**Iowa Area AWSC Meeting**

**January 12, 2025**

**Virtual Meeting**

Katy P. Area Chairperson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. There were a total of 25 people attending virtually, 18 voting members. The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Dawn B., Becky V. read the Concepts of Service and Missy Y. read the Warranties.

Katy P. reviewed the Etiquette for Physical/Virtual and the Evaluation Questions for discussion later.

**Fall Assembly meeting minutes** - Please visit the Iowa Website for a complete copy of the minutes.

*The minutes from the 2024 Fall Assembly were approved by a unanimous consensus.*

**Treasurers Report**- The financial statement from October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 was presented and discussed. Balance brought forward was $24,549.03. Total receipts for this period were $6,514.00. Total disbursements were $6,807.24. Ending Balance on December 31, 2024 was $ 24,255.79.

 *The financial statement was approved by unanimous consensus.*

**Delegates Report**: Becky V. shared her report. The purpose of this report is to share with you some of the highlights from the October Chairperson of the Board letter, updates from the Policy Chairperson, the CLT (Conference Leadership Team) and a finance update.

Let’s start off with the new Conference theme for this year 2025! The World Service Conference will be in Windsor, CT, Thursday April 24th- Sunday, April 27, 2025.

The theme for 2025 is “Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy” S’investir mutuellement pour préserver notre heritage Invertir los unos en los otros para preservar nuestro legado. This theme becomes effective January 1, 2025, and extends until December 31, 2025.

These are the updates from WSO regarding the reports mentioned above and what they have to share.

***GEA (Global Electronic Area) Regional Assignment***

*The three-year trial ends this year; therefore, the Board needed to decide whether to make permanent the practice established by the trial, establish a new trial, or end the trial, which would leave the GEA Delegate without a Regional assignment. The selection of the Region affects the composition of the Regional Committee on Trustees for each Region up for election of a Regional Trustee. The selection also affects the GEA itself both financially, in terms of the cost for the Delegate to attend Regional Delegates Meeting (RDM) if approved by the Area, and educationally, as each Region’s RDM offers different levels of education and support for their Region’s Delegates.*

*The COB discussed the GEA preference with the Area’s Delegate, who then brought the matter to the GEA Officers to discuss. The Delegate informed the COB that the GEA would like to continue the trial for another three years, since, during the first three years, they had two different Delegates and an Alternate Delegate who attended the Conference for the Area, so were part of different Regions and did not have continuity of experience with any. They are hopeful the new Delegate will serve all three years, and the GEA can experience being part of the same Region throughout the term.*

*In October, the Board decided to extend for a second three-year period the trial to assign the GEA to the Region within the WSC Structure in which their current Delegate lives or, if the Delegate lives outside the WSC Structure, to a WSC Structure Region pulled from a hat. During the discussion, the Board recognized that according to the current AFG, Inc. Bylaws, future Past Delegates from the GEA who do not reside within geographic areas of the United States and Canada would not be eligible to serve as a Regional Trustee*.

I would like to remind everyone; this is history in the making, and I personally find it exciting to be part of this journey*!*

***At-Large Executive Committee Role Description***

*The Nominating Committee completed development of an At-Large Executive Committee Role Description. The Nominating Committee enlisted the help of the WSO Human Resources Manager in revising the At-Large Executive Committee Role Description to be formatted like the Trustee Role Description but to highlight the different skills needed. One of our hopes in creating the Role Description is to provide more information to those applying for the position.*

*The Board approved the At-Large Executive Committee Member Role Description as presented and decided to implement it as soon as the results of the At-Large Executive Committee member time survey are analyzed and incorporated into the Role Description.*

***Timeline for Delegates Applying to Serve on Executive Committee***

*The Board also accepted the Nominating Committee recommendation that Delegates not be required to wait two years after serving before being considered to serve as an At-Large member of the Executive Committee on a three-year trial basis. The Board discussed the rationale for Delegates not being permitted to apply for Trustee during the two-year period after their Delegate service. This rationale exists to ensure members of the Nominating Delegate Committees (Regional Committees on Trustees and Conference Committee on Trustees) who may have served with these Delegates are not influenced by that experience. Since At-Large members of the Executive Committee are not reviewed by the Nominating Delegate Committees, this same concern does not exist.*

***CLT Update***

*The Conference Leadership Team (CLT) is responsible for preparing a World Service Conference (WSC) agenda that facilitates the active voice and effective group conscience of our fellowship.*

