

**Iowa Area AWSC Meeting
August 8, 2021
Hampton Inn- Marshalltown, IA
Hybrid Meeting**

Virginia B., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. There were 25 members in attendance, 2 members joined virtually and 23 were voting members of the AWSC. This meeting was held hybrid for the first time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Jill G. and Michelle K. 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 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 by the voting members.

Treasurer Report: The financial statement from May 29, 2021 to July 31, 2021 was presented and discussed. Balance brought forward was \$29,172.51. Total receipts this period were \$3,423.38. Total disbursements were \$2,530.03. Ending balance on July 31, 2021 was \$30,065.86. The financial statement was approved by a consensus of voting members.

Delegate's Report:

Electronic Groups

A complete report, minutes from the breakout groups, and the supporting PowerPoint document had been sent to the DRs and AWSC members regarding the virtual Town Hall on July 14, 2021. From reviewing the minutes from the breakout groups, at first glance, the repercussions of incorporating E groups into our structure are financial, technological, logistical, and linguistic. The power of a group conscience is strongest when it is fully informed. Iowa is right on schedule regarding electronic group's time frame!

Envisioning Our Future

Our AWSC is only as strong as our districts, and districts are as strong as their groups. WSO's Strategic Plan, including shorter-term goals and long-range vision may be reviewed in the World Service Conference Summary on the AI-Anon.org website. The importance of looking ahead was brought to the June Assembly where attendees participated by sharing in small group breakouts and allowed us to explore our goals for our groups as we return to Face to Face meetings and other current topics. It was also intended to help us launch our awareness into envisioning a future with electronic groups as a part of the World Service structure. The power and need for active GRs feels even more pertinent now as we highlight the role of the Group Representative as a fundamental shift in the change from electronic meetings to electronic groups.

Chairperson of the Board

A virtual COB reveal took place August 7, 2021 in which both Katy P. and Jean L. were able to attend. WSO revised its budget for the second year in a row. This is not typical for our organization and occurred in response to the financial unpredictability of 2020. The revised budget sees the WSO making just a bit more in literature sales while expecting a deficit in contributions. The overall deficit to date equals approximately one month of member contributions or 15 days of expenses.

A new task force is forming to focus on Public Outreach in Relation to Social Media, emphasizing the importance of the word 'local' in the expanding reach of a global world. Speaking of keeping it local while thinking global-Jean L., will be involved with the European Zonal Meeting which is being held virtually September 3-5, 2021.

To read the complete Delegates' report 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 had 58 Al-Anon and 4 Alateen attending the June 4-6, 2021 at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Ia.

The location of the Fall Assembly October 8-10, 2021 will be held in Des Moines at the Embassy Suites On the River. The Al-Anon chair and co-chair will be Shelly P. and Julie N. from District 7. The Al-Anon speaker will be Betty A., Mankato, MN for the luncheon and Lisa S. from Pleasant Hill, IA will be the Spiritual speaker on Sunday morning. Registration is available online by using cheddarup.com or sending in your registration by mail. Please see flyer on the Iowa website for more details.

District 7 will host the 2022 Spring Assembly in Creston, IA at the Southwest Community College and Sue C. will be our luncheon speaker. The 2022 Fall Assembly will be hosted by District 2 at the Clay County Events Center in Spencer, IA which will also be our voting Assembly.

The Iowa Area Inventory Committee received 51 electronic responses and one paper response. The committee will review the results and prepare a presentation to be presented at the Fall Assembly in Des Moines.

The Forum: Please use The Forum in your meeting and share with your groups about it. Forum sales continue to decrease each month. June sales were 338, and the July sales were 332. The Forum is published in both paper form and electronic form. Order online at the Al-Anon Store at al-anon.org or use the form in the back of any paper issue.

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. A heart full of gratitude to the AMIAS in Iowa who have stayed certified and thanks to those who have just become certified. All of Iowa's AMIAS were recertified before the WSO cutoff date.

