**Iowa Area AWSC Meeting**

**MARCH 9, 2025**

**Hampton Inn- Marshalltown, IA**

**Hybrid Meeting**

Katy P., Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:05 A.M. There were 22 in attendance, of which 3 were attending virtually. The meeting opened with a moment of silence and Serenity Prayer. There were introductions of members. Barb U read The Traditions and Missy Y. 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 minutes were approved by a consensus unanimously*.

**Treasurer Report**: The financial statement from January 1, 2025 to February 28,2025 was presented and was discussed. Balance brought forward was $24,255.79. Total receipts for this period were $1,587.10. Total disbursements were $2,500.59. The ending balance on February 28, 2025, was $23,342.30.

*The financial statement was approved by a consensus unanimously*.

**Delegates report:** Becky V shared that she was able to attend the February Chairperson of the Board meeting. There are many things happening at the World Service Office and today I will be sharing a few of topics that were discussed. I would encourage everyone to review “In the Loop” and you will also see more of the discussed from that meeting.

There is a need for Regional Trustees. Currently Jean L. is our Regional Trustee for the US North Central Area. This is a position that hopefully someone is thinking about and how vital it is to Al-Anon.

If you know some history of Al-Anon, originally, the trustees were only from the New York area. Lois and Anne suggested it would be beneficial to have other opinions and suggestions and thus, Regional Trustees were developed. Let’s work on preserving our legacy and encourage members to think about this position. In 2025, the Board will be seeking applicants for three Trustees at Large as well as Trustees from seven Regions:

Please contact me and I will be happy to help you with it. A Role Description for Trustees of the Board, the online application, listing of Areas within Regions, along with other information, can be found at: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/wso-volunteers/board-of-trustees/>

**Beyond the Group Level Service Definition**

Through its nominating process this year, the Board became aware that it was using the phrase “service beyond the group level” on its applications without a consistent definition. The topic was added to the January 2025 Board agenda to allow Trustees an opportunity to align on their understanding of “service beyond the group level,” given that the phrase is not defined in the current 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) v4.

This next topic will be interesting to share with your groups and districts.

**Past A.A. Membership Requirement for WSO Service**

After the October 2024 Policy Committee confirmed the current “Service Participation by Al-Anon Members Who Are Also Members of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.)” Policy, the Board of Trustees was asked to review its current criteria for members applying to serve as WSO Volunteers and At-Large Committee members. The Policy Committee recommended the Board revisit the requirement that applicants “cannot have ever been” rather than “are not” members of A.A., as the Policy states. Consistent with its practice of reaching an informed group conscience, the Board members answered the four questions utilized to conduct Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) prior to the meeting and had the opportunity to review others’ responses and perspectives. After considering key themes, such as the original intention of the Policy and the spiritual principle that each member decides for themselves whether they are a member of Al-Anon or A.A., the Board reaffirmed its commitment to honoring the Policy Committee group conscience by deciding to revise its requirement related to A.A. membership on its applications to read “Cannot be an Al-Anon member who is a member of A.A.”

**Road Trip 2025-**Guess what, in 2025, yes, this year, it is going to be in Omaha, Nebraska!! It is close to home folks. This usually happens when Iowa has our Fall Assembly, but still, put it on your calendar because you just never know!

**“Choosing a Group’s Name Policy Committee:**

The World Service Office (WSO) Staff began discussing how to implement the Policy as adopted.

“The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and ensure that they be heard.”, the Policy Committee concluded at that meeting that the appeals needed to be brought to the 2025 WSC as it was the decision-making authority which approved the Policy in 2024.

Consistent with their carefully defined service authority and responsibility, Staff presented their suggestions for implementation to the Policy Committee for review at its July 2024 meeting. Committee members considered suggestions related to new group registrations, existing group updates containing new names, and existing groups more broadly.

