

**Iowa Area AWSC Meeting
January 21, 2024
Virtual Meeting**

Katy P. Area Chairperson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. There were 24 registered members attending virtually of which 21 were voting members. The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Dawn B. and Laura S. read the Concepts of Service/Warranties.

Katy P. reviewed the Etiquette for the meeting and read Evaluation Questions for discussion later.

Secretary Report: Corrections to the October 2023 Assembly minutes will be made to show the correct voting members as 33. The start time of the Assembly will be correct to 2:02pm. *The minutes were approved with the above changes noted by a unanimous consensus.*

The Inventory Committee will include a question in their survey to determine if the Assembly wants the minutes read during the Assembly. (It is important to note that the AWSC decided not to change the way we have been reading and voting on the minutes. We do want to ensure that the Assembly is given a voice in the matter which why it will be included in the Inventory survey.)

Consensus passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report- The financial statement from October 7, 2023 to December 31, 2023 was presented and was discussed. Balance brought forward was \$25,379.40. Total receipts for this period were \$4,962.61. Total disbursements were \$6,398.70. Ending Balance on December 31, 2023 was \$23,943.31. The financial statement was approved by a unanimous consensus.

Delegates Report: *Exciting news: The 2024 World Service Conference theme is:*

Our Path toward Grace, Unity, and Understanding

Nuestro camino hacia la gracia, la unidad y la comprensión

Notre cheminement vers la grâce, l'unité et la compréhension

This next topic regarding the Nominating Committee is important as our Area will need to talk about and become familiar with the Trustees and Regional Trustee resumes. Our current Regional Trustee is Jean L. from Iowa. Her term ends after the conference in April 2025. Resumes for Regional Trustees need to be submitted to WSO by Aug. 15, 2024. Trustee at large candidates are taken every year so applicants can submit every year themselves which also need to be to WSO by Aug. 15, 2024, to be considered to start after conference this year. Please refer to the Iowa Guidelines and the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual if you are considering either of these service positions. You can also see the requirements on the Al-Anon.org website for more information or contact me!

Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee is continuously working to evolve and improve the process by which we discuss and select Trustee and other WSO Volunteer candidates. The Committee recommended changes to the Nominating Committee Selection Process document that were approved by the Board. The Nominating Committee also reported that they are discussing how the interview process could be

enhanced and how the Human Resources Manager could assist the Board in developing a better application/resume. As part of the Committee effort, the Board brainstormed about what requirements are truly necessary for a Trustee/Executive Committee member.

International Coordination Committee (ICC):

I found this topic interesting as it shows me not everyone everywhere is as fortunate as I am to have CAL material available immediately! I feel very blessed!

Some members may be unfamiliar with how the ICC is involved in Conference Approved Literature. On page 211 of the 2022-2025 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) v2, it states the ICC considers first-time requests for permission to reprint Conference Approved Literature (CAL) outside the WSC Structure. The more CAL is reprinted internationally, the more support we are giving members throughout our fellowship. This committee is excited to report that there are four more countries who have the ability to translate and print CAL in their language. That is a big step forward for all of us.

The following motions were approved by the Board:

- 1. Bulgaria granted permission for first-time translation and printing CAL in Bulgarian*
- 2. Romania granted permission for first-time translation and printing CAL in Romanian*
- 3. Thailand granted permission for first-time translation and printing CAL in Thai*
- 4. Paraguay granted permission to reprint CAL*

Our presence has also been felt on the international level this fall with various Zonal meetings. The European Zonal meeting was held in September in France. Eighteen structures attended as well as three ICC members. In October, three members attended the virtual South American Zonal meeting which was hosted by Argentina. In November, the Central American Zonal meeting will be held in Honduras. Two ICC members will be attending in person. Each Zonal meeting has an impact on the WSC structure and on the Trustees and Staff members who participate, whether attending virtually or in person.

The 2024 IAGSMs theme is Nurturing Communication, Cooperation, and Connection Worldwide. This event will be held in Virginia Beach.

Retirement

An announcement has been shared regarding the retirement of the World Service Office's Associate Director-Literature, Tom C. after an incredible journey spanning 22 years. Tom will begin his retirement journey on March 1, 2024. I know Iowa congratulates Tom on his retirement and wishes him well in the future.

Tom has been an invaluable resource to the WSC, bringing an unwavering sense of love, passion, and respect for our Conference Approved Literature (CAL), as well as a profound commitment to the CAL process and ensuring our CAL reflects the many voices of our members.

Stepping Stones- Beyond the 2025 World Service Conference

Discussion for 2024 WSC:

Some questions to ask the Iowa Area:

1. Do the groups in your Area Believe it is important for the Delegate to visit Stepping Stone?
If yes, how do they see it helping their Area?
2. What are the most important elements of the visit to maintain?
3. How might it be best to cover the additional cost of Stepping Stones and a New York visit?

