**Iowa Area AWSC Meeting**

**March 10, 2024**

**Hybrid Meeting**

Katy P. Area Chairperson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Jane K. and Linda A. read the Concepts of Service/Warranties. There were a total of 17 people attending in person and 4 virtually, 20 voting members.

Introductions were made by all in attendance and Katy P. read The Review of Etiquette and the AWSC evaluation questions for all members to think about throughout the meeting.

**Secretary Repor**t: The June Assembly minutes were emailed before the meeting; they were not read during the meeting. No corrections were recommended, and the minutes were approved by a unanimous consensus.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The financial statement from January 1, 2024 to March 1, 2024 was presented and was discussed. Balance brought forward was $23,943.31. Total receipts for this period were $2,031.50. Total disbursements were $2,157.48. Ending Balance on March 1, 2024 was $23,817.33. Linda shared the treasurer’s report in Michelle’s absence. The treasurer’s report was approved by unanimous consensus.

**Delegates Report**- The 64th World Service Conference will be held Thursday, April 18 through Sunday April 21, 2024. This year’s theme is “***Our Path toward Grace, Unity, and Understanding***

Cards may be sent to Jean L. and Becky V. at the following address:

The Founders Inn & Spa

5641 Indian River Road

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464

Hold for WSC 4/18-4/21, 2024.

Make sure the cards arrive **after** April 13th and use the name and address of the recipient’s home address as the return address.

The North Central Regional Delegates Meeting (RDM) will be held March 15-17, 2024 in Bloomington, IL. All five officers, four past delegates and the Regional Trustee (who happens to be from Iowa) will be attending this year! Go IOWA!!!

I hope everyone enjoyed the GR/DR salons. Thank you to everyone that attended and with the help of The website coordinator, both salons will be available on our Iowa website soon.

January 2024 Chairperson of the Board letter highlights:

**Board Development:**

* *The Board engaged in two thoughtful discussions on the following topics:*
* *Inclusion as a spiritual principle found in our Legacies and Mission Statement*
* *Hidden norms*
* *As our guideline, we began our conversation using “when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help.” The Board concluded that the Al-Anon/Alateen program is immersed in inclusion, particularly in the Traditions. After this attentive discussion, we felt a similar conversation could be useful for any Area or District agenda topic.*

*As part of its education regarding inclusion, the Board has learned it is important to identify and document any “hidden norms” by which it has been or is operating. These are items that are understood by some but not documented. The Board has come to understand “hidden norms” can represent unconscious biases. Is it possible that your Area or District might want to look for “hidden norms” that might help your future trusted servants?*

**Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect**

The 2024 Road Trip! “You and Your Board Connect” event will be held in Columbia, South Carolina on October 26, 2024. The planning has already begun.

**Public Outreach Committee:**

The Public Outreach Committee has been busy seeking ways to reach families and friends of alcoholics and professionals who work with them. Some accomplishments of the Committee’s work groups include the following:

* Social Media Work Group
* PO Toolkit Work Group.

And last but not least:

***Thank you from WSO***

What a year! Our contributions, literature sales, magazine sales, and subscriptions to the *Al-Anon Family Groups Mobile App* all ended the year above budget. The annual transfer from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund was returned!

There was no way to anticipate the fellowship’s response to the release of *A Little Time for Myself* (B-34) with sales of $908,567. This is the highest-grossing year for literature sales.

*Our message to the fellowship has been and continues to be one of gratitude and consistency. The WSO’s role of providing services to the fellowship can only be carried out with consistent contributions, the purchase of Conference Approved Literature (CAL), and subscriptions to our Mobile App Premium Content and our magazines (The Forum, Le lien, and en accion).*

The Service manual has some updates/changes: These replacement pages will be found in Policy and Concepts. The link is provided: <https://al-anon.org/pdf/P2427-v3-replacement-pages.pdf>. Follow the steps it provides to print them off.

The 2025 World Service Conference will be held in Windsor, CT on April 24-27, 2025 and the Delegates will be visiting Stepping Stones.

Literature area: Tom C. from WSO reported that one of his last actions was to share with us was a piece of Conference Approved Literature. It will be a 48-page booklet that provides brief powerful messages of timeless wisdom. The booklet is called: *Healing within our Alcoholic Relationships-* *A Collection of Insights from Our Shared Journey.* (P-95). It will be available in English, French and Spanish. The cost will be $4.00.

