up to groups within a District to make a request to change or form another District. It mentions that the groups are basically the starting point. But, since will be a whole new idea and a new District, here are some questions the workgroup would like to discuss.

- Does the AWSC, on the suggestion of this workgroup, actually have the capability to develop an Electronic District or do we need to wait until there are Electronic Groups who are requesting a District? Thoughts went from this might be something the Policy Committee may need to look at to the thought that this is not a change in a District but a creation of brand new District.
- Is it the responsibility of the AWSC to start the Electronic District or do we wait for Electronic group/groups to petition for the establishment an Electronic District? Our Area Group Records Coordinator, Tracy HG, shared with the workgroup some of her concerns about record keeping if we do not start with a proposed Electronic District and just let groups join whichever District they want to. That process may become quite cumbersome and confusing for members and groups.
- Will the electronic groups know what they want or even how to go about it, if we (AWSC) do not come up with some sort of scenario?

It would be this Work Groups suggestion that a possible motion for a proposed Electronic District, established for a trial period of possibly 3 years, be presented to the AWSC in March with a presentation and final vote in June by the Assembly.

The Google Workspace

A report was given to the AWSC sharing how the Google Workspace training was very beneficial. The Task Force would like to share the knowledge they learned with a possible workshop at another time. The presentation would be lengthy and informative to all members of AWSC. A consensus was taken and approved to have the Google Workspace Task Force be dissolved. A Google Admin will be formed of Area Officers and possibly two AWSC members as we move forward.

New Business:

2021 Budget- The Area Treasurer presented the Budget & Expenditures for 2021 and the Proposed Budget for 2022.

On the Proposed Budget for 2022, the Web Site Fee (including domain name) was increased from \$470.00 to \$650.00. This amount would be for the full 3 year term. The Newsletter expense was lowered to \$50 as the Newsletter is now sent electronically with very few paper copies mailed out via snail mail.

The final Budget & Expenditures for 2021 and the Proposed Budget for 2022 of \$18,895.00 were both approved with a virtual motion made by Linda A. and 2nd by Audrey U.

2021 Spring Assembly Agenda- The Spring Assembly will be held June 10-12th, 2022 in Creston, Iowa. The Assembly will be available virtually. District 7 will host and our AI-Anon Luncheon Speaker will be Sue C., Sioux Falls, SD. The Alateen speaker will be announced at a later date. The complete agenda is available on the Iowa website.

2022 RDM: The USNCR (Regional Delegates meeting) will be held March 18-20th, 2022. Officers and Past Delegates are eligible to attend.

Area Technology Coordinator: This position was presented to the AWSC. The suggested requirements for the position and the budget expense were reviewed. The discussion concluded with a virtual consensus to create a Task Force for an Area Technology Coordinator and the results will be brought to the March AWSC meeting.

Electronic Payment System: The Iowa Website used an electronic payment system for the Iowa Serenity Weekend which prompted a suggestion for a possible PayPal donation button to also be included on the website. There were many questions on how the PayPal worked for the Serenity Weekend and how a donation button would work. A virtual consensus was taken to continue with the electronic payment system and a PayPal donation button to be posted on the Iowa Website. The majority ruled to put both buttons on the website and if it didn't work out it is possible to remove both buttons.

Workshop- Electronic Group Work Group (EGWG)

A virtual Gallery Walk was held with the attending members breaking out into 5 virtual rooms. The EGWG members realized there were many questions members may have and presented 11 questions for each break out room to discuss. Each break out room was asked to have a person to record comments to the 11 questions and submit them back to the EGWG work group. The EGWG will compile all the comments and questions from the break out rooms and will give a report at the March AWSC regarding the results. For a copy of the questions that were discussed are available on the Iowa Website under AWSC reports.

Unanswered Questions/Review Comments- There was a lot of good information shared today. There were comments that many were thankful this meeting was held virtually and are becoming more comfortable with this format. Iowa Al-Anon is moving pro-actively and on schedule regarding making plans for the future of Al-Anon and electronic meetings. There was a lot of information to digest today along with many things to be shared with our groups and districts.

A consensus was taken to close the meeting with the Al-Anon declaration at 1:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky V.
Area Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 13, 2022	Iowa AWSC meeting, Marshalltown, IA
March 18-20, 2021	USNCR Delegates Meeting, Indianapolis, IN
April 2, 2022	Service Workshop/Serenity Weekend Planning, Marshalltown College
April 26-30, 2022	World Service Conference
May 1, 2022	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
June 10-12, 2022	Spring Assembly, Creston, IA
August 1, 2022	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
August 21, 2022	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, Marshalltown, IA
September 1, 2022	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline
September 23-25, 2022	Ara Serenity Weekend, Twin Lakes, Manson, IA
October 7-9, 2022	Fall Assembly, Spencer, 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