

**Iowa Area AWSC Meeting  
March 13, 2022  
Hampton Inn-Marshalltown, IA  
Hybrid Meeting**

Virginia B., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. There were 22 registered members attending of which 9 were attending virtually. The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Tracy H.G. and Lorraine R. 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 2022 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 unanimously.

**Treasurer Report:** The financial statement from January 1, 2022 to March 7, 2022 was presented and was discussed. Balance brought forward was \$28,199.64. Total receipts this period were \$1,407.69. Total disbursements were \$532.08. Ending balance on March 7, 2022 was \$29,075.25. The financial statement was approved unanimously by a consensus. A “donate” button has been uploaded to the Iowa Website. This electronic payment will make it easier for members and groups to respond to the Area Appeal Letters as we follow Tradition 7, whether it’s a group or a personal donation. The Area Treasurer will receive an email regarding the amount of the donation that was directly deposited into the Iowa Area bank account.

**Delegate’s Report:** Our Area is in the middle of an upgrade! We are enhancing our communication and engaging cloud based document storage capabilities through Google Admin. We are ensuring successful and accessible business meetings by considering incorporating a new Technology Coordinator position into our Area structure. We are exploring the option to use electronic payments for donations and events. Our Electronic Groups Work Group (EGWG) has been a thinking machine. Thank you to this team for your dedication to looking at all facets surrounding the idea of including permanent electronic groups into our Area structure. Embracing new ideas requires us to trust the process, expand our thinking and focus on our goals to achieve our desired results.

At the heart of our technology upgrade is our website which is in need of a trusted servant. I have received Beth R’s resignation and am thankful for her service this term. Hedi has been filling in on a temporary basis, but is unable to devote herself to the task long term. With only 9 months left, this is a wonderful opportunity for a member to dip their toes into Area service, grow new skills and assist the Area as we integrate the various technological aspects that we’ve been focused on. I know that our Higher Power will guide the right person to this role.

### **News from the World Service Office**

#### **Service Manuals**

The latest version of the Service Manual will be available online at al-anon.org this Spring. The printed version should be available in late Summer. My hope is to see a preview at Conference. Fingers crossed.

### Survey says...

Please see the results of the [2021 Membership Survey](#) at [al-anon.org](#). The survey results are intended to inform the professional community about the benefits of Al-Anon and to reinforce that Al-Anon is the best resource for help for families and friends affected by alcoholism. The survey had the largest participation to date and offers a comprehensive look at the benefits the recovery provides.

### Regional Delegate's Meeting

Conference unofficially kicks off with the Regional Delegate's Meeting in Indianapolis, IN from March 18th-20th. This gathering is to help prepare Panel 62 Delegates for their first Conference, as well as discuss relevant topics with current and past Delegates and attending officers. Those attending from Iowa are Past Delegates Connie H., Lorraine R., and Virginia B., as well as Linda A.- Area Treasurer and me. I am so excited to meet all of the people that I've only known virtually these past two years and to travel with this wonderful crew.

### **Conference Preparation**

I appreciate any love gifts you have prepared! I will mail them to the Delegates and Conference members prior to the Conference. I am sad that I cannot accept cards of support at Conference as has been the past practice. The WSO encourages us to invite members to send a text or email of support during Conference which is April 26-30th. I have the pleasure of attending Conference with three Iowans! Addresses and emails for Jean L. Dubuque, Regional Trustee, Debbie G., Past Delegate, Chairperson -Executive Committee, and myself are on a separate document. We would all welcome your thoughts and connections. I would ask for prayers for a clear mind, the ability to stay grounded and a strong connection with my Higher Power (and anything else you think I might need to be the best Panel 60 Iowa Delegate I can be).

I am eager to receive and immerse myself into my Conference documents. I am aware that time is fleeting as I serve the last year of my term and am savoring each day. I feel very grateful to attend this final Conference in person and look forward to sharing the information I receive with you in June.

### **WSO Quarterly Updates**

The COB and supporting quarterly reports from the WSO have not been released yet, but I am able to share some information with you. I will send the documents to the AWSC once they have been fully translated. For now...

The WSO experienced a net decrease of (\$76,066) which is below the budgeted amount of (\$233,753). Contributions exceeded literature sales. December saw the largest amount of donations this year coming in at \$368,734. Literature sales were lower than expected, averaging a net of around \$159,000 per month. Literature is still experiencing shortages due to limited paper supplies and delays in shipping.