**“Task Force: Implementing Choosing a Group Name”**

This Policy Committee Task Force has been charged with creating a clear and detailed framework for a discussion at the 2025 WSC on the WSO Staff strategies for educating the fellowship on the need for existing groups to consider updating their name to reflect the new Choosing a Group’s Name Policy approved by the 2024 WSC. The goal of the Task Force is to gather feedback on concerns and potential improvements to the strategies before implementation.

**Financial Report:**

**Revenues (Income)**

Revenue consists of literature sales and contributions. Other revenue sources include magazine sales, Mobile App premium subscriptions, and investment gains or losses. Literature sales for December were $233,254. Contributions for December were $384,204. See the table below for YTD Actuals vs. YTD Budget.

**Expenses**

The largest categories of expenses consist of WSO Staff salaries and associated costs (payroll taxes and benefits), technology support, Conference costs (including interpretation), and office expenses (postage, telephone, stationery, supplies, printing, Canadian office). Expenses for December were $572,360.

**Net Increase/(Decrease)**

The change in net assets has resulted in an operating surplus of $461,644, which is higher than the projected budget. The members continue to respond to our message about consistent donations with our year-to-date contributions being above budgeted expectations by $379,144 or 14 percent.

**The complete Delegate report can be found on the website.**

**Regional Delegates Meeting:**

This year Katy P. and Jean L will be attending the RDM meeting in Ohio weekend March 14-16. Iowa will be volunteering to host the RDM for 2026.

**Alternate Delegate’s Report:**

The Spring 2025 Conference will be held at the Best Western Holiday Lodge in Clear Lake, IA on **June 13-15, 2025**. The theme of the conference is “Road to Happy Destiny”. 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. The Sunday Spiritual speaker will be Loreli R from Clarion, IA. The Alateen speaker has not yet been decided. Registrations for the Assembly are due no later than May 20th. If you are interested in staying at the same hotel as the assembly, be sure to make your hotel reservations soon. There is a restaurant, pool and continental breakfast available (for paying guests). I am working with the committee via monthly calls to ensure the Assembly runs smoothly. AA has not scheduled a physical walk through yet with committee members. The flyer is on the Iowa website which includes Al-Anon’s schedule.

The Fall 2025 Conference will be held at the Crossroads Hotel (previously the Starlite Hotel) in Fort Dodge, IA on **October 17-19, 2025** (please note the updated dates). The theme of the conference is “Pass It On”. The Chair of this committee is Leslie R with several district members assisting. Scot P, Associate Director Brand Communications (from WSO), will be the Al-Anon Luncheon Speaker. Mary T from Fort Dodge will be the Sunday Spiritual speaker. The Alateen speaker has not been decided yet. Note that this is a voting assembly so be sure to double-check with Group Records that your GR

or Alt GR information is correct and up to date so that they can vote. I have been trying to attend the monthly meetings via a phone call, which has been working out nicely. Please understand that there is **no elevator** in this hotel. Call early for room reservations if you need a 1st floor accommodation. This hotel has a restaurant, pool, fitness room and continental breakfast (which is available for paying guests). There was a walk through that I attended virtually due to icy roads. To date, a flyer is not yet available.

**The Forum Report**:

Currently our Area has 347 subscriptions as of 2/5/25, which continues to be consistent.

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

This little magazine also provides great public outreach opportunities for your district.

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.

**Coordinator Reports:** **(Reports were electronically submitted to the AWSC and not read)** Alateen/AAPP, Archives, Group Records, Literature, Newsletter NO Report, Public Outreach, Technology, Web Page: NO Report.

**Just a reminder that the Iowa Area Election resumes and requirements are on the website.** [**https://iowa-al-anon.org/**](https://iowa-al-anon.org/) **It is a fillable form that you can email or print and mail to the Area Chairperson. The resumes are due by July 1, 2025, to the Area Chairperson. Please declare that you are going to stand by the end of the June Assembly to the Secretary.**

**District Reports**: Reports were submitted electronically but not read by the following DRs:2,3,7,8,11, and 16. District 1 had a member share a report in person. There were no reports from 5,6,9,10,12,13,14,15.