4. 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?

The above questions are being asked of the Iowa Area to share their views regarding Stepping Stones. Please respond to Becky V. with any comments or questions regarding this topic. A copy of this Discussion Framing will be sent out to all for review. For the Delegates full report please visit the Iowa website. <https://iowa-al-anon.org/>

Alternate Delegate Report: 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. 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.

The **Fall 2024 Conference will be held in Sioux City, IA at Abu Bekr Shriners on October 11-13, 2024.** Flyers will soon be available online. Save the date and mark your calendars! The Saturday Luncheon Al-Anon speaker will be Jean L, Regional Trustee. The Sunday morning spiritual and Alateen speakers are yet to be determined. Linda A. is currently working with the committee regarding specifics. Unfortunately, she will not be able to attend this Assembly.

The Forum Report: WSO is still looking for the following sharing's 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. Sharing's from the sponsee or sponsor are welcome. Sharing's 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 sharing's on this pamphlet are needed as well.) Sharing's can be submitted online at al-anon.org/sharing, emailed to wso@al-anon.org with The Forum sharing's 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?

District Reports: The following Districts_1, 2,3,7,8 and 11 district reports were submitted. Updates from a member of District 4 were verbally shared. There were no reports from 4, 5,6,9,10,12,13,14,15 or 16.

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

Alateen/AAPP: Fort Dodge is working at forming an Alateen group. They have some interested teens and are just working to get their ducks in a row. The Thank God It's Alateen group in Cedar Rapids seem to be holding their own with attendance. The Alateen Committee zoomed several times in Nov. and Dec. The committee came away with a consensus on some changes in the Area Alateen Serenity Weekend portion of the Iowa Area Al-Anon/Alateen Policy and Procedure Guidelines. These suggestions were passed on to the Area Policy & Procedure Committee. The flyer has been made for the 2024 Alateen

Serenity Weekend. We have some new and fun things planned for our next weekend event. As of this writing I'm waiting to hear of the approval from some of the Alateens. I will have several final flyers available for you at the AWSC meeting. The annual recertification process for all Area AMIAS has begun and I've already heard back from a few of them. I will have some forms available at the AWSC meeting for anyone that would like to fulfill their recertification at that time.

Archives: There is so much information. What do you want to know? Please let me know what I can research for you.

Group Records: District 8 welcomed Courage Within AFG on November 29, 2023. Courage Within AFG meets on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. at the Urbana Christian Church in Urbana, IA. District 3 welcomed Day at a Time AFG on December 28, 2023. Day at a Time AFG meets on Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m. at the Calvary United Methodist Church in Stratford, IA. Thank you to all the DRs, GRs, and the members who are doing such a great job keeping me updated of all the changes in their Groups! Finally, I have a challenge for all of you in 2024. Pretend you are a newcomer looking for a meeting. Go to al-anon.org and search for your home group. Try to view the information you find as a newcomer would see it for the very first time. Ask yourself the question, "Can a newcomer find us?" If you can answer that question, "Yes! Any newcomer looking for a meeting near me will definitely be able to find us!" then GREAT!! You have completed your challenge! However, if the answer is "No, they probably won't be able to find us with the information here" then please reach out to me right away at grouprecords@iowa-al-anon.org! Help me make sure that every newcomer looking for a meeting here in Iowa will always be able to find one!

Literature: During the first year of this term, the new daily reader garnered all the attention for the literature coordinators. But as we move into 2024, let's not forget all the other Conference approved literature. I'd like to challenge your groups to pick up something new. Maybe you always read the Courage to Change daily reader at the beginning of your meeting. Why not try One Day at a time instead? Or read a story from the back half of How Al-Anon Works. There is so much great literature available, don't stick to the same book your group has always read – try something new! What book are you reading in your free time?

Newsletter: No report. A Newsletter Committee Member shared that we missed the January newsletter deadline. Please remember the due date for May 2024 Newsletter is April 20, 2024. This would allow for the topic of what the responsibility of the GR is at the Spring Assembly along with topics and the workshops and various other business items discussed at the Assemblies. The Committee would also like to invite group members to submit something to this edition. These could be on how service has helped their recovery or how a specific Step/Tradition/Concept helped them grow. Also included in this publication will be events from Districts sharing information about upcoming events during the summer months along with all the things that have happened the first months of the year.

