

AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE (AWSC) Meeting  
First United Methodist Church, Glendale, CA  
August 17, 2019

Final Minutes

Meeting opened at 9:00 a.m.

Chairperson's Report: Donna E.

- Serenity Prayer
- New DRs: Linda S., District 40
- Reviewed guidelines

Traditions: Read by Nancy, D12

Group Records Coordinator: Roll Call: Mary M.

Secretary: Lalena

Approval of February 16, 2019 Committee Meeting Minutes: Sam Y., D36 made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Darcy C., D63 seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Tarisa

1. Reviewed financials (Balance Sheet). She said it is helpful for groups to include their WSO ID number. She must verify that these are Al-Anon groups and conventions that are making contributions otherwise it's a violation of traditions and bylaws. It helps that they use the actual form needed for inputting.
2. Asking for a volunteer to help input information. She needs help 4 to 8 hours of help a month. Please take back to District. She also highlighted that it is an excellent opportunity to be trained should that person become the next Treasurer. She said we still have loss so that means we are not completely self-supporting. She would appreciate a form being filled out for reimbursement. She explained if they traveled over 200 miles roundtrip, they can be reimbursed up to \$100 for hotel and 100 miles by SCWS, the remainder of the balance is paid by district. Donna referenced Service Manual p. 34 about how WSO registers groups.

Alternate Delegate's Report: Eva: She has confirmed the speaker for SOS in January 2020. The flyer will be available electronically by Monday. She would like the DRs to send flyers electronically to the GRs. We would also like to increase readership of "The Forum" magazine. Please encourage groups to use it.

Observe 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition: Tarisa read the Seventh Tradition in Service Manual p. 19 Passing the Basket

Delegate's Report: Marcia discussed the World Service Conference highlights:

- Road Trip! “You and your Board Connect” in Seattle, Washington October 19, 2019
- WSO will not be having Together Empowering AI-Anon Members (TEAM) after this year.
- AA International Convention: July 2-5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan.
- Trustees will be calling Delegates soon to ask these questions: How are your groups/Areas dealing with a cashless society? How will you, your groups, and your Area utilize the 2020 WSC theme? Marcia asked DRs to respond to these questions and to email her their responses since DRs represent the groups.
- Marcia said that they want her to incorporate the title “Dream Big” into things we do.
- AI-Anon International will be in Albuquerque, NM will be in July 2023.
- Jayme Referenced p. 31 in the Conference Summary for more details for the AI-Anon International.
- Marcia said she is collecting information ongoing, but her next call with WSO is in October.
- Extra copies of Conference Summary are \$5 and can be ordered on the WSO website.

Old Business:

1. Area Group and Member Concerns Resolution Team Update: this came from a thought force and task force which then made it a policy. The policy is available online. There are 3 members who can be objective can help with the evaluation process. They have had lengthy discussions and are in the process of writing a report. She discussed that the ultimate goal is to have the WSO website to support these decisions, so newcomers are not directed to go there.

Sam D36: Would they be able to call it an AI-Anon Family group?

Marcia: Yes,

Kim D34: If WSO does that, then would central office not print them in directory?

Marcia: We would share this info with the local LDC and AIS so they could support us. This is more about the newcomer trying to find a meeting.

Nancy D12: summarized for clarification.

Marcia: WSO has had this issue with other Areas as well. The Board of Trustees has talked about this many times.

Bruce: suggested coming to the microphone. He doesn't think it's appropriate for the Area to make decisions that are different than what WSO does. For example, how WSO will continue to recognize them as a group even if we do not.

Jaymie, past delegate: Gave some history that Mary Morrison brought up. The World Service Conference has continued this conversation year after year. SCWS doesn't have a directory, we just keep group records. It's the AIS that has the directories made. 3 groups were delisted, they wanted to be relisted. The GRs can come here and AIS meetings.

Marcia: said WSO website is not international. Each Area is autonomous. So, each Area has had the freedom to create their own policy.

Laura: AAPP: the word "unlist", not "delist" from the WSO website as well as AIS directories.

Marcia: said they call it "Do Not Refer". She will send them out to everyone.

