**Iowa Area AWSC Meeting**

**MARCH 5, 2023**

**Hampton Inn- Marshalltown, IA**

**Hybrid Meeting**

Katy P., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:01 A.M. There were 21 registered members attending of which 7 were attending virtually. The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Judy V., and Laura S., read the Concepts of Service/Warranties. Katy P., read The Review of Etiquette and the AWSC evaluation questions for all members to think about throughout the meeting.

**Secretary Report**: The minutes from January AWSC meeting were e-mailed electronically earlier to be read before the meeting: they were not read during the meeting. The 2023 Proposed Budget was not attached to the January minutes and was emailed out at a later date. The minutes were approved by a consensus unanimously.

**Treasurer Report**: The financial statement from January 1, 2023 to March 1,2023 was presented and was discussed. Balance brought forward was $24,086.97. Total receipts for this period were $1,423.92. Total disbursements were $1,182.06. Ending balance on March 1, 2023 was $24,328.83. The financial statement was approved by a consensus unanimously.

**Delegate’s report**: I had the opportunity to attend a virtual meeting on February 18th in which the Chairperson of the Board was able to share information from the Board meeting that was held in January. The items that were discussed have not been translated however once this process has taken place, I will be sharing it with all of you. I can say I am still digesting all the information!

**International Convention:** I would like to share some information for those members that are not able to attend the International Convention in Albuquerque in person; members may still attend it virtually for $145.00! To attend virtually you still need to register. To do this, visit the WSO website at <https://al-anon.org/> and click under calendar, tab over the WSC events and click on the WSO International tab. It will bring up the registration area for you to click on. Follow the prompts and fill out the information. WSO will send you a confirmation once you have registered. Chris B., from WSO, feels that “Watch Parties” are great. What we would hope for is that we each contribute our registration fee as participants. This is an honest program and there is obedience to the unenforceable. What a great way to gather as a group (or your home group) of members experience some of the events of “New Hopes, New Friends, Renewed Recovery” International Convention June 29-July 2, 2023.

**USNCRDM**

The Regional Delegate Meeting will be in Bloomington, MN on March 17-19, 2023. There will be 11 eligible AWSC members from Iowa attending the RDM. This event is designed to prepare the current Delegate for Conference in Virginia Beach in April. I am excited and anxious at the same time to meet many of the other new Delegates that will be attending. Just like many of you, I too feel I am learning many things however; we do not have to do anything alone. There are others that have traveled our current path in service, and by reaching out to them, can help us understand our current roles and they are all very happy to help us succeed!

**Love Gifts**

On April 20-24, 2023, I will be attending my first World Service Conference in Virginia Beach. This has been a special time for a Delegate to receive love gifts from their area to share with other Areas at the Conference. The Conference Leadership Team knows the special nature of the sharing of the love gifts; however, this year, they are suggesting in lieu of the physical gifts perhaps the individual groups/districts consider making a financial donation to the World Service Office. Even though the hotel will not accept large packages for the delegates, cards of encouragement from groups/districts may still be sent to the members attending the Conference. Jean L., Connie H., and I would love to hear from you. I will have a form to record your financial donation and a sample of how to address the cards sent to Conference for Jean, Connie and myself if you so desire.

**Area Highlights**

I want to thank all of you for your support being your Delegate. Iowa is an awesome Area and we are doing some amazing things. I will be sharing a written report covering our area highlights with our successes and our concerns at Conference. I will be sharing how we have updated our Policy and Procedures to include electronic groups and we have a new Technology Coordinator that is helping make our hybrid AWSC and Assembly meetings more successful. I will also share about our current Thought Forces and concerns regarding some districts needing representation. If there are any other topics you would like for me to share, please let me know.

**Area Serenity Weekend**

On March 4th, we will have a planning committee to decide a theme for the Area Serenity Weekend to be held September. This planning day is a great time to see how and what it takes to create our serenity weekend. There will be laughter, fellowship and snacks so come join us at the Marshalltown Library at 1:30. Everyone is welcome!