Public Outreach: As you reflect on your public outreach accomplishments for 2023: How can you evaluate the success of public outreach initiatives, and what strategies could be employed to enhance existing efforts? Additionally, how do you intend to ensure continuity and momentum of public outreach efforts? What are your public outreach goals for 2024? Hmmm? We seem to be missing some stations in Iowa. Interesting that radio gets more airtime. Should we be targeting radio? Send the TV or radio station contact name, email, address and phone number, along with the station identifier and whether it's a TV or radio station to: media@al-anon.org and the WSO will supply them with the

appropriate PSAs. You can include local cable TV stations, college and university stations and religious stations. WSO launched the Public Outreach Toolkit. Here is the link: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/public-outreach/public-outreach-toolkit/> If you want to add something to the WSO PO Toolkit, please work through Carolyn S. The WSO will review before anything is put on their website.

Technology: A projector has been donated to the Area that will work with Windows 11 Computers and a new camera for the area has been purchased. Discussion between other Area Technology Coordinators has been beneficial in regards to acquiring equipment and what is necessary to holding virtual business meetings and hybrid meetings. Some areas have seen attendance increasing due to the availability of being virtual. Currently, technology committee and other member supports, we are able to have enough laptops to do our Zoom gatherings The committee does not feel it is beneficial for the Iowa Area to purchase a lot of equipment at this time. Iowa has been able to meet in various facilities for Assemblies that offer several items that we needed for Hybrid.

Web Page: Please send your district event flyers to web@iowa-al-anon.org. A webpage committee meeting is going to be announced in the near future.

Presentation-Financial Reserve- Trustee: Cindy M- shared a powerpoint on Financial Reserve. and there was discussion had. If there are more questions, please submit them to Katy to pass on to Cindy.

WSO Donation- The Budget Committee suggests to send \$2,000.00 to WSO for 2024. The Treasurer presented the past 5-year income budget follow up from the August AWSC 2023. A consensus was taken and approved to send \$2,000.00 to WSO for 2024.

Area Service Workshop: A service workshop will be on Saturday, March 9, 2024, which will be available hybrid. It will be held at the Marshalltown Community College from 12:30 pm-5:00pm. Flyer is on website <https://iowa-al-anon.org/> Topics for this workshop will include Professional's Experience and Public Outreach along with self-care. There will be a minimum \$5.00 suggested donation on the flier and the virtual sign up.

Alateen Serenity Weekend 2024: The flyer for the 2024 Alateen Serenity Weekend has been completed. The theme this year will be Living Today in Alateen, one of the Alateen books they work out of. Instead of doing the tie dye t-shirts that we did last year, the Alateens will be making individual and Group God Boxes. The Alateens can place in the box maybe something they want to talk about but don't feel they want to say in their group meeting. Bob L. is providing the wood for each group to make a God Box for their use throughout the year. Saturday night will be disposing of them in a campfire. The cost per attendee will stay at \$110.00. We will be staying in the same lodge as last year, Timber Lodge. There is hopefully going to be little hiking and a hayrack ride. The flyer will be available on the Iowa website. I think we have a spiritual, growing and fun weekend planned for the Alateens. Talk it up, and maybe have some fundraisers to help pay for their cost, if needed. The Alateen Committee met a few times via zoom and there was a consensus among the Committee asking for some changes in the Area Alateen Serenity Weekend portion of the Iowa Area Al-Anon/Alateen Policy and Procedure Guidelines. These suggestions were passed on to the Area Policy & Procedure Committee.

Panel 60 Motion Clean up- A review of the minutes from Panel 60 brought to light that there were 3 outstanding motions that were made on a trial basis.

June 2020 Virtual Assembly

- Motion for 2- year trial to remove action committees beginning October 2020: Katy P., made a motion to replace the Action Committees with workshops for the Spring and Fall Assemblies. Dawn B., seconded. Motion carried.
- Electronic reports for a 2-year trial beginning October 2020: Katy P., made a motion to approve the permanent inclusion of Electronic Reports and Agenda on the Iowa Area Website prior to the Assembly. Virginia P., seconded. Motion carried.

January 2022-

- Motion to suspend Al-Anon meetings at Assembly for one year. REMOVAL OF CANDLELIGHT MEETINGS FROM THE ASSEMBLY. There was discussion on if this motion was in regards to the Al-Anon or Alateen Candlelight Meetings. It was not very clear on the original motion. The decision was that this was for the Al-Anon Candlelight Meetings. Katy P., made a motion to remove the Candlelight Meeting. Mary H., seconded. Motion carried.

GR/DR Salons - The first GR/DR Salons will be held virtually on Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 3:00p.m. and at 4:30p.m. Sam M and Lorraine R will be doing the GR Salons. Becky V and another person will be doing the DR Salons. These salons will be on organization/prioritization and how to conduct a group or district inventory. There is a flyer available on the Iowa webpage. <https://iowa-al-anon.org/>

2024 Budget vs. Actual Comparison: The Treasurer presented the budget of 2024, to include the \$2,000.00 to the WSO. Michelle K. made a motion to approve the 2024 budget as amended. Jamie O. seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion of a hotel reimbursement was brought forward. Consensus was taken to form a Thought Force to bring information to the March AWSC meeting.