**Old Business:**

**Area Service Workshop Recap**: There were 24 members registered for the workshop. There were 18 that attended virtually. There was discussion about having a one-day workshop separate from the AWSC meeting or keeping it like we did for this workshop.

The Area Chairperson will be sending out an email for other suggestions and comments.

**2025 Alateen Serenity Weekend**: Judy V. shared that the Serenity Weekend will be April 11-13, 2025 at Wesley Woods Camp, Indianola, Iowa. The flyer is in the drive. She shared that there will be 11 Alateens attending the weekend. The number of Alateens are down and will be housing in a different cottage this year. This weekend is for Alateens ages 12-19.

**Public Outreach Funds:** Carolyn S. shared a Power point about *The 48th Annual Governor’s Conference on Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery* which will be held virtually from Tuesday April 22 to Thursday April 24, 2025.

Exhibitors’ information:

* Cost is $100 for non-profits
* Virtual Booth
* Booth will feature 1 large high-resolution background image behind 1 small
* high-resolution logo
* Booth will feature Exhibitor name, headline, about and customizable “register interest”
* button which generates an email to the booth representatives
* Booth is able to feature ONE of the following unattended: YouTube (or Wistia or Vimeo)
* Video or Google Slides
* ▪ Al-Anon YouTube video option:
* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_BJaKP5S2Wc
* While booth rep is attending their booth, they may toggle to turn on Video Chat to meet with their visitors face to face;
* Booth can feature direct links to one of each of the following social media pages:
* website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn
* Representatives can build out the booth on their own, or they can request assistance from the organizers.
* ● Limited space for exhibitors
* ● Registration for Exhibitors ends on April 16th
* ● Cancellation policy: there will be a $7.50 plus 3% processing fee; no refunds after April 1

● Website: <https://www.regcytes.extension.iastate.edu/gcsa/>

The Public Outreach Coordinator is asking to attended and possibly do a booth. Coordinator would request that the Area pay the $100.00 fee with the monies being taken out of the Misc Funds.

After discussion, the Public Outreach Coordinator will be able to attend and be an exhibitor with the monies coming from the Misc Funds.

*Approved by a consensus unanimously.*

**Task Force Archives**. Missy Y. shared the update for the Archives Task Force. The Committee consists of Missy Y., (Archives), Becky V., (Delegate)Tracy

H.G., (Secretary), Luanne T., (Literature), Connie H., (Technology) and Dawn B (DR). The Archives task force committee continues meeting monthly. There has been much discussion on a formal plan of how we handle scanning past items. We were able to determine that there were not any missing minutes. What was destroyed was mostly duplication except for Conference and Serenity weekend flyers.

● We started with 2024 and worked backwards through the years on the minutes.

● The items are stored in the Archivist Shared Drive at iowa-al-anon.org.

● All documents going forward will be saved here.

We are still very much in the planning and discussion stage. This is a big project, and it is going to take time to complete. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 18th after Becky is back from Conference. We believe she will have information to bring back to us on this subject.

Charge:

● Reach out to the membership for replacements for documents damaged by water.

● Scan and store the Area Archive documents in a manner that allows them to be saved in the cloud using the Area domain iowa-al-anon.org.

● Work with the Area website coordinator to provide access to digitally stored material on the Area website.

**New Business:**

**2025 Serenity Weekend:** The planning meeting was held virtually on March 7, 2025. The Theme for this year will be “**Healing within….**”. Serenity Weekend will be **September 19-21, 2025** at Manson. The Flyer is available on the website. [**https://iowa-al-anon.org/**](https://iowa-al-anon.org/) Thanks to all that volunteered to take a session, all meetings have been filled.