**Alternate Delegate’s Report:**

The Spring 2023 Conference (June 9-11th) will be at Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA. Carolyn S., Cedar Rapids will be the Chair and Carrie F., Cedar Rapids, will be the Co-Chair. Don B., from Neenah, WI will be the Al-Anon Luncheon Speaker. Cheryl T., from Cedar Rapids will be the Sunday Morning Spiritual Speaker. The Alateen speaker will be Riley L., from Manchester, IA. I attended a committee meeting on Tuesday, March 21st via conference call regarding the Spring Assembly. **NOTE**: you will need to bring your own bedding (twin-sized mattress), pillow, towels and washcloth. Flyer will be on the Iowa Webpage.

The Fall 2023 Conference will be held in Dubuque IA (October 13-15th) at the Best Western Plus Hotel. The Committee is holding monthly meetings, which I have attended most of them. Susan B., (La Crosse, WI), Past Delegate, Panel 59 will be the Saturday luncheon speaker. The Alateen and Sunday Morning Spiritual Speakers are yet to be determined.

**The Forum:**

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the 1st Forum zoom call due to my Mom passing.

Check out the February Forum as there is a sharing from an Iowa member.

Remember to reach out to your groups and districts to help promote The Forum. Sign your group up for a subscription or use it as a raffle prize! There are so many ways that The Forum can be promoted. Currently Iowa has 6 subscriptions less than in January’s.

The WSO is always looking for new articles for The Forum. Please consider submitting your article to: The Forum, 1600 Corporate Parkway Landing, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617; to wso@alanon.org or online to al-anon.org/forumshare. Your sharing’s must range from 150-180 words and have Al-Anon focused topics and perspectives.

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

**Alateen/AAPP:** Judy V., shared that she has been getting back several AMIAS Recertification forms and a few Alateen Group Recertification sheets. Thanks to all those AMIAS sponsors who have responded to my email requesting them. I have still to hear from 36 AMIAS and I encourage those who have not gotten theirs to me as yet to do so. Right now, I’m also working on getting together the number of teens that will be attending the Alateen Serenity Wknd April 21-23.

The deadline for registering is April 1, 2023. There are 2-3 men that have come forward to help out in the boy’s dorm. The Alateen speaker for the Spring Assembly June 9-11 is Riley L., from Cedar Rapids. I’ve heard that she has done a great job at speaking in the past and from talking with her on the phone, I think she will do an excellent job. She is very excited that we asked her to speak and is looking forward to it.

**Archives**: Missy Y., shared that she is going to start researching what would be the best option for housing and preserving the documents and a few of the love gifts given over the years. Right now, she has several tubs, some with lids and some without. Most of the paper is in well-organized binders. She is thinking maybe the best option would be uniform size tubs with lids that can also be used as a hanging file drawer.

Mike L., the New Jersey Archivist posted on AFG Connects, that they have 1 available braille copy of the *One Day at A Time*. He is checking to see if there is any interest in this copy before he donates to a library. This copy has been claimed.

**Group Records:** Libby W., shared that her first couple of months have been going very well. The training that WSO held that I was able to attend in early January has been invaluable. I have already gotten a good deal of practice updating group information on the WSO database, so between the training and the hands-on, I am feeling much more comfortable in my new role. Working with the Iowa database has actually been a lot of fun. I love Excel spreadsheets, and I can tell this one was set up with a great deal of care.

**Literature:** Luanne T., shared that in February, the first Literature Coordinator zoom call in over a year was hosted by WSO. Thirty-eight area coordinators participated from all over. I was only able to join the call for a short time due to a scheduling conflict, but it was recorded and I’ve been watching it over the past few days (it was 90 minutes!). I’m learning about this new position and excited about the new book coming out soon.

As mentioned in the Chair’s agenda email, the new Service Manual is now available through our literature depots. I encourage each of you to get one. As always, it includes important updates. If you’ve never owned one, it’s a great way to learn more about the business of Al-Anon and the ins and outs of service.