Carol: We had a situation on how to deal with it, and WSO let us know we had the freedom to do it and that we are working within the guidelines of WSO.

Marcia: said that many delegates from other Areas would like to copy what we are doing in their Area

Michaela D27: asked for examples

Marcia: Examples: closing meetings to dual members, using the Bible, etc.

2. Thought Forces:

a) Assembly: in the process of planning meetings. They will explore all aspects of the assembly.

b) Insurance for Groups: asked if DRs sent questionnaire, to do so if haven't yet. She will send out again. They have received responses from 80 groups for prices and coverage.

3. Area Alateen Resolution Committee Report

a) Updating the ASBR: Bear: Alateen Sponsor Coordinator: reviewed how these are requirements that have been voted in and used at every district and area as a whole. It is our guide in order to keep Alateen running and safe in the area. Once they are revised, they will go over them one more time.

4. Creating a Safe SCAC Task Force

a) SCAC 501©3 tax exempt status: exploring dissolving SCAC as a legal entity.

In his PowerPoint:

- i) He gave some history of when it originated and how it became a legal entity.
- ii) In 2019, how the policy is changing. Discussed Duty of Care, Duty of Loyalty, and Duty of Obedience.
- iii) There are 7 Board of Directors per those bylaws
- iv) How policies have changed and how they are not consistent with the area's ASBRs and how questions of how to move forward

Discussion ensued:

Kim: Wants to know if it's a 501 3 c or a nonprofit? She discussed how all conventions must have their own bylaws. Are conventions their own 501(c)(3)?

Donna: said there are guidelines of how to set up bylaws. AFG is 501(c)(3): tax exempt status. Forms must be filled out and sent to IRS. SCAA is also the same status. In State of CA, public benefit corporation. Need to have this before applying for non-exempt status. They receive a letter from the government.

Jayme: gave background of how SCAC needed money after a theft took place. This helped us to put guidelines in place to have accountability and requirements so this wouldn't happen again. We needed a platform to have requirements to stand on.

Nancy D12: Do we have access to the original articles of formation? Based on the SCAC Bylaws, it is a separate legal and taxing entity. We do not have the power to dissolve them legally. It's a legal issue that requires attorney guidance. In order to have SCAC, we would need to have new ASBRs and bylaws be approved. Area Funds: Money was donated for the purpose of kids going to SCAC as well as decorations. They were earmarked separately.

Donna: SCAC has been suspended for now. The SCAC board of directors. It's getting complicated because it's not consistent with our ASBRs. Pointed out that we have on agenda to seek legal counsel. Area provides the funds. It's also been a Task Force. We clarified can no longer have minors be Board of Directors. It is complicated. Unfortunately, the way the problem was solved has created other problems.

Eva: SCAC has been suspended by the Tax Franchise Board. It can no longer act as 501 3 c according to the Secretary of State California website.

Linda D54: How long did it take to get the 501 status? Alateens age out at 20. Will we realistically be able to have SCAC in 2020? Minors are under 18 so would need to go back to see who was or wasn't a minor. We do SCAC for the benefit of the kids. She also had a question about delisting meetings? It's been 16 years, 5 boards.

Donna: reminder that each person gets 2 minutes.

Marcia: did some research on AFG Connects. We are not making any decisions today. Some of these need to be researched with the help of an attorney. Bear also has a PowerPoint to tell the timeline of how long it will take.

Teresa D30: doesn't have 501 3 c status and has had some issues because they can't use PSAs. She would like for there to be some discussion re: this

Donna: meetings can't prove they are not nonprofits, but can show on the website Al-Anon as a whole is a nonprofit

Jocelyn D8: on thought force, gathering information, please send information to her so they can use it to make decisions.

Bruce: Comment: Areas have a SCAC conventions. He doesn't see the need for creating the ASBRs. Why can't we use ASBRs that are being used already that have been approved by WSO? He believes we are reinventing the wheel at the expense of our Alateens.

Tracy D9: Is it a punitive action?

Eva: The last statement of activity was not filed, the franchise board automatically suspended us.

Nancy D12: Discussed law: form not filed. There's a way to rectify that by getting the proper form and paying a fee. There is some seed money. If they need help, Nancy is willing to help.