*The CLT continues to work on streamlining the agenda. This includes presenting items that could be held in advance as well as session placement on the agenda. The CLT will present a standing motion to approve non-voting attendees who are annually invited to participate, rather than the standard procedure of presenting a Seating Motion for each WSC. If this motion is approved, there will not be a need for each Conference to vote on seating these attendees, which will save time.*

*A discussion was held regarding the remaking of the Introductions/Roll Call session of the Conference. Members discussed different options and agreed there is an importance to the repetition of a person’s name. More to come!*

*The CLT discussed and implemented changing the timing of the Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) invitation. The invitation has already gone out, and the new end date will be February 17, 2025. The process will remain the same as last year, with the CLT Chair and Co-Chair working with three Delegates to combine topics and reaching out to those who submitted them to make sure they are accurately being combined. The voting results will be provided for all CAI topics. The two CAIs chosen will be discussed in the general session at the WSC.*

*In addition to the morning and evening Al-Anon meetings, Delegates will now have an opportunity to attend an Al-Anon meeting during the conference day.*

***“Local Services – Autonomy of Groups” Task Force***

*This Task Force has carried over several years and has been charged with considering the text of the “Local Services” section of the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies. The Task Force was now specifically charged with considering the feedback from the previous discussions on language and placement of the remaining “Autonomy of Groups” section of the Policy Digest.*

*The Task Force recommended, and the Policy Committee agreed, that the “Autonomy of Groups” section contained an important interpretation of our Traditions that needed to remain in the Policy Digest. The Task Force also recommended including language about meeting list publishing policies which have been implemented since this section was last updated. After discussion, the Policy Committee approved the Task Force’s recommendations to bring the revised text to the 2025 WSC for consideration following Board approval.*

I would like for each of us to note in part the very first sentence above, “this task force has carried over several years”. I find this comforting to know that there are topics in Al-Anon that need time to be reviewed and discussed to find the language and interpretation of our Traditions before a decision is approved. This is why we are called trusted servants when we agree to be in service!

***Al-Anon Members who are also members of A.A. Thought Force***

*As a follow up on a previous Policy Committee conversation regarding this Policy, a Thought Force was formed to engage the Committee members in a legacy-based conversation on the topic. The conversation included examining the question of whether the Policy applies to those who are also past members of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.). Since it had been several years since the original conversation, the Policy Committee began by considering and confirming the current Policy. Additionally, we concluded the Policy did not need to be changed to include past A.A. membership. Following the discussion, the Policy Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees consider revising its criteria for WSO Volunteers and At-Large members, since it currently restricts applications based on both current and past A.A. membership.*

*“****Choosing a Group Name Policy” Task Force***

*At the 2024 World Service Conference (WSC) after much consideration and thoughtful discussion from the Policy Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the World Service Conference members, a substantial revision was made to the Choosing a Group’s Name Policy. The intent of this revision was to ensure the Policy clearly conveyed the principles found in our Traditions that group names, like Al-Anon Family Groups themselves, be welcoming for all Al-Anon members and potential members.*

There is much more discussion on this topic and it was a confusing topic at last year’s WSC. I invite you to visit “in the Loop” from Dec 13th 2024, and read more on this subject under the Policy Committee Update tab. It is informative and if you have any questions regarding any of the material, please contact me.

***Finance Update***

*The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period that ended 9/30/2024. 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 members are continuing to respond to our message, with year-to-date contributions being above budgeted expectations by $186,154 or ten percent. This continued support has allowed us to confidently project a year-end surplus and the Finance Committee to recommend the four-percent annual transfer from the Reserve Fund, in the amount of $169,200, be returned to the Reserve Fund and no transfers be made during the fourth quarter. The Board approved the recommendation at its October meeting. Again, if you would like more detailed financial information please visit “in the Loop” under Finance Update tab.*

To touch on some Iowa information, I ask you to listen to all the other reports that will be shared and see how many things we have as our goals and as our accomplishments. Think about how you want to see your group, district, or the Area to grow in this coming year. But most of all, I want to remind everyone to take time to enjoy this last year of your term in Iowa as it will go by quickly!

Delegates are scheduled to visit Stepping Stones on Monday April 28, 2025.

There was discussion after the Delegates report. Some of the questions were about the inclusion of past members in the role of WSO volunteers. Dawn and Katy raised concerns about the policy regarding past members, and Mary sought clarification on the term "past member.”