Did you know that several of our Conference Approved pamphlets are available for free download: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/downloadable-items/>? With several electronic and hybrid groups in our Area, these downloads are a great way to get literature to newcomers electronically. In addition to my favorite pamphlet (Detachment), you can download pamphlets specifically targeted for educators or legal professionals. These can be a great resource as you seek to educate these groups on how Al-Anon and Alateen can help.

**Public Outreach:** Carolyn S., attended the WSO Public Outreach Coordinators meeting on February 26th via Zoom. Lots of good information was shared by lead WSO personnel as well as other Area Public Outreach coordinators. Scott P., from WSO showed us where to find all the resources we need to do our public outreach jobs. I learned that the PSAs on the website are not broadcast quality. If you want PSAs on your local TV or radio stations, obtain contact information from the stations and provide that contact information to media@al-anon.org and the WSO will send them the proper formatted PSAs.

New information for Best Practices for social media will be coming out in a few months. Public Outreach Toolkit is being updated.

Please note these resources for your public outreach:

* Point professionals to Resources for Professionals at:  <https://al-anon.org/resources-for-professionals/>
* Materials for Outreach to the Public can be found at:  <https://ecomm.al-anon.org/EN/Topics/Outreach_to_the_Public/EN/RiSE/Store/Product-Topic.aspx?topic=PUBOUTREACH&hkey=082c1312-19ec-4f5a-87b7-9fc39168597e>
* Materials you can post online:  <https://al-anon.org/for-members/public-outreach/materials-post-online/>
* Public outreach posters:  <https://al-anon.org/for-members/public-outreach/public-outreach-posters/> - Beautiful color posters for Alateen and Al-Anon with an area to input your District’s information, a QR code or meeting information.

There are loads of materials that can be printed/shared online, with professionals, institutions, and schools. Get materials into schools, colleges, churches, police stations, hospitals, treatment centers, libraries.

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is no longer dated so it is evergreen. You can order 25 copies for $8.00 or find it here:  <https://al-anon.org/newcomers/al-anon-faces-alcoholism/>

Please share your District PO chair’s information with me so I can flow information to them.

**Web Page: NO Report**

**Technology:**

Connie H., shared that The Technology / Zoom calendar has had a very busy last couple of months! So glad we have this tool for Al-Anon service.

After going through the January AWSC frustrations of not having a video option, I purchased a few new cords to be able to connect our LCD projector more effectively. I also purchased a smaller 360 directional microphone to try to make the discussions during the meeting a little more auditory. We do have the option of returning it if we find it does not meet our expectations. Although we may have to look at other options for the Assemblies, I hope these little upgrades will make the AWSC meetings work a little more smoothly. I am still asking all members to share with me, their DR, or Technology Committee members, their thoughts on possible (and probable!) improvements we can make to allow everyone who wants to be involved in Al-Anon meetings and Al-Anon service every opportunity to do so.

**District Reports**: Reports were submitted electronically but not read by the following DR’s: 2,3,7,8, and 11. District 9 and District 4 did not have reports but members verbally shared on their districts. There were no reports from 1,5,6,10,12,14,15 or 16.

**Old Business:**

**2023 Alateen Serenity Weekend**: No further updates at this time.

**Electronic Group Work Group:** Becky V., shared about the Electronic Group Area Delegate has stepped down. At this time, we are unsure of any positions of the Global Area being held. Linda A., shared regarding the Iowa District 16 groups that this District does not have a DR; however, the groups do have a CMA and GR’s.

**Love Gifts for Conference:**  See comment above in Delegates report regarding Love Gifts

this year. There were forms given out to DRs with addresses for Connie H., Jean L., and

Becky V. along with a copy of the Love Gift Certificate.

**2023 Area Service Workshop:** Katy P., shared on the DR and GR salons. Thank you to Tracy H.G., and Carolyn S., for hosting the DR Salons. They were interesting and informative hosts for our salon notables! On Friday, February 10th, there were 3 DRs and one visitor. On Sunday, February 19th there were 3 DR’s. The Presentation is included with the March documents. We had two very positive responses from the survey sent to the attendees.