**Alternate Delegate**- The **Spring 2024 Conference** will be held in **Sioux Center, IA at Dordt University** on **June 14-16, 2024**. There are flyers available online that contain the needed registration information regarding the Assembly, lodging (dorm rooms and local hotels) and food. <https://iowa-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Spring-Assembly-2024-Flyer-1.pdf> The Saturday Luncheon Al-Anon speaker will be Christine W from Lansing, IL. Barb U from Sioux City will be the Sunday morning spiritual speaker. The Alateen speaker is still yet to be determined.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend this Assembly. Virginia and Connie were kind enough to road trip to Dordt for facilities walk through for me. Thanks to both of you. Things to note – there will be a fair amount of walking, depending on where your dorm is located, but the facility is handicapped accessible. Also, when mailing in your room reservations, send to Sharla Gradert’s attention. If her name is not included, the University does not know what to do with your registration. Some District 2 members are willing to assist during this Assembly of which I am grateful for so that I can spend time with family that weekend (wedding shower, graduation, family reunion – just to name a few events going on for me that weekend).

The **Fall 2024 Conference** will be held in **Sioux City** on **October 11-13, 2024**. By the time of the AWSC meeting, the flyer should be on the Iowa website. Save the date and mark your calendars and get your hotel reservations! The Saturday Luncheon Al-Anon speaker will be Jean L (Regional Trustee) from Dubuque IA. The Sunday morning spiritual and Alateen speakers are yet to be determined. I am currently collaborating with the committee regarding specifics. Katy P will be assisting with this facility walk through in early March due to distance for me – thank you Katy. I will attend via Face Time. We have never been to this facility before but it looks great on-line.

I am part of the Inventory Committee and we are continuing to work on the survey that will be provided to members online and by paper copy at the Spring Assembly. A compilation of the results of the survey will be presented by the Inventory Committee at the Fall Assembly. Take the survey and let us know your thoughts and opinions.

***The Forum* Report:**

The continuation of the 70th Anniversary celebration continues. Each month archived Al-Anon and Alateen sharings are reprinted and are very interesting. There also are some historical tidbits to check out.

The Forum Writing Guidelines may be helpful to you personally. Or possibly your group or district can hold a writing workshop. Articles can then be submitted to WSO.

***The Forum*** sales for February continued to stay consistent. Remember to renew your personal and your group subscriptions.

Sharings can be submitted online at [al-anon.org/sharing](https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/literature-resources/send-your-sharing/), emailed to [wso@al-anon.org](mailto:wso@al-anon.org) with *The Forum* sharings or CAL Corner in the subject line, or mailed to Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. at 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

WSO is still looking for the following sharings for a new piece of literature on sponsorship:

Having a Sponsor in a different geographic location (even internationally), where communication takes place via electronic technology. This sponsorship relationship could be virtually, electronically, or even by phone. Sharings from the sponsee or sponsor are welcome. Sharings will be part of a new piece of sponsorship literature.

“Graduating" from Alateen to Al-Anon. (The pamphlet *Moving On! From Alateen to Al-Anon* (P-59) will be featured in a CAL Corner in 2024, and sharings on this pamphlet are needed as well.)

Sharings can be submitted online at [al-anon.org/sharing](https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/literature-resources/send-your-sharing/), emailed to [wso@al-anon.org](mailto:wso@al-anon.org) with *The Forum* sharings or CAL Corner in the subject line, or mailed to Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. at 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

Subscriptions have stayed the same overall for 2023. Let’s see if we can boost our Iowa subscriptions up for 2024!

Photos by Iowans were submitted in November and December. Awesome!

GR’s, did you know?

* That the GR is the promoter for *The Forum* at the group level? Does your group have a subscription? Do you have raffles to try and promote?

That WSO will begin the 70th anniversary celebration in the January issue and each month following in 2024. January’s copy will have a special cover emblem and will include a selection of reprints and historical tidbits. How is your group going to celebrate?

**October Assembly:** This assembly will be on October 11-13, 2024 at Abu Bekr Shriners in Sioux City, IA. See flyer:<https://iowa-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Area-24-2024-Fall-Conference-Flyer-with-AFG-agenda-draft.pdf>

**Coordinator Reports (Reports were electronically submitted to the AWSC and not read)** No report for Newsletter. Literature report was provided in person.

**District Reports:** Reports were submitted electronically but not read by the following DR’s: 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13 and 16. There were no reports from Districts 1, 4, 5, 6, 9,10,12,15.