The Area Alateen Serenity Weekend was postponed until May 6-8, 2021 and Camp Wesley Woods has been very generous in moving our deposit yet again due to the pandemic. The date we selected will allow us to have all the facilities that we usually use.

Revision to the Alateen Preamble to the Twelve Steps

The 2021 World Service Conference approved the revision to the Alateen Preamble. Communication will be forthcoming on how to insert the new Alateen Preamble.

Alateen Just for Tonight Bookmark

The 2021 WSC approved creating an Alateen version of the Just for Tonight bookmark, so please ask your Alateen group to send in suggestions as to the content of the new bookmark.

Archives: Ordering of the file cabinets is still in the works. After some discussion regarding transitioning the archival material from paper to electronic, it was decided to table this discussion until a later date.

Group Records: Thank you to everyone for your help in keeping group records 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. Please remember to include the group number, group name and district when sending any updates.

Literature: The *Al-Anon Newcomer Packet* (K-10) is undergoing revisions and will be reprinted as soon as the copies in the warehouse are sold. The Al-Anon Newcomer electronic rendition is now available (EK-10).

Two pieces of literature will undergo some changes; The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage (B-4) which will include a preface giving it a historical perspective and secondly our first daily reader, One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (B-6) will have an introduction providing a historical outlook while maintain the enduring spiritual principles of Al-Anon.

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@gmail.com. Please take note of the new email address for the newsletter.

Public Outreach: There was a Public Outreach Collaboration via zoom on June 12 which was a very informative and motivating call.

The new Public Outreach campaign will include a new PSA that includes actual members' stories shared while completing the 2018 membership survey. This new PSA will be on the benefits of Al-Anon.

An Iowa Public Outreach virtual meeting is in the plans for late August which will include Alateen Coordinators as well.

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 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 “Store” is up and running and is the place to look for the Serenity Weekend registration, T-shirts, sweatshirts and tote bags. PayPal is the method available for payment by credit card. It is a free option. Members are not required to open a PayPal account, or utilize credit from PayPal. Members have the option to enter their credit card information or may use PayPal's “guest” option.

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

Old Business:

2021 Service Workshop Recap- The theme “What a Concept” with the 12 Concepts and General Warranties were presented by different districts. Members found it very informative on how the Concepts pertain to our everyday life as do the Steps and Traditions. There were 37 members attending the Service Workshop August 7th, 2021 at the Iowa Valley Community College in Marshalltown and many members commented that it felt good to be together in person again.

Serenity Weekend- The theme of HEE HAW (How Al-Anon Works) will be the theme and the event 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. Registration for the weekend is available on the Iowa Website. This Serenity Weekend will be the first time it has been scheduled at this time of year. It will be interesting to compare the different seasons at the camp.

Thought Force-Email Service/Document Storage – The Thought Force gave a report on their findings and would like to bring forward the following recommendations for discussion and possible action by the AWSC. The Thought Force KBDM documents and spreadsheet were included in the report.

#1

The Thought Force examined multiple platforms and felt two of them meet the goals of the charge, Groups.io and Google Workspace.

We recommend a Task Force be developed to determine ease of use, financial requirements training requirements, and email capabilities of the Google Workspace platform for our Area.

#2

The Thought Force would like to bring forward 3 other recommendations:

- **Recommend a Task Force be developed for the addition of an Area Technology Coordinator. We believe that Iowa is moving toward a future involving more technological aspects. The need for a Coordinator would be to help with the development of more hybrid Area Business meetings, the possible addition of electronic meetings within our Area structure, and the necessity of having someone (working cooperatively with the Chairman and Web Site Coordinator) with planning, training and implementation of future technology.**

- **Recommend, after an Email/Document platform has been decided, the Web Site Committee review the web site design and possibly assist the Web Site Coordinator in a redesign that would lead more toward reaching newcomers through Public Outreach and less as a place to hold Area/AWSC documents.**
- **Recommend the Web Site Taskforce designed to create generic emails for all Area Coordinators be put on hold until further need arises.**

After much discussion, a consensus was taken and a Task Force for email service/document storage was approved. There are 7 members that volunteered to be on the Task Force.