Do you see yourself, or someone you know, as a candidate for employment at the World Service Office? The WSO has an opening for the role of Program Specialist - International. This and other opportunities are posted on the WSO's website at [al-anon.org](#).

Road Trip! You and your Board Connect. Cleveland OH is hosting Road Trip! on October 29th of 2022. This event has been granted permanent status. I look forward to hearing about applications for the 2023 event at this year's Conference.

The Conference Leadership Team (CLT) is accepting Chosen Agenda Items until March 25th. These are topics that affect not only your group, but Al-Anon as a whole. I'll accept ideas up until March 20th. Iowa has been a leader in preparing for the non-panel Electronic Area, now called the non-panel Global

Electronic Area. I am looking forward to the discussions that will be held at Conference and the potential of welcoming this new, expansive Area to the World Service Conference.

### **Alternate Delegate's Report:**

Katy P., Iowa Delegate will be in New York for the annual World Service Conference April 26-30, 2022. Katy will be sharing about her trip in June at the Spring Assembly.

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. Please remember to reserve hotel rooms early if the dorm room life is not for you.

Our Fall Assembly AI-Anon Luncheon speaker will be Nancy S., Cheyenne, WY. Trustee at Large, Board of Trustees, AI-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**

It is encouraging to see our Forum sales are staying steady with a small increase. We had 348 subscriptions for February 2022 and 351 subscriptions in March 2022.

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](http://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](http://al-anon.org) –click on the AI-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: WSO:** Just for Tonight Alateen bookmark

REMINDER: Alateen members have until March 31, 2022 to send in their sharing to the Just for Tonight Alateen bookmark. The Alateen group I sponsor did a short writing workshop at the end of our meeting. I did bring the AI-Anon Just for Tonight bookmark so they could see the format.

Send in on line: [al-anon.org/sharing](http://al-anon.org/sharing).

Email: [wso@al-anon.org](mailto:wso@al-anon.org) (with "Alateen Just for Tonight" in the subject line).

Postal mail: AFG, Inc., Attn: Alateen Just for Tonight, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-561

#### **Alateen sponsor on TV**

District 7's Public Outreach Chairperson was asked by the TV station WOI to share on how the upsurge in the sale of alcohol during Covid had affected our membership. The TV reporter, from WOI, had expected that we would have had a surge in our membership. Two of our AI-Anon members (the members were backlit so their faces were not shown), one an Alateen sponsor, spoke of whom AI-Anon/Alateen is for, and what our recovery programs focuses on.

#### **Public Outreach for Alateen**

Please use what the WSO provides for us. We have access to Alateen posters that can have your Alateen meetings day and time written on them or have a QR code with that information on them. We just need to access them. Please go to: [al-anon.org/for-members/public-outreach/public-outreach-posters](http://al-anon.org/for-members/public-outreach/public-outreach-posters) where you will find the Alateen posters, and print them.

#### **Area Alateen Serenity Weekend or Day**

I've been reaching out to other Areas to see whom our Alateens can join for their Alateen Serenity

Weekend, and will be checking with a camp site to see if we could hold an Alateen Serenity Day. Remember, the age limit is still 12-19 2022 Area Alateen Group Recertification form.

The Alateen Group Update sheet now called the Area Alateen Group Recertification form has been sent out to all the Alateen Group CMA's and needs to be returned to the name on the bottom of the sheet (which is my name and address). Any questions, please contact me.

#### 2022 Area AMIAS Recertification forms

Yea, we have a lot of our AMIAS Recertification forms in, we are still lacking 19. I'll be contacting those who haven't signed and returned their form to me. REMEMBER: All AMIAS in Iowa need to be recertified for the Alateen groups in Iowa to continue to use the Alateen name. So please return your form! If you don't have one, contact me.

**Archives:** The Area will be receiving two new four (4) drawer vertical filing cabinets very soon. They will have locks on them to make moving them more convenient in the future.

**Group Records:** Group records is currently up to date at this time. We have 161 active groups in Iowa including 8 Alateen Groups. This is down from the previous year. At this time, we have 6 groups showing still inactive due to Covid. Please let me know if your group has chosen to go back to face to face, zoom only, or hybrid so that the Newcomers can find you. There has been 1 new group since the last update. This has been a learning experience for us all! I appreciate all the help I have received in keeping these records up to date!