**Alternate Delegate Report:** Linda A., Welcome to 2025 The Spring 2025 Conference will be held in Clear Lake, IA at the Best Western Hotel on June 13-15, 2025. The Chair for this Assembly is Sheila D, along with two Co-Chairs - Bonnie H and LaShelle. The speakers are Carol M – Past Executive Committee Member from Minnesota for the Saturday Luncheon and the Sunday Spiritual speaker will be Loreli R. The Alateen speaker has not yet been decided. I am looking forward to hearing their stories of recovery. Registrations for the Assembly are due no later than May 20th. Also be sure to make your hotel reservations. The flyer will soon be on the Iowa Al-Anon website with the Al-Anon schedule. I am working with the committee to ensure the Assembly runs smoothly. The plan is to have a walk-through of the facility in January.

The Fall 2025 Conference will be held in Fort Dodge, IA on October 17-19, 2025. The Chair of this committee is Leslie R. The scheduling of speakers is still in process. Note that this is a voting assembly.

**The Forum Report**:

The 70th Anniversary celebration comes to a close as of December 2024 edition. I so looked forward to getting this monthly “meeting in my pocket” and reading the historical articles, many of which have been Iowa members! Kudos to WSO as they did a great job of putting the historical publications together.

What we all know is that The Forum is a great way to help grow in our recovery and share it with others. Renew that subscription, give a gift to a friend and have copies available at your meeting.

A bit of information – Iowa started with 329 subscriptions in January 2024 and ended up with 355 subscriptions in December 2024. The numbers fluctuated a bit throughout the year, but the good news is that members continue to support this awesome magazine. Thank you for your support!!

For reference, sharings can be submitted online at al-anon.org/sharing, emailed to 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, Viriginia Beach, VA 23454. As we know from the writing workshop, writing and submitting articles to The Forum is a great way to share our recovery.

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

**District Reports:** DR reports for Districts 2,3,7,8, 11 and 16 were submitted. District 1, 9, 11, 13, verbally shared updates. There were no reports from 1,4,5,6,9,10,12,13,14,15.

**Update/Questions on DR report**-

**Technology Report update**: Connie H. shared that there was a YouTube video about how to host a Zoom meeting. Please reach out to the Technology coordinator to have her send you the link.

**2025 Budget vs. actual comparison**: Michelle K. shared that the Budget committee met and went thru and discussed the 2025 Proposed Budget. When sharing the information, Michelle explained the increases and decreases of the Proposed Budget to the AWCS.

Discussion about having the Public Outreach budget be raised to $100.00 as there is Iowa Annual Governor's Conference on Substance Use coming up in April. Carolyn S. will prepare more information to bring to the March AWSC meeting.

Discussion was had about the budget vs. actual comparison. To review this document, please find on the drive.

*Motion: Katy P. made motion to approve the 2025 budget, seconded by Luanne T.* *Motion carried.*

**Area Service Workshop**- The Area Service workshop will be on Saturday, March 8, 2025. It will be held at the Marshalltown Community College from 12:30 pm-5:00pm via hybrid. There will be a $5.00 registration either online or in person.

Katy P. shared the survey results for the workshop suggestions were shared and reviewed. The top one was: Attracting Members into Service. After discussion, it was suggested that we go with:

 1. Service sponsorship- Many Voices, One Journey,

 2. Attracting members into Service.

 3. Gallery Walk regarding GR and DR positions.

 *Consensus was approved unanimous to do these 3 topics.*

**Alateen Serenity Weekend 2025**: Judy V. shared the flyer for the 2025 Alateen Serenity Weekend. This year it will be April 11-13, 2025 at Wesley Woods Camp in Indianola. The theme for this year will be “Alateen-A Day at a Time”. The cost per attendee will be $140.00. They are looking at changing to a different cottage as the numbers of Alateen members are down. Please share the Alateen Serenity Weekend Flyers with your groups. Talk it up, and maybe have some fund raisers to help pay for their cost, if needed.

**Salon Touchbase ideas for 2025:** **Save the Date**: August 25, 2025 at 7:00pm for a Salon regarding the Voting Procedure of Iowa.

**AA International with Al-Anon Participation**: Becky V. shared that the A.A. International Convention will be held in Vancouver, Canada July 3-6, 2025. For registration and more information please visit the <https://www.aa.org/> website.

**Area Inventory Committee Update**: The committee shared the results from the 2024 Area Inventory Summary. The committee’s recommendations to the AWSC are as follows:

* **Updating and improving the Iowa Area Website**:
* **Keeping up-to-date reports & event flyers**
* **Salons – these have gone well in the past, possibly provide a Salon on the “intranet” which only Members could access reports, etc.**
* **Using the website to attract new members.**
* **Newsletter** – **This has been discussed already the past two years, but should continue to discuss.**
* ***Serenity Weekend – revisit again if we should continue with Serenity Weekend, location and format***.