The GR Salons kicked off on Saturday, February 25th with 9 registrants, 4 of whom participated. The next Salon is scheduled for Monday, March 5th and has 22 participants registered. A big thank you to Beth K., and Jamie V., for your preparation!  A survey will be sent out after each salon to get feedback. Using our virtual tools is a great way to share information! Members can sign up on the front page of the https://iowa-al-anon.org/ website.

 **Group Records power point presentation:** Libby W., shared and handed out the Steps for changing Information for Physical Meeting and an Electronic Meeting location. A suggestion was made about how to share the power point with the CMA’s and GR’s.

**New Business:**

**2023 Serenity Weekend:** The planning meeting was March 4, 2023. A total of 12 members attended the meeting with some of them being virtual. The Theme this year is going to be **“The 3 C’s plus 1.”** The colors that were chosen are Sky Blue and Black. There will be T-Shirts, Sweatshirts and possibly bags and caps. This year there be Trivia/ Fun Time. Serenity Weekend will be September 22-24, 2023 at Manson. The packages are: Pkg A for $120.00, Pkg B for $90.00, Pkg C for $60.00.

**2023 Fall Assembly Agenda:** The Fall Assembly will be held October 9th-11th in Dubuque, Iowa. The Assembly business meeting will be available virtually. District 11 will host and our Al-Anon Luncheon Speaker will be Susan B., from La Crosse, WI. The Alateen speaker will be announced at a later date.

**Thought Force Committees:**

**Newsletter Thought Force Committee Summation and Scenarios:**

Connie H., read the report for the Newsletter Thought force. The committee presented a power point that the AWSC reviewed to show their summation and scenarios. Their KBDM and strategies are available on the March AWSC 2023 shared drive. The Committee members are: Michelle K, Jamie V, Connie H. A consensus was taken to dissolve this Thought Force.

It was agreed that a Task Force to focus on suggestions from the strategies would be given a charge with a report back at the August 2023 AWSC meeting. The Task Force will include the same members from the Thought Force.

**Al-Anon Assembly Thought Force Committee:** Committee members are: Chairperson-Linda A., D-11, ThF Secretary/Reporter-Maddie P., D-2, Carolyn S., D-8, Ashley C., D-7, Luanne T., D-2, Dawn B., D-11, Kate D., D-13.

 Maddie P., shared that the committee is still working on the KBDM questions and requested to have more time work on them. The committee will have a report at the August 6, 2023, AWSC meeting.

A Task Force was initiated to focus on the creation of a flyer with pertinent registration and agenda information. The members will include the Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, Past Alternate Delegate and DR. The information will be presented at the August 2023 AWSC meeting.

**THOUGHT FORCE – Reconnecting with all Districts**

This Thought Force was asked to revisited their charges and will report back at the AWSC meeting at the August 6, 2023, AWSC meeting.
The Committee members are: Virginia P., Beth K., Libby W., Lorraine R., Samantha M., Tracy HG., and Vickie D.

A consensus was taken to close the meeting with the Al-Anon declaration at 12:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy H.G.

Iowa Area Secretary

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**April 21-23, 2023 Iowa Alateen Serenity Weekend, Camp Wesley Woods**

**June 9-11, 2023 Spring Assembly, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa**

**June 29-July 2, 2023 Al-Anon International Convention, Albuquerque, NM**

**August 6, 2023 Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA**

**Sept 22-24, 2023 Iowa Area Serenity Weekend, Manson, Iowa**

**October 13-15, 2023 Fall Assembly, Dubuque, IA**

**Iowa Al-Anon Literature Depots:**

**District 7 District 1**

**939 Office Park Rd. Suite 113 2801 Jackson St.**

**West Des Moines, IA 50265 Sioux City, IA 51104**

**515-277-5059 712-255-6724**

[**www.al-anondesmoines.org**](http://www.al-anondesmoines.org)**afg.aclit@yahoo.com**

**Iowa Information Centers:**

**Ames - 515-233-6312**

**Des Moines AIS/LDC – 515-277-5059**

**Sioux City AIS/LDC – 712-255-6724**

**Iowa Area Website:** [**www.iowa-al-anon.org**](http://www.iowa-al-anon.org)