The T-shirt and sweatshirts will be heather gray/charcoal print and Logo will have: “*Healing within…*”

The new price for 2025 will be:

Pkg A - 2 overnights & 3 meals $130

 Pkg B - 1 overnight & 2 meals, (overnight can be either Fri or Sat) $100

 Pkg C - Saturday only & 2 meals $70.

 Registration needs to be postmarked August 31,2025.

**Revised By-Laws**. Katy P. showed the By-Laws on a side-by-side screen to show the changes that have been made. There was discussion regarding all changes*.*

***Motion****: Virginia P. brought the Motion forward: I move to approve the By-Laws as finalized at the March 2025 AWSC meeting. Motion was seconded by Luanne T.*

*Motion was passed with the Approval of the By-Laws.*

The name change of the Corporation and to the Article of Corporation will be presented to a legal counsel to determine if the extent of the changes is worth the effort. The AWSC would like to change the name to Iowa Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc.

**Love Gifts**- Becky V. shared that the WSC will be April 23-29, 2025. They will be going to Connecticut. We will be sending monetary donation to the WSO instead of taking gifts again this year. You can give the donation to the Delegate before or send them out individually. If your group is sending a donation please remember to put in the memo: District, Iowa, Group Number.

The flyer is available on the Drive which has the names of the members to send them a card while they are attending the WSC. Please make sure to put the trusted servant’s address as the return address and to send them after April 21, 2025.

**Policy The Electronic Group Work Group-** Katy P. The Electronic Group Work Group met much of the last term to discuss changes that would occur to our Area with the growth of electronic meetings in Iowa. We put the following caveat in our policy on a trial basis to allow us time to get acclimated to the inclusion of the Global Electronic Area, our own electronic district, and electronic groups registered with the Iowa Area.

Page 2 of our Iowa Area Policy and Procedure Guidelines states the following:

\*\**As per 2022 Assembly vote, the following motion will be in effect for the*

*2023-2025 term: “Iowa AFG recommends, for the 2023-2025 term, that Officer and Coordinator resumes only be accepted from those members who physically reside in Iowa.”*

We need to determine if we want to keep this restriction or remove it. Resumes are

due July 1st for Area Officer and Coordinator positions. Providing clarity in March

allows ample time for all of those considering to stand for positions within the Area

to be aware of all of our policies before submitting their resume.

We added in the trial language for several reasons.

● The EGWG was concerned that mileage and distance could be a factor in

reimbursing a volunteer. To mitigate financial uncertainty, mileage was

capped at the Iowa Area border.

● We wondered if all of the Officers should be required to attend physically. We

have had meetings where some Officers attended online.

● We weren’t sure if we would be able to provide a workable virtual component

at all of our business meetings. We have had some hiccups, but in the main

our virtual component has been successful.

Consider these ideas, and others that come to mind, when deciding if we should

continue this trial restriction or open resumes up to members that physically live

outside of Iowa.

Discussion followed the report.

***Motion:*** *Jane K brought the Motion forward: Iowa AFG recommends, for the 2026-2028 term, that Officer and Coordinator resumes only be accepted from those members who physically reside in Iowa or in the counties bordering Iowa. Motion was seconded by Mary H.*

*Motion was passed*

**Presentation: Alateen Tool Kit-** Judy V shared a power point about the Alateen Tool Kit. The purpose of this Toolkit is to help sponsors find a way to build relationships with professionals who serve teens and their families. The power point is available on the drive and very informative.

**Unanswered Questions/Upcoming Topics**- No discussion

Meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration at 12:40p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy H.G.

Iowa Area Secretary

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**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(Hybrid)**

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

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

**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-(Hybrid) NOTE DATE CHANGE**

**October 25, 2025 Road Trip- Omaha, Nebraska**

**Iowa Al-Anon Literature Depots**:

**District 1**

2801 Jackson St.

Sioux City, IA 51104

712-255-6724

Email - afg.aiclit@yahoo.com

**District 6**

4611 South 96th Street, Suite 172

(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**

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](http://www.iowa-al-anon.org)