**Old Business**

**Alateen Serenity Weekend 2024**. I am very happy to inform you that our Area Alateen is healthy and growing. We have several new AMIAS and a newly registered Alateen group in Fort Dodge, Fort Dodge Alateen. They meet on Thursday night and I was told that Thursday night they had 7 teens in attendance and that was without 2 of the regulars. Congratulations and hats off to the AMIAS for getting this group started and with such great attendance. They are already talking some about the Serenity Weekend and having fund raisers so all whom wish to can attend.

We do not have an Alateen speaker for the Spring Assembly in June, but as we get closer there will be to find a speaker.

I still have 20 AMIAS that need to be recertified and a few Alateen groups that I have not heard back from. I hope to be finishing up the recertification process this next month or two.

Alateen Serenity Weekend is under 2 months away and will be here before we know it. It’s not too early for you Alateen Sponsors to be talking about it with your teens, if you haven’t already been doing so. I think we have a very fun and meaningful agenda planned for this year.

Here is a website: (al-anon-org/newcomers/teen-corner-Alateen/…) that you can get on and sit in on an Alateen electronic meeting. Click Teen Corner Alateen Family Groups, Alateen Electronic Meeting, then download Al-Anon Family Groups mobile app. There are also step-by-step instructions, if needed. There are 2 meetings on Monday, 2 on Wednesday and 1 on Thursday. If your group meets on one of these nights, it might be fun to join in sometime.

**Area Serenity Weekend Planning Meeting recap - Becky V**. The Serenity weekend planning committee meeting was by zoom this time and it seemed to work out great for people. The Theme for this year is *“A Time to Celebrate”*. The 70th Anniversary of the Forum and the new book, *"A Little Time for Myself"* will be used for topics/meetings. We still need volunteers for the Friday night meetings. The date for Serenity Weekend at Twin Lakes, Iowa will be **Sept 20-22nd, 2024** Prices are going to stay the same for the Packages. Package B can be purchased for Friday, Saturday or Saturday and Sunday.

**Review of the DR/GR salons**: There was good attendance in both salons. The salons covered: How to get organized and present the GR/DR’s information to their groups/districts. GR/DR’s were given suggestions on how to prepare a group or district inventory. Hope to have both power points on the website soon. Survey was taken and the responses have been positive.

**Area Service Workshop recap**- Everyone had a wonderful time coming together and sharing information in person at the Marshalltown College. The hybrid worked well with many in attendance for the workshop. There will be a survey sent to the participants. The workshop entailed:

* *Abundance & 7th Tradition*- Our focus will be on harnessing the spiritual principle of abundance in our homes and our groups.
* *Public Outreach & You*- Explore the Next Steps for Public Outreach and how we can put them into action in our groups and communities.
* *Professional's Experience*- A Professional Panel will share their expertise in the effects of alcoholism on the family and the impact that Al-Anon/Alateen recovery can have in restoring a healthy family system.
* *Self-Care in Service* Maintaining balance and implementing boundaries helps us to take care of ourselves while staying responsible to the roles we have committed to in our group/district/areas. We will discuss the tools we use to make self-care a priority for increased well-being.

**Area Inventory**- The Area Inventory Committee has met several times the past few months. The Committee members include Missy Y., Luanne T., Laura S., Virginia P., and Linda A. (Chairperson). This survey is conducted during the 2nd year of our term at Spring Assembly and results shared at the Fall Assembly. As a group we have come up with several questions about the Iowa Area. After the Spring Assembly, the survey will be posted on the Iowa Website for all of you to take and submit your answers.

The results of the survey will be presented at the Fall Assembly in Sioux City.

**Thought force- financial reserve-**There was discussion on making a Thought Force on the Financial Reserve. At this time, there will not be a Thought Force made.

**Bylaws-** All AWSC members read aloud the Iowa By-Laws. After reading the by-Laws a decision to have a committee formed to go over them and bring back suggested changes to the AWSC. This will be a zoom meeting. This committee would involve Past Delegates and current officers. If interested in participating in this committee please email the Area Chairperson.

**New Business:**

**WSC Love gifts**- Becky V. shared that the WSO decided they will have a table for all love gifts at the conference this year. Iowa has decided to do the monetary donation instead of Love Gifts.

If you are sending a card to Becky or Jean and would like to include a monetary donation, please be sure to record the group name or district on the card.