Tarisa: Tax returns were filed. They are supposed to have Board Meetings. Board meetings were suspended.

Suzanne: AACC: Looked up that SCAC doesn't need guidelines or bylaws

Nancy D12: Corporations that are legal entities need bylaws. SCAC has its own liability insurance.

Jaymie: Once SCAC became a legal entity, insurance was purchased for the weekend of SCAC. It's about \$5K. They felt very intimidated by the Alateens at that time which made it difficult to work together.

Donna: We've been working on the ASBRs and how the money is used for SCAC. There are some structural issues so that it is a conference under the Area. She suggested that there be a SCAC coordinator to help them move forward. Alateens would make decisions about the program.

Kim D24 what do you want us to do?

Donna: what we are doing now, having a discussion. This is the beginning of this process.

Bear: the current set of ASBRs on website are the second set of ASBRs. We are now working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> revision. Almost finished with it.

Jayme: in 2004 when area voted, Area agreed to the minimum safety requirements, so they created the first ASBRs. Then it had to go to legal and then WSO.

Bear: We have a draft of reinstating SCAC. We have been working on the policies. Now figuring out how to incorporate these into what we are doing. The goal is to send to WSO in September. Will need legal counsel. Goal is to have it in summer of 2021.

Donna M. DR 57 Could state revoke status because of minors?

Bear: none of us are qualified to answer that question.

Nancy D12: SCACs option is to adopt ASBRs or to dissolve. This decision needs to include the Alateens. Maybe a provisional allowance can take place.

Darcy D63: SCAC fundraising is going on all the time. He as a concern about districts holding monies for SCAC. What to do with money building up? He doesn't believe there's any reason to hold onto it.

b) Restructuring SCAC with Requirements (vs. Bylaws) in accordance with ASBR

Marcia: putting together a questionnaire through survey monkey re: District 64 with Brissa's help

Lunch Break 11:50 a.m.

Reconvene 12:51 p.m.

Concepts read by Barbara DR17

New Business:

Marcia and Donna would like to be very clear about what will be put on the agenda for May assembly.

Marcia is hoping to get input from the area, we will need legal advice. Should we present what we have already for November assembly to not further delay SCAC or wait?

Bruce: Feels we should have a discussion and vote on whether or not to have an Alateen Convention at the November assembly. Feels fear is what is driving this issue.

Tracy D9: Will it affect the timeline of SCAC not having it come to November assembly? Said we need more information.

Jaymie: Would it include needing legal counsel? Could that attorney be available and willing to be present at the November assembly?

Linda: It needs to be stated that we are asking for information and trying to inform. Doesn't want to be quick to make decisions unnecessarily.

Nancy D12: Legal issues need to be done by an attorney. Maybe start down the path of a new convention and have a new board of directors for the new entity. Doesn't want to waste people's time at assembly

Micheala D27: Referenced p. 90 Conventions and Events guidelines. We need to include KBDM so we can have intelligent conversations with love.

Dan AltDR57: Donna left (DR). Complimented Bear's presentation. He thinks Bear's presentation should be done at assembly. There's protection of the AMIASs, Alateens, and the fellowship.

Marcia clarified we want direction from the committee as to what to present at the assembly as well as how to move forward.

Kim D24: Would rather see flow chart, stating here's where we are now, we need to do a, b, and c to get to the next step, not to get into the issue of 501(c)(3). Then put a vote to approve the ASBRs in order to move forward.

Bruce: clarified legal vs. traditional rights. There are no "have tos". There needs to be a discussion as to whether have a convention with current ASBRs or after they are done being revised.

Jayme: Who is going to oversee it? Our ASBRs need to include a convention and the safety requirements document.

Marcia: the main reason we are changing ASBRs is because of what we voted on already at assembly: 18 age requirements, having 2 sponsors, etc. We are close to being done. We cannot go to another area to get their ASBRs, it would still need to be looked at by WSO. What we are doing, has WSO criteria in mind. ASBRs need to be done before anything else can be done.

Suzanne: Referenced Service manual p. 137 re: agenda

Eva: the names Alateen and Al-Anon are borrowed from WSO. Part of that is making sure we put together a safe event.