Another consensus was taken and approved to have the Web Site Task Force be put on hold and will report back in January 2022.

In regards to the Area Technology Coordinator, the decision was made to have a Task Force for this position and there are 7 members that agreed to work together on this Task Force.

Presentation: 'AWSC Open Conversation'

The floor was opened to all AWSC members for discussion regarding their districts in Iowa. There were comments on how the pandemic has affected many groups and that virtual meetings seem to be the "norm" at this time, yet other groups are looking forward to being back face to face as soon as possible. Comments were made that district meetings are not well attended, in which the opportunity to share how/what other districts are doing to encourage members to attend transpired. Many members enjoyed this time to visit with other DRs regarding hybrid groups, safety factors and anonymity at the virtual meetings.

New Business:

2021 Fall Assembly Agenda- 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 will be a workshop Friday night hosted by District 7, a GR workshop presentation Saturday morning and a workshop Sunday morning on the Concepts by our speaker Betty A.

Regarding the ability to have the Assembly Business meeting on Saturday as hybrid is yet to be determined by the facility accommodations.

Literature at the Fall Assembly

A consensus was taken and approved to have District 7 sell literature at the Fall Assembly 2021 in Des Moines and the Spring Assembly 2022 in Creston to help support the local depot.

Area Calendar for 2022

The need for a calendar in 2022 was discussed and the AWSC members approved by consensus to not have a calendar made for 2022.

2022 Service Workshop

Different dates were discussed for a Service Workshop in 2022. A consensus was taken and approved for the service workshop to be held January 15th, 2022 at the Marshalltown Community College. The theme of "Lighting the Way" will cover service positions at the Group and Area level. The workshops will be to welcome all the new members that have stepped up to their new service positions.

Approval of Iowa AI-Anon Business Meeting Minutes

A discussion of when the Iowa AI-Anon Business meeting minutes should be approved transpired with the decision to continue approving the minutes as we have been. The AWSC minutes will be approved Friday night at Assemblies and the Assembly minutes will be approved at the next AWSC meeting.

Workshop – Electronic Groups

Iowa is right on track with Electronic meeting guidelines. Questions were sent electronically to the AWSC members in advance to aid in the discussion/questions regarding electronic groups. Many of the members found it was difficult to communicate the concern that each group has a voice on how Iowa will move forward on this topic. Members discussed how boundaries would be formed for electronic groups and how the Iowa policies would need to change. A simple question was asked of those in attendance how they felt about electronic groups and would they be in favor of allowing this in Iowa. The majority were in favor at this time. More answers, questions and more discussion will be coming in the near future.

Unanswered Questions/Review Comments- A lot of good information was shared today. Many members enjoyed the open conversation time. Members enjoyed how they could share concerns with other DRs in regards to how others are coping with the pandemic affecting their groups along with how others stay in contact with all members in their groups and district. Virtual meetings were a common concern for many districts. Members that attended the AWSC meeting virtually, found it worked well and would like to see it continue.

A consensus was taken to close the meeting with the AI-Anon declaration at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky V.
Area Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 8-10, 2021	Fall Assembly, Embassy Suites on the River, Des Moines, IA
October 23, 2021	Road Trip! You and your Board Connect, Cleveland, OH
November 1, 2021	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter Deadline
November 5-7, 2021	Serenity Weekend, Twin Lakes, Manson, IA
January 15, 2022	Service Workshop, 11:30am, Iowa Valley CC, Marshalltown, IA
January 16, 2022	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am Marshalltown, IA
February 1, 2022	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter Deadline
March 12, 2022	Serenity Weekend Planning?
March 13, 2022	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
March 18-20, 2022	USNCR Delegates Meeting, Indianapolis, IN
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, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
September 1, 2022	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter Deadline
October 7-9, 2022	Fall Assembly, Spencer, IA

Iowa AI-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