One way to check that your group information is correct is to go the WSO webpage and search for your group and if it is not current to please let me know. Here are the links: <https://iowa-al-anon.org/> and <https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/find-an-al-anon-meeting/>  
Please remember when you send in a group record update the information to be included is found on the form which you can download from <https://al-anon.org/for-members/group-resources/group-records/>  
You can also contact your DR or Group Records to help you with this process. This will really help make the process easier and minimizes the possibility of group records missing important changes.

Up to date group information helps members and newcomers find a meeting when they need one! If there are updates or you have questions regarding group records, feel free to contact me.

**Literature:** I am pleased to announce the NEW DAILY READER (working title) has been completed. The final stages involve the design and translations into English, Spanish and French. Hopefully it will be ready for the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention.  
Alateen members still have an opportunity to share on the Just for Tonight Bookmark. It has now been extended to March 31st, 2022, because more sharings are needed. They can submit their writings online at [al-anon.org/sharing](http://al-anon.org/sharing) where there is a form and writing guide for the teens. The Alateens can also send them by email, to [wso@al-anon.org](mailto: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."  
In our "Cal Corner" section in the Forum magazine the focus in March is Lois Remembers (B-7). In April, Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses (B-29). "Cal Corner" topics will be on When I Got Busy, I Got Better (P-78). Living With Sobriety (P-49), Reaching For Personal Freedom (P-92). The Al-Anon Focus (P-45) and From Survival to Recovery (B-21). Please urge your members that sharings are needed, so if any of this Cal literature has helped them in their recovery there is a writing guideline at: [al-anon.org/pdf/CALcornerSharingRevised%202018.pdf](http://al-anon.org/pdf/CALcornerSharingRevised%202018.pdf)

**Newsletter:** Hopefully you've all had a chance to read the February Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter. Thank you for your reports. I loved that so many of you included what you've learned through service

positions this term. I continue to be amazed by each of you. Whether a District Representative, Coordinator, or Officer, you've accomplished so much in a trying term! Hard to believe its two years this month since "normal" went away. The next Iowa Reaches Out deadline is May 1. That issue will also include a blank resume form for people to complete to stand for positions for the next term. I hope each of you is considering how you will give back to the program that has helped you and so many others.

**Public Outreach:** I attended the 1st of 2 annual Public Outreach Coordinator Calls on February 20th. The PO Coordinators were able to meet Heather S., the new Associate Director of Community Relations at WSO. Also present on this call in listening mode only were members of WSO Public Outreach Committee, including a very friendly face, our own Beth K.

During the call they reviewed the Public Outreach pages on the WSO website and the results of the 2021 Membership Survey, and ended with a 30 minute SESH (Sharing Experience, Strength & Hope). Our next, and my last, Public Outreach Coordinator Conference call will be August 7th.

I would like to provide an update on the 2021-2022 Public Service Announcement airplay stats too. As of 2/26/2022, there have been 853 PSA Airplays reported. I find it interesting that the majority of airplays are in the Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, Dubuque, and Iowa City DMA (274), followed by Ottumwa and Kirksville DMA at 153 plays. District 10 PSA's are all on TV stations. I'm wondering if they're noticing a difference in attendance. In my district (9) the airplays are all radio, and it's exciting to hear them. Are you hearing/viewing the Public Service Announcement in your district?

Circling back to the Member Survey Results, I feel that the membership survey results are an important tool for best use of Public Outreach resources. Not only do we get to see how our members found Al-Anon, we gain knowledge of which demographics to focus on. During the conference call, I heard that of the 16,486 members who participated, 12% indicated that they were from Canada, .05% from Bermuda, and .02% from Puerto Rico. I found that statistic comforting. If your district or group would like to have a copy of the results, I'd be happy to show you how to retrieve it off of the website, or you could scan the QR code to review it.

Finally, in my last report I wrote about a deficit in group level public outreach endeavors. I've noticed, at least in my district, that most groups no longer do public outreach. It seems to be something that is left for District, Area and WSO to provide. In my experience, when I'm only practicing 2 of Al-Anon's Three Legacies, my program suffers. I would like to give group members and GR's 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. With this in mind, I will be hosting a Public 'In-reach' workshop in May. I will have a flyer available for the Area Service Workshop in April.

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](mailto: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, 13 and 14. There were no reports from 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, or 15.

**Old Business:**

**2022 Service Workshop-** The Area Service Workshop for 2022 will be April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, at Iowa Valley Community College in Marshalltown, IA. The college has provided us with a new meeting room and we are looking forward to having the large room. This workshop will be hybrid and the link is on the flyer for all that would like to join.