Michaela D27: Guideline G16 reference, that all events must follow the guidelines. Trusting the process rather than short circuiting it

Kay, past delegate: This issue came up in Panel 40 at World Service Conference. She met some resistance when she returned with this information then. She asked to explain what an ASBR is rather than just by its acronym.

Laura, AAPP: half of meetings have complied to have 2 AMIASs per Alateen meetings. With knowledge comes responsibility. We have real safety issues we need to address in our Districts.

Carol, archives: asking for clarification: Are other areas getting their ASBRs being reevaluated as well?

Donna: yes

Michaela D27: It is necessary to talk about since there are funds in the account. The two roundups we've had, were those done under fundraising? Yes, so those will go toward SCAC.

Nancy D12: asked for clarification: re: how and when ASBRs are going to be done.

Marcia: next month ASBRs will be sent to WSO. Might be approved by WSO. Then they must be reviewed by legal counsel. Then they must come to assembly for approval (voted on). These are the requirements of WSO. Then they will be ready.

Bruce: made a motion: to put on assembly agenda to have an event even if ASBRs are not complete. Then we could have KBDM. Rob seconded the motion.

Donna: stated legal consultation is necessary. Approval and timing of ASBRs. Fear: our Area was not following the ASBRs, so it got WSOs attention and rescinded the ability to register meetings. Now we are trying to follow what they are asking from the beginning. Current ASBRs have 2 changes we've made, however there is still an issue of not having them completely done. She wants to make sure we are acting under the clearest principles possible.

Bruce: That the ASBRs don't apply to meetings and conferences.

Jayne: said not comfortable with Robert's rules of order being used today, because it's not KBDM. We need to ask: have we heard everything we need to hear?

Bear: Just for everyone's information: we are very close to having them finished.

Lynn D40: confused and concerned about it being a safety liability and disregarding it.

Linda D54: She thinks it's okay if it doesn't get done, it'll be ok waiting until the next assembly. In God's time, not ours.

Michaela D27: asked about timeline. Will the task force continue to meet?

Bear: task force is not addressing ASBRs. Those are being looked at by the Officers and Board.



Kat: Alateen Coordinator feels it's unacceptable to wait, asked about a motion being on the table, also if Bruce can clarify the motion

Donna: clarified we don't Robert's Rule of order, we don't second. We clarify and do KBDM before making an actual decision.

SCAC 501(c)(3) issue is a separate issue that will be addressed separately, not at assembly.

Do we vote on having an Alateen Conference whether the ASBRs are completed or wait until they are done?

Nancy D12: Is the assembly willing to support an Alateen conference under SCWS approval?

Tarisa said there's a moratorium on overnight events. Doesn't think we know what we are doing yet. We need more discussion to clarify. We currently do have one for Day Events. It must be under a service arm. RAD is what we are currently doing, and the kids love it.

Bruce: can't do KBDM whether to present something. Does this body support having an Alateen convention?

Judy: literature: how do we structure these events? Thinks ASBRs need to be done

Tracy: thinks Bear should do his presentation at Assembly. Doesn't think it's wise to rush to a vote.

Suzanne: sponsor for RAD, and seeing it happen. Doesn't think we need to wait for legal counsel

Marcia: even if we don't get legal counsel now, we will need it later.

Michaela: reading from Guideline G16 about Alateen conferences

Donna said we will vote on these items:

Motion: If the ASBRs are ready (30 days before the assembly) to be presented to the Assembly in Nov, we will present it. Yes: 83% No: Abstentions:

Motion: If the ASBRs are not ready, do we want to put on the agenda the discussion of supporting an area Alateen conference under the umbrella of the area moving forward. Yes: No: Abstentions:

Tarisa: we already have that happening. Do we lift the suspension?

Donna: SCAC is a separate 501(c)(3) event. This is something separate.

Judy: this cannot be overnight.

Nancy, D12: When the ASBRs are approved, are they willing to lift the moratorium on overnight so we can have an Alateen Conference. This would help us shorten the time of getting things voted on and approved.