Digital Payment options The Treasurer gave an overview for fees that we paid for Square. Square seems to be good for us at this time. A decision was made to put using Venmo on hold for now.

Assembly Agenda June: The June agenda is done and on the flyer. The Saturday Luncheon speaker will be Christine W. from Chicago, Illinois. The Spiritual speaker on Sunday will be Barb U. from Sioux City, Iowa. See Flyer on website: <https://iowa-al-anon.org/>

October Assembly Agenda: The Spiritual speaker for the Fall Assembly will be Cindy W. from Sioux City. There will be more discussion regarding the Trustee Presentation at the March AWSC meeting. We will have workshops on the Forum, Area Inventory and a Trustee Presentation.

Iowa Area Inventory Committee: As a committee we are working on preparing this survey for the Spring Assembly as required. If you have a specific topic concern or a question for the Committee, please feel free to contact me. This inventory is a great place to bring your thoughts and comments to the Iowa Area.

Area Serenity Weekend: The Area Serenity Weekend Planning Meeting will be via Zoom on Friday, March 8th at 7pm. This will be the first time doing this planning event in this manner. Participants were asked to give suggestions for ideas on how to make the weekend better/different at the end of the 2023 weekend. There were many suggestions for 2024 Serenity weekend. The flyer will be also available on the Iowa website. <https://iowa-al-anon.org/>. Remember, this meeting is for everyone! Spread the word! The more that attend, the more ideas, suggestions, and fun we will have. If you have ever attended the weekend, you know how special this weekend can be. The results from the meeting will be shared at our March 10th AWSC meeting.

This year our Area Serenity weekend will be September 20-22nd, 2024

Reading of the By-Laws-All-Discussion of changes? – Decision was made to have this at another time.

Policy updates: The Policy and Procedure Committee met in December 2023 and January 2024. *The Area Assembly Thought Force Committee brought their recommendations for changes in the Assembly Guidelines.* The Policy and Procedure Committee reviewed the recommendations for changes. All changes were reviewed by the AWSC and will be updated to the Assembly Guidelines. Consensus was taken and passed *unanimous*. Those changes will be attached to the Minutes.

Alateen Policy update: The Alateen Committee presented for review changes to the Alateen Procedure Guidelines. The following changes (Substances prohibited by local law, i.e.: alcohol, drugs, tobacco, vaping, all electronic devices, including cell phones are allowed only at designated free time. Posting of pictures on any social media with mention of “ALATEEN” is not allowed were discussed. Tracy H.G. made a motion to approve the updates to the Alateen Policy as Presented (Substances prohibited by local law, i.e.: alcohol, drugs, tobacco, vaping, all electronic devices, including cell phones are allowed only at designated free time. Posting of pictures on any social media with mention of “ALATEEN” is not allowed.) Judy V. seconded. Motion passed.

Thought Force- Reconnecting with all Iowa Districts: There was a powerpoint presentation on the charge for the thought force. The committee consisted of Virginia P. Lorraine R. Tracy H.G. Beth K. and Samantha M. After the presentation there was discussion. Recommendation – The Reconnecting with all Districts Thought Force recommends using our current resources as outlined in Strategy 2, 3 and/or 4 to connect with members in underrepresented Districts. We do not recommend re-districting at this time. *A consensus was taken to dissolve the Thought Force which was unanimously approved.*

Discussion was brought forth on creating a task force for strategy 2,3, and 4. Officers will come up with this task force description. Lorraine R. and Katy P. volunteered to be part of this task force.

Unanswered Questions/Review Comments: There was a lot of valuable information shared today. There were comments that many were thankful this meeting was held virtually. There was a lot of information to digest today along with many things to be shared with our groups and districts.

Closing of the meeting with Al-Anon Declaration was at 2:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy H.G.

Iowa Area Secretary

DATES to REMEMBER

March 8, 2024	Area Serenity Weekend planning meeting - Virtual
March 9, 2024	Area Service Workshop, IA Valley Community College, Marshalltown, IA
March 10, 2024	Iowa AWSC meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
March 15-17, 2024	Regional Delegates Meeting, Bloomington, IL
April 18-21, 2024	World Service Conference, Virginia Beach, VA
April 19-21, 2024	Alateen Serenity Weekend, Wesley Woods, Indianola, IA
June 7-9, 2024	Spring Area Assembly, Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA
August 11, 2024	Iowa AWSC Meeting, Hampton Inn, 9am, Marshalltown, IA
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

Email - afg.aiclit@yahoo.com

District 7

939 Office Park Rd. Suite 113

West Des Moines, IA 50265

515-277-5059

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