**January 2025 AWSC meeting:** Discussion on having the January 2025 AWSC meeting virtually. At this time this will only be for January 2025 and will have another discussion next year on holding it in person, virtually, hybrid. Approved by a unanimous consensus.

**Stepping Stones:** Becky V read out loud to give us some framework.

Here are the questions that WSO are asking us to discuss:

Do the groups in your Area believe it is important for their Delegate to visit Stepping Stones?

If yes, how do they see it helping their Area?

What are the most important elements of the visit to maintain?

How might it be best to cover the additional cost of Stepping Stones and a New York visit?

What ideas do you have for administratively making this happen? Do you want the WSO to administer the process? Do you want Delegates to be involved?

There are delegates that are on this task force that are from Panels 62 and 63. These Delegates are happy to be participating on this task force.

There was discussion from Iowa AWSC members and many believe that the Delegates should keep going to Stepping Stones. Please email Becky V. with your answers.

**Alateen E-Groups: E groups for Alateen Group Feasibility-**

WSO provided an update on the progress of the Electronic Alateen Group Feasibility process since the 2023 WSC. There was discussion among the AWSC members about what WSC shared and discussed the following 2 questions:

**Do you understand the minimum requirements and duties described in the Global EASBR section above? Is it clear?**

∙**what questions does the EASBR raise about the possibility of electronic Alateen groups taking place in your Area?**

After much discussion, it was decided that Iowa AMIAS will plan a meeting to review these questions in further detail.

Assembly Literature Sales - Samantha M

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**Assembly Literature Sales**- Sioux City Literature Depot has asked the AWSC if they could sale their literature at the Spring and Fall Assembly. Assembly would provide 2 tables requested. Consensus was taken. Unanimously passed.

**Thought Force AWSC Room Reimbursement**-There was a power point presentation by the Thought Force. The committee was Linda A., Dawn B., Michelle K., Katy P., Virginia P.

The Thought force KBDM Charge was to consider the benefits and disadvantages of including reimbursements for overnight stay.

**Recommendations:** The Thought Force Committee recommends that a motion be made for room reimbursement. After discussion, a motion was presented:

Linda A. made a motion:

**Motion to revise the current 2024 budget to include a room reimbursement not to exceed $50.00 beginning with the August 2024 AWSC in Marshalltown, IA to include Coordinators, Officers, and Past Delegates**. Lorraine R. seconded. Motion passed. A revised budget will be made and sent out to the AWSC members.

**Task Force-Reconnecting with Unrepresented Districts**- This committee consists of Katy P., Lorraine R., Libby W., Carolyn S., and Judy V. They plan to present in August 2024.

**Presentation: Open Discussion**- Katy P. read through the Evaluation questions that were presented at the beginning of the meeting:

Some of the comments from this open discussion:

Google workshop

Reports to be available at least 14 days ahead of the meeting

How can we have structure with flexibility regarding reports

Announcement of the Spring Assembly 2025 will be in Clear Lake, Iowa

Members felt it was a good discussion time and would like to have this at the end of the AWSC meetings

Closing of the meeting with Al-Anon Declaration was at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy H.G.

Iowa Area Secretary

**Dates to Remember:**

**April 20, 2024 Newsletter Deadline**

**April 18-21, 2024 World Service Conference, Virginia Beach, VA**

**April 19-21, 2024 Alateen Serenity Weekend, Wesley Woods, Indianola, IA**

**June 14-16, 2024 Spring Area Assembly, Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA**

**August 11, 2024 Iowa AWSC Meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA**

**August 20, 204 Newsletter Deadline**

**Sept 20-22, 2024 Area Serenity Weekend, Manson, IA**

**October 11-13, 2024 Fall Area Assembly, Sioux City, IA**

**December 1, 2024 Gratitude and Joy - Virtual**

**Iowa Al-Anon Literature Depots:**

**District 1**

2801 Jackson St.

Sioux City, IA 51104

712-255-6724

[alanoninformationcenter@gmail.com](mailto:alanoninformationcenter@gmail.com)

**District 7**

939 Office Park Rd. Suite 113

West Des Moines, IA 50265

515-277-5059

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

Email: Literature@al-anondesmoines.org

**Iowa Information Centers:**

Des Moines AIS/LDC – 515-277-5059 Email: Literature@al-anondesmoines.org

Sioux City AIS/LDC – 712-255-6724 Email: afg.aiclit@yahoo.com

Ames - 515-233-6312

**Iowa Area Website**

www.iowa-al-anon.org