Revised Motion to: If the ASBRs are not ready, do we want to put on the agenda the discussion of supporting an area Alateen conference under the umbrella of the area moving forward. Yes: No: Abstentions:

When the ASBRs are approved, do we have permission to lift the overnight moratorium on Alateen Conferences?

Michaela: are we doing double headed management? Are we encroaching on the SCAC task force? What is the charge?

Bear: RAD is a day conference. SCAC is a Friday and Saturday conference. We can dissolve it or repurpose it. He's not concerned about that at all. The charge is to revise the bylaws, nuts and bolts.

Bruce: Likes where it's headed. Doesn't think it's written for others to get up and keep objecting. Wanted to change wording to include current ASBRs.

Jaymie: who is going to approve it at assembly? There are 2 conferences. Why can't they be in tandem

Donna: Want to make sure safety and legally moving forward. Then rename it under the area umbrella.

Jaymie: we're not putting a date on it?

Donna: we are moving as quickly as possible

Bear: All of these have been worked on, now need clarification and approval.

Kat: doesn't believe its right to vote on something so controversial.

Donna: Do we put this on the agenda?

Motion: Do we have the permission to lift the overnight moratorium on Alateen conferences effective on the approval of the ASBRs? Yes: No: Abstentions:

Michaela: doesn't understand why we are voting on this? Wouldn't it be the result of the task force?

Sam D36: clarification that we will have a discussion and vote at the November assembly

Josefa: D64 what happened to SCAC?

Donna clarified yes, we are now voting

Kay said we are not putting this on the agenda if the ASBRs are being done.

Marcia: this is Plan B; we wouldn't have to vote on this

Donna: we will table this discussion

5-minute break and said Serenity Prayer

Convention Chairs for YHA, AFG: *Please see the written reports in Bulletin.*

1. Presentation clarifying legal versus traditional rights PowerPoint: Concept 6 and 7: clarified our Board is the Board of Directors.

Michaela D27: We have an Alathon coming up in October. How might that be an Alathon? Because we don't have an Alateen program.

Donna: we can talk about that later, looking for more feedback

Bruce: has this already been voted on, so is this a requirement?

Donna: We the officers are going to talk to our Board members that this will be the policy

Bruce: "if the law requires it" doesn't mean it does. Doesn't think we need this policy.

Rob: Field tested these proposed policies at the YHA convention, when we hear the word "have" we think that it is a legal issue. So, they went to WSO, we have legal rights. They got their own legal counsel as committee. It opens you up to more liability by not having one. It must be enforceable.

Linda D54: Do they have a policy with adults only, no minors included? Is there a way to not have it?

Sue AFG chair: At convention, they can be dropped off and they can sit in our meetings. We are taking away their rights of participation in AI-Anon.

Suzanne: There are safety issues in AI-Anon. WSO and Conference are trying to address them. Some misuse it and try to use it for financial gain.

2. Affirming addition of Attorney at Large position to SCWS Board: discussion, will bring to the next committee meeting in February.

3. Creating an "AI-Anon Minors Statement" for Area-recognized conventions + "with AI-Anon participation"

4. Considerations for recognizing new conventions in the Area-what we've learned and recommend for YHA Convention (and any new conventions) moving forward

5. "Liaison" position between the Board and all Area conventions: want to add to the Alternate Delegate's job description.

6. Create *Bulletin* Task Force

Bruce: stressed the importance of getting reports in a timely manner. Questions have been asked which reports to give at what time. Also, doesn't think Agendas and Financials need to be put in the Bulletin. Do we really need a printed copy?

Donna: contact Bruce if you are interested.

Tarisa: thorn in her side how late Bulletin comes out. Bulletin is supposed to be about what we present today. Asked how many would like to have it within a month from today? Many raised their hands. Then we could have it on website and have a contact page provided at meeting.

Shauna D10, D26, D30, D45, D48, D51, D72 will provide refreshments for assembly. Snacks and one case of water.

DR Reports: Please see reports in Bulletin

D3, D6, D8, D9, D12, D17, D21, D24, D27, D36, D48, D51, D30, D54, Alt D57, D60, D63, D64, Alt D66, D72, D75

Coordinator Reports: Please see reports in Bulletin

Meeting Adjourned: 4:05 p.m. with the AI-Anon Declaration