

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORLD SERVICE (SCWS)  
AREA ASSEMBLY--NOVEMBER 16, 2019  
FINAL MINUTES**

9:00 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

**A) Chairperson's Report:**

- Moment of Silence-Serenity Prayer and Welcome
- Welcome: Past Delegates: Jayme Cristafi, Kay Dornbusch, Willie Williams, and new GRs
- Guidelines for Participation and Who has a Voice and a Vote
- Seats for GRs will be saved until 9:15 am at which time they will become available to everyone
- Mia announced Alateen will be providing lunch today for \$10.
- Introduced Abby W. as the new Area Alateen Member Coordinator

**B) Traditions** read by Holden, D66

**C) Roll Call:** Group Records Coordinator, Mary Myers  
Registered GRs voting: 214

**D) Secretary:** Lalena Cekosky

- Approval of May 18, 2019 Assembly Minutes: Carol, Archives Coordinator, and Vickie, D72, made some amendments. Casey, D27, offered motion to accept the Minutes as amended, Akilah, D30, seconded. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.

**E) Treasurer's Report:** Tarisa Ramserran:

- Introduced new reimbursement form
- If GRs submit a contribution form, please WSO ID number. Webmaster showed how to find the group's WSO ID number by navigating to the WSO website.
- Please write email address legibly on form.
- We are doing well, as contributions are more than expenditures.
- Total in Bank accounts: \$84,064.79
- Total other Current assets: \$5,522.17
- Reviewed Statement of Activity (aka Profit and Loss) Previous Year comparison: Change in Revenue was \$1,702.73 which is a 9% increase. Total expenditures decreased by \$2,806.44 which was -19%.
- Revenue and Expense Report for May Assembly: Total Receipts from 7th Tradition basket: \$2,698.26, and Total Expenses \$5,870.08. This meeting is currently not self-supporting. If every Assembly attendee contributed \$20, the Assembly would be self-supporting. Your meeting would be contributing to the 7th Tradition, not you as an individual. This is a business meeting for your group. In Northern CA, they charge \$50 to go to Assembly.
- Reimbursement form includes hotel cost for members who drive more than 200 miles, round trip. Please include phone number, email, and full mailing address for ISR auditing procedures.
- SCWS reimburses .40/mile for each mile over 100 miles.
- Our rent has increased, Longtimer's Event will have additional rent to pay.

**QUESTIONS RE TREASURER'S REPORT**

Casey, D27: believes we are already fully self-supporting if we use the surplus. Question: what is the rationale for asking for additional money to make this meeting self-supporting?

Tarisa: clarified this is a business meeting for SCWS. She was attempting to make us aware of this and that meetings in Al-Anon are self-supporting.

Akilah, D30: If my group didn't send a contribution, can they still send one? If so, how?

Tarisa: suggested that she could take a form with her and have the group's Treasurer send in the contribution. Then the group would get credit for it on the next report.

Jayne, Past Delegate: What happens if the hotel costs less than \$200?

Tarisa: We reimburse for what was actually spent.

Jayne: Will the Finance Committee include discussing contributions in their processes and procedures?

Tarisa: yes this is on their agenda of items to discuss.

Jayne: Also, will we have a 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition basket passed today?

Tarisa: yes, we will.

Joyce, D69: how to compare our expenses to Northern California's which includes dinner, speaker, etc.

Tarisa: our expenses include gas, printing, office supplies, hotel, travel.

Angelique, D60: Was public information listed on the budget?

Tarisa: All Public Outreach expenses are grouped together, rather than by position.

Kim, D24: p. 4 of green sheet, Profit and Loss: what is the difference between District and Group contribution?

Tarisa: described how both individual Al-Anon and Alateen Groups contribute to the Area, and that Districts do the same when they have excess funds, either quarterly or annually.

Barbara, D3: Is there a separate form to give money just to the Assembly? If we do that, would it help?