**2022 Serenity Weekend-** September 23-25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 will be the date for Serenity Weekend and members are being asked to share thoughts/ideas for a theme for this year. All ideas are welcome.

**Google Admin-** Katy P. reported that Iowa AFG has been granted a non-profit status with Google Admin. Things are moving forward and more information to come once the account is set up.

**Technology Coordinator Position-** A consensus was taken and was unanimously approved to have this position added as an Iowa Area Coordinator. The Iowa Area Assembly will be asked to vote to accept this new position in June and if approved, this Coordinator will be part of the elections in October 2022. This Coordinator position will be responsible for implementing and managing the technology resources for the benefit of the Iowa AFG AWSC and Area Assemblies. A complete list of guidelines was presented to the AWSC. Discussion regarding all members in service to have a binder with all the items they perform while holding their current position. Even though the Iowa Policy and Procedure outlines the duties, there are things we did/do that could be helpful to the next person holding that particular position.

**Iowa Policy & Procedure Update-** The PP Manual Committee is composed of 5 people: Area Chair, Virginia B, Area Secretary, Becky V., Area Newsletter Coordinator, Luanne T., DR, Audrey U., and Past Delegate, Connie H.

Since this committee was notified by the Electronic Meeting Workgroup that there were areas in the manual that may need more clarification they have started meeting again. A complete report from the Policy and Procedure committee is attached to these minutes.

**Presentation- The Electronic Group Work Group (EGWG):**

A powerpoint presentation was given and questions were reviewed. The Work Group presented the AWSC three (3) proposals and asked a consensus be taken for all 3.

1. The EGWG would like to propose that Iowa establish District 16 as an Electronic District with all electronic groups filtering into this District first.
2. The EGWG proposes that the Iowa Area Alternate Delegate, in cooperation with the Area Group Records Coordinator, will assist the initial formation of the Electronic District (16), and with the election of a DR for this District (if needed).
3. The EWG would like to recommend, for the 2023-2025 term, that Officer and Coordinator resumes only be accepted from those members who physically reside in Iowa.

All three (3) proposals were accepted by a consensus unanimously.

**New Business:**

**2022 Fall Assembly Agenda-** The Fall Assembly will be held October 7<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> in Spencer, Iowa. The Assembly will also be available virtually. District 2 will host and our AI-Anon Luncheon Speaker will be Nancy S., Cheyenne WY. The Alateen speaker will be announced at a later date. The complete agenda is available on the Iowa website.

**Iowa Area Resume-** There is an update Iowa Area Resume available which is a fillable version. This resume can be found on the Area Website and will be used for the upcoming elections in October 2022. The resume will need to be emailed or snail mailed to the Area Chairperson by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

**The 2021 Survey-** A powerpoint presentation was given by Katy P. regarding Public Outreach. The powerpoint showed how the Public Outreach survey showed who in the public responds and benefits from the information. Many of the posters have become more colorful and there is now a QR code for

many items for the public to use for more information regarding Al-Anon. Refer to Public Outreach Coordinator report for more information.

**Workshop-** Open discussion

The floor was opened for discussion and the topic of the Area Newsletter was mentioned. There were many pro and con opinions were shared. Examples: Is the Newsletter necessary anymore? Who really reads the Newsletter? The Newsletter reaches members that are not in service and this is one way they find out what other districts are doing. If it reaches one person to get involved in serve, or to attend other meetings, it has served a purpose.

The topic of Alateens was discussed also. It is important to remember Alateen needs Al-Anon's support. Consistency is important and since the pandemic, many Alateen meetings have not been well attended. With Al-Anon support by sponsoring Alateen groups and getting word out to the school for meetings, perhaps the Alateen groups will flourish again.

**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 even with some technology glitches however, this is how we learn. 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 12:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky V.  
Area Secretary

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

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 23-25, 2022	Area Serenity Weekend, Twin Lakes, Manson, IA
October 7-9, 2022	Fall Assembly, Spencer, IA
November 1, 2022	Iowa Reaches Out Newsletter deadline

**Iowa Al-Anon Literature Depots:**

939 Office Park Rd. Suite 113  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

2801 Jackson St.  
Sioux City, IA 51104

515-277-5059  
[www.al-anondesmoines.org](http://www.al-anondesmoines.org)

712-255-6724  
[www.al-anonsiouxcity.org](http://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](http://www.iowa-al-anon.org)