There was discussion after the Area Inventory Committee shared their recommendations as follows:

* + Without a website coordinator to act on behalf of the website committee a limited amount of work can be done. Connie H agreed to be the temporary chairperson for the committee. Katy P has agreed to update the website until someone steps forward. Stepping into the Newsletter or Website role now allows anyone curious about it to try it out before the next term.
	+ We do not have a Newsletter Coordinator to advance any changes. Communication is the key. Sending resumes for the next term will change to making them available through an email from the Area Chairperson and posting them on the drive with access limited to CMAs and AWSC.
	+ The Serenity Weekend planning event will keep all suggestions in mind. We do not want to form a Task Force to look at different locations or formats at this time.

The Area Inventory Committee consists of Linda A (Alt Delegate & Chair of Committee), Virginia P (Past Delegate), Missy Y (Archives Coordinator), Luanne T (Literature Coordinator), Laura S (D3 DR).

**Website Coordinator**-The current website coordinator has submitted her resignation. The job description is in the Iowa policy and procedure manual. If anyone is interested in filling this position to the end of this term, please reach out to the Iowa Delegate, or the Iowa Area Chairperson.

**New Business:**

**Omaha AIS/LCD -** Katy P. reported that Wally C. who manages the Omaha AIS/LDC, reached out to ask if Omaha’s information could be displayed on the following Iowa website, on the agendas, and in the Secretary Minutes. The discussion revolved around whether there would be a conflict with the Sioux City AIS. Barb U., the AIS Chair from Sioux City added that because Omaha generally covers the SW portion of Iowa there shouldn’t be a conflict.

*Consensus on allowing the Omaha AIS to be displayed on Iowa website, Agendas and Minutes was approved by a unanimous consensus*

**Assembly Agenda June/October**: The AWSC members reviewed the Spring Assembly Agenda. Saturday’s workshop will be done by Carol M., (the Saturday Speaker) and her topic will be “Celebrating our Differences”. Sunday’s workshop will be “3 obstacles to success in Al-Anon.”

The Fall Assembly will only have a workshop on Sunday because the elections will be held on Saturday. The AWSC members agreed that our Saturday speaker, who will be a member from WSO, will determine what the topic of the workshop will be based on their position at WSO.

**Task Force- Archives**- Missy Y., read her report that is on the drive. There was a question asked of the committee if other areas have been contacted regarding how they did their Archives. Missy will bring it to the committee for discussion. The Committee consists of Missy Y., (Archives), Becky V., (Delegate)Tracy H.G., (Secretary), Luanne T., (Literature), Connie H., (Technology) and Dawn B (DR).

**2025 Area Serenity Weekend Planning Meeting**- The flyer was presented and the weekend planning meeting will be held virtually Friday March 7, 2025 at 7 p.m. Zoom link is on the flyer and will be sent out closer to the date.

Meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration at 12:43 pm.

**DATES to REMEMBER**

**March 7, 2025 Area Serenity Weekend planning meeting - Virtual**

**March 8, 2025 Area Service Workshop, Marshalltown Community College**

**March 9, 2025 Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA**

**March 16-18,2025 Regional Delegates Meeting**

**April 11-13, 2025 Alateen Serenity Weekend, Wesley Woods, Indianola, IA**

**April 24-27, 2025 World Service Conference, Virginia Beach, VA**

**June 13-15, 2025 Spring Area Assembly, Clear Lake, IA**

**July 3-6, 2025 A.A. International Convention- Vancouver, Canada**

**August 10, 2025 Iowa AWSC Meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA**

**August 25, 2025 Virtual Salon- Voting Procedure, 7PM**

**Sept 19-21, 2025 Area Serenity Weekend, Manson, IA**

**October 17-19, 2025 Fall Area Assembly, Fort Dodge, IA- NOTE DATE CHANGE**

**Iowa Al-Anon Literature Depots:**

**District 1**

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Sioux City, IA 51104

712-255-6724

Email - afg.aiclit@yahoo.com

**District 6**

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(Southeast corner 96th & L Street/

Just east of L Street East Exit off I-80/Use East Entrance)

Omaha, NE, 68127

Phone: 402-553-5033 (cell phone: ok to leave a message)

Email: omahaaisomha@gmail.com

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OmahaAis](http://www.facebook.com/OmahaAis)

**District 7**

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[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