Tarisa: Yes.

Barbara: Are we anticipating any additional legal fees with Alateen issues?

Donna: we aren't sure yet; will discuss this issue later today.

Connie, D69: How come we are not accounting our contributions? We contribute to pay for the business meetings. Only the groups are self-supporting. Why are you asking for more money? Why are you separating the business meeting from the budget?

Tarisa: The Assembly as an Al-Anon business meeting and is not currently self-supporting. Discussed how World Service Conference is part of the budget.

Connie: we should be the same way.

Marcia: we are getting stuck on the vocabulary. We wanted to educate our members about how much all this actually costs. Yes, your contributions are coming in and helping to pay for this. We want to bring the awareness. We aren't just paying for today, we are paying it forward.

Connie: If we have a healthy budget, why are we asking the groups for more money?

Tarisa: read from *Service Manual*, p. 159. I am just making you aware of what the expenses are.

Kay, Past Delegate: referred to p.8 in Minutes of May 18 *Bulletin*. If we had a \$52,598.35 surplus in 2018, why are we asking the groups for money? What are you doing with the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition items that makes it necessary to make this a cost-plus event?

Tarisa: That figure was *not* an SCWS surplus. That is the total contribution that all Southern California groups contributed directly to WSO.

Mimi, D17: What do we do with SCWS surplus funds?

Tarisa: we go through an audit at the end of each year, which is when we determine what to do with the surplus. For example, we usually recommend that we send a contribution to WSO, because it's the only service arm "above" us. We could recommend that we spend it on a project. Then we make a recommendation at the Assembly and GRs decide.

Mimi: If a group decides they want to pay by Venmo or Zelle can they do that?

Tarisa: we are looking into the possibility of using that kind of payment system in the future, but our website is not safe enough to do that at this time.

Lynn, D40: Could we ask our other groups to pay and not penalize those that do attend the Assembly?

Teresa from D66: If we ask that our reimbursement for today's Assembly be mailed, will postage be part of the expense?

Tarisa: Not if it's mailed by the bank because they don't charge postage.

Stefie, D17: If we have a surplus, could we put it toward the next Assembly's expenses?

Tarisa: Unsure about the answer. We are working on creating a new website so there might be expenses with that. There is no way to know at this time. We will know more in January after our audit for this year is completed.

Donna: Reminded us that we are a nonprofit and we are not allowed to have a "profit" at the end of our fiscal year. We do what every AI-Anon group is supposed to do with its "excess" funds--we contribute them to the next service arm.

Lorraine D69: Read from p. 160, *Service Manual*: Are you asking us to compensate you for that? Are you asking for \$20 for it to go into the overages?

Tarisa: \$20 is a suggested amount to make this business meeting more self-supporting. Our expenses for this meeting are about \$,6000. This meeting has never been self-supporting. This is a way for the groups to make an informed decision as to how much to contribute.

## **COMMENTS RE TREASURER'S REPORT**

Lorraine, D69: Expenses have already been covered. When asking for us to bring money, it's redundancy.

Tarisa: Just like we estimate expenses, we estimate 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition income.

Josefa: Thinks it would be better not to quote a specific amount.

Dan, D40: Is this 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition referenced on pg. 4 for the Assembly?

Tarisa: No, that was from the Committee Meeting in August.

Dan: There are some line items that are confusing. Seems like we are asking for something that's already there.

Enid, D17: Not all groups send money to SCWS.

Jayne, Past Delegate: When our Area Delegate goes to the World Service Conference, the Area pays for it. On the last day of the Conference, they pass the 7th Tradition basket and many Delegates contribute to it. Some of them are reimbursed by their Areas and some are not. In my experience, there are 2 reasons people don't want to be GRs: dealing with the Treasurer's Report and then the Alateen Report.

Linda, D8: We were told to bring \$20. Our groups donate our excess which would make it zero. Doesn't make sense.

Rosa, D64: Question about the \$20. We need to be self-sufficient. In the report, we have \$90,000 excess. Could we put the whole budget together with the Assembly's typical 7th Tradition included?

Tarisa: all these things are already in the budget.

Patricia, D72: Treasurer's job is to inform us and encourage us. We can never have too much money to reach out to the families of alcoholics. If our groups can afford it, then we should give as much as we can to every service arm, including the Area.

- Elaine, D75: Offered a motion to accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter financials as presented; David, D30 seconded. Clickers not working. 219 voting GRs. Yes: 219, No: 0, Abstentions: 0. Motion passed.
- Approval of projected budget: Joyce, D69, offered motion and Truck, D63 seconded. Yes: 217, No: 2, Abstentions: 0. Motion passed.

**F) Alternate Delegate's Report:** Eva Bisquera: Welcomed the 30 new GRs

- Sharing of Service (SOS)--January 18, 2020. There will be pre-registration in the lobby today.
- Forum subscription drawing will be done at the end of day.
- Ask it Basket to go around the room throughout the day.

**G) Observe 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition**

**H) Delegate's Report:** Marcia Meyer:

- Reviewed Delegate News: Theme for 2020 World Service Conference (WSC) will be: Dreaming Big With 20/20 Vision, WSC discussion topics, *Service Manual* changes and edits. Printed copy of the *Service Manual* will be available January/February. Also, can download on phone/tablet. WSO recognizes they are behind in their translation of *Service Manual* in Spanish and French. They will mail a copy to Spanish/French group's CMA. She tried ordering some literature online in Spanish and French but wasn't able to. She discussed WSO At-Large Committee openings and her willingness to help with resumes
- A.A. International Convention is July 2-5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan.
- In the Loop: provides an online connection we can all subscribe to by email. She shared on the question: Does Al-Anon have "Promises"?
- She introduced Brissa and Yoli. Yoli and Brissa introduced themselves and a new method for how to Spanish-speaking members can become more connected. They introduced an email for Spanish-speaking members: [preguntasdemiembroshispanos@scws-al-anon.org](mailto:preguntasdemiembroshispanos@scws-al-anon.org). Email

will go directly to Brissa, Yoli, Donna and Marcia so they can work together to answer questions/issues that arise.

- Fundraising (Handout H-3) on what protocols are.
- Can we form a new District? Districts are not formed by us. It is a complicated task. Many of the Districts have been established for a while. P.138 of the *Service Manual* references this.
- The Area's "Do Not Refer Policy" is on the Website. WSO has gotten back to us with feedback about our policy. We will be consulting with them in the coming months.
- Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) will be held in March 13-15 in San Rafael, CA. All are welcome to attend but without a voice or vote. Purpose of meeting is to prepare Delegates for the WSC in April.
- In one year, November 2020, we will be voting in the new SCWS panel. In summer (July/August) is when the current Board reviews resumes. She would like to encourage all to apply. Officer candidates must have been a DR whereas that is not a requirement for other positions. It is preferable for candidates to have been GRs.
- Drawing: There was a slip in every bag of clickers. A drawing for winners (of Al-Anon literature) will be done after lunch.

#### **D) Old Business:**

##### **1. Thought/Task Force Reports--District 64, Assembly, Insurance for Groups:**

- **D64:** Marcia gave some history about wanting more information. What we are working on right now is a survey. Brissa is translating. Hope to get it to every Spanish-speaking member in the area. Will have it available online as well as paper copies. Then they will communicate with members to discuss results and have contact with the other groups. Look for that in the near future
- Assembly Thought Force: has just started meeting.
- Insurance for Groups: has started meeting. Please fill out the green half-sheet questionnaire for the Area Insurance Thought Force and place in basket where clickers are.

##### **2. Area Alateen Resolution Committee Report--updating the Area Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements (ASBR):**

Bear: reviewed how they are updating the ASBRs; the document still needs to be revised and edited to clarify, simplify and adhere to the 12Steps, Traditions and Concepts. Committee is meeting a few times a week. They are about halfway through the document. Once finished, it will be reviewed by SCWS Board, legal counsel, and WSO. Finally, it will be approved by the GRs.

Donna: brought up the issue of legal counsel. She asked for GRs to think of any attorneys they might know. She read what was expected of the attorney, what prior knowledge and

experience is needed. She also gave her email and cell phone for suggesting suitable candidates.

### 3. SCAC Task Force:

Bear: gave some history; in March this Task Force was formed. It is continuing its work on the Southern California Alateen Conference (SCAC) Bylaws, SCAC Procedures, and SCAC Event Plan. SCAC Board of directors: duty of care, duty of loyalty, duty of obedience. (See full Report in *Bulletin*). Bylaws must be brought into alignment with the ASBRs.

Donna: we aren't voting today. We will use KBDM to consider the ASBR at the Board meeting and then the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting before presenting to Assembly. We wanted to show forward movement. We'll take a lunch break now and afterwards will take questions and comments on Bear's presentation.

### 12:10 Lunch break

#### J) Reconvened -- 1:10 p.m.

Raffle winners are Virginia, Tony C., Lyz K., Andy S., Enid M., Nancy R., Virginia G., Teresa K., Kathy L.

**Concepts:** Read by Micheila, D27.

Donna, Chair: Presented PowerPoint on the KBDM process and the difference between a question and a comment. She also referenced KBDM Quick Reference Tool handout with the 5 questions. Both documents are posted on the SCWS website.

#### **Questions (first) about report Bear did before lunch** (continuation of Old Business):

David, D30: If SCAC dissolves, could we still have minors on the board of SCAC?

Bear: we will look into that and consult the attorney about it.

Nancy, D57: Where can I print out of the information you presented?

Bear: it will be on the SCWS website.

What does ASBR stand for: Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements.

Mary, D66: Can we give you a pre-authorization to expedite the process for hiring legal counsel?

Donna: There is a procedure we go through before we come to Assembly to ask for the vote. If we vote today, we are suspending that process. We have to vote on that first (would the GRs present want to set aside our normal procedure for presenting issues to the Assembly) then we would have to decide what the amount would be. She asked for a show of hands--whether the GRs present would want to change our procedure and discuss this issue today. Based on the number of hands, the answer is "no" for now. We need to have substantial unanimity to move forward.

Andy S., D60: Are we using the 5 elements of KBDM? Open communication, dialogue before deliberation, all those involved in making the decision will have full access to all information, we have confidence in the competency of our partners, and "Presume Goodwill"--we exist in a culture of trust.

Barbara, D3: Would the *pro bono* attorney have to be an Al-Anon member?

Donna: No. We could work with someone who offers to do the work *pro bono* if they do it for other organizations. Referenced *Service Manual*, p.104-105.

Lyz, D75: Is there any thought about dividing California into three Areas instead of two?

Donna: We have discussed it in the past and it's not feasible.

Lyz: The term "dark meeting"--is that a conference-approved topic/term?

Donna: let's stay on topic for now, but we can talk about those items later.

### **Comments regarding Bear's presentation:**

Casey, D27: Believes we did not follow KBDM during discussion about the attorney. Doesn't believe the minority was heard, we never had a chance to discuss. Every year we don't have SCAC, another generation misses out on the opportunity to go. Let's just authorize that they don't have to wait until May for us to vote. If you need more money, then you can tell us to vote on that in May.

Melody, So Cal AA Convention: If we have to wait until May, 2020 to ensure the safety of our kids, she's okay waiting until then. I don't want to vote on anything that will put our kids in jeopardy.

Mimi, D17: I'm an AMIAS and a GR. She's at a meeting with 50 kids. They miss SCAC. She got an email from a former Alateen who is now an Al-Anon member saying that SCAC saved her life. Al-Anon is a program of action. We can't make Alateen so safe we don't have Alateen.

Kay, Past Delegate: We have an SCWS event that will be in January, maybe we can vote then.

Abby, Area Member Coordinator: She's never been to SCAC. We need to get this concrete, and we need to get it right, or it will get taken away again and then we won't get to have it at all. It needs time to get it right.

Stefy, D17: Sharing as a *pro bono* provider, the process will be slower and take longer if we aren't paying for the person's time.

Jayne, Past Delegate: has some history of Alateen in this Area. SCAC is not Alateen, it is an event. SCWS has the financial oversight of SCAC's treasury; we don't need to go backwards.

Belinda, D60: believes it is a call to action to find someone who could help us because we have many talented people among us. She believes Behavioral requirements and SCAC structure are different. Maybe we could have 2 separate attorneys to help us-- attorneys who can advise rather than being litigators.

Linda, D54: This process has been going on for many years. Yes, SCAC needs to come back but it needs to be within the guidelines. We need to cooperate with the process.

Tim, D27: I've raised 3 sons. We need to remember this is a potentially fatal disease. Shared his experience as a parent and how safety is important.

Carol G., D60: This is just the beginning. We are also doing safety for fundraising.

Dan, former Area Archives Coordinator: Gave some history of when it was in the beginning stages. He believes the SCAC Task Force has it really dialed in. If we do this, we will have a convention we can be proud of.

Barbara, D3: She invited Alateens to come to AFG.

Jida, AEC: Alateens are great. We don't go to the past. Thank you for everyone's hard work. Referenced *Service Manual*, Tradition 8 "employ special workers". We need someone with the expertise.

Jackie, Fullerton: Whatever the process is to get us into good standing, it would be good to have more Alateen meetings rather than just being concerned with an annual convention. Then we could give daily/weekly support to the Alateens.

**K) New Business:**

1. Group and Member Concerns: Fundraising for Events--see handout "Al-Anon Fundraising" document on SCWS website.
2. *Bulletin* Task Force--re-imagining it for the digital age: Bruce was not able to be present. Donna gave out his email address; let him know if you are interested in participating.

**L) Hospitality Report:** Shauna Spellman: thanked all who brought snacks today. SOS: 33, 36, 39, 63, 66, 40. Host districts for February 15, 2020 Area World Service Committee Meeting: 8, 12, 17.

**M) Coordinator Reports** (see complete Reports in *Bulletin*):

- AIS-LDC Coordinator: Andy: Went to Northern CA Assembly Oct. 4-6 for his Service Event, shared how it went and all that he learned.
- Archives: Carol G. Longtimer Meeting -- request for group history, also would like help. Also, it will be held at a more centrally-located facility August 1<sup>st</sup>. More details to come.
- Area Alateen Communications Coordinator: Suzanne: Sponsorship workshops in San Diego County, Ventura County, LA County. Trainings are pertinent.
- Area Alateen Events Coordinator: Jida: The system is working well. Approved 32 events for Alateen compared to 11 or 12 the year before. Safety for Alateens and safety for the AMIAS's is central. All Forms are online. Recertification workshop is important for AMIAS's to be informed and educated about current practices.
- Area Alateen Member Coordinator: Abby W. working on the ASBRs, was Chairperson for RAD (Roundup Alateen Day).
- Area Alateen Process Person: Laura: she has closed 19 Alateen meetings. District 3 has a new Alateen meeting. Your level of participation on any level is appreciated.
- Area Alateen Sponsor Coordinator: Bear: has been sending out emails to get annual re/certification workshops on the calendar. He would like to have the schedule completed by the end of November.
- Bulletin: Bruce: not present
- Cooperating with Professional Community: Yoly: she now completes the public outreach team, they are able and willing to work together. Connected with, and delivered AFAs to some homeless shelters and universities.

- Group Records: Mary M.: 1,242 Active groups, 326 Inactive groups, 63 No Mail status, 16 Reported as Not Meeting, 6 Bounced Emails, 6 new meetings.
- Institutions: Sandy W. working with programs in the drug and alcohol courts, some schools. She's working on a project of distributing pens that displays information about Al-Anon (she demonstrated how the pens work).
- Literature: Judy P.: sharings (writings) are always needed for the *Forum*. Also, there is a new daily reader in the works. WSO is collecting writings from Alateen and Al-Anon as well as anyone else who feels their voice is missing from our current daily readers. Email her if you would like to participate.
- Public Information: Kathy G., still doing public outreach with schools
- Spanish Coordinator: Brissa: excited about having a new email address for Spanish members to contact her.
- Website: Ben: dedicated a page on the SCWS website for new GRs. Lots of documents on there to educate new GRs about their positions and the Area. If you find any inaccurate information, please let him know.

**N) Convention Chairpersons Reports** (these were presented earlier in the program)

Suzie, AFG 2020 Chair: April 3-5 Double tree hotel in Ontario. Theme: Footsteps to Serenity. Mail-in Registration is available, online registration is now open. Boutique needs a co-chair. Profit for Alateen luncheon was \$500 to go toward their portion of AFG. Thank you everyone. Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month, 1-3 in Yorba Linda

Melody: SoCal AA Convention Al-Anon Chair: Sept 18-20 in Palm Springs. She's getting her committee together. Right now working on the fundraising.

Jasmine: YHA Chair: one-day convention. About 130 attended, about 12 Alateens came. On Facebook. December 7<sup>th</sup>: 5:30 p.m., fundraising event \$10 at Hole in the Sky in Woodland Hills.

**O) Intergroup Liaisons Reports**

- Roxanne, San Diego: office moved locations, change in finances, working on growing Alateen membership.
- Ana, Inland Empire: Doing some work with institutions, behavioral health, recovery homes as well as Hispanic community. Going to share Al-Anon and Alateen with children in CPS. You can get gift certificates now for their LDC.
- Casey, LA (filling in): over 500 meetings, printed new directories, saved over \$200 with printing. LDC can ship to you. Casey will be the new Chair. Revising Bylaws.
- Marque, OC: 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alathon with 4 speakers on December 7<sup>th</sup>. AFG Convention: Raffle baskets -- asking groups to make one. Intergroup office open one day a month, now accept credit cards, and they have a color copier.

*Forum* subscription winners: Adrian B., Cyndy P., Jasmine, Rosa E.

**P) Ask-it Basket Questions:** Eva

- Why is Old Business not given more time? Donna: because of our time commitment to get through the Agenda.
- My sponsor is telling me it's taking me too long to complete my 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> step. If I don't complete it she won't sponsor me anymore. Marcia suggested reading the Sponsorship Bookmark and Sponsorship Pamphlet as well as pertinent pages in the *Service Manual*. As we all know, the way we go through the steps is very individual. It is your program and you can tell the person it doesn't feel right. There isn't a time limit.
- Brissa answered an Ask-It Basket question in Spanish: Can other groups join us? Yes. Can English-speaking groups in Imperial Valley be part of same District? Yes.

**Q) District Reps and Al-Anon Related Announcements**

- Cyndy P., D12: Alateen meetings in a junior high as well as a high school. More schools are asking for meetings.
- Barbara, D17: Held a successful workshop on the new Intimacy book. About 60 members attended. Also hosted an AMIAS Meet and Greet. This is her last Assembly as DR because of rotation of leadership.
- Anne, D45: Hosted an event, very well-received. Had 8 speakers.
- Tina, D33: Event had 66 attendees. Hosting AMIAS certification in February.
- Lou, D40: Alathon Fundraiser: raised over \$1,000. Now have 5 new AMIASs and registering a new Alateen meeting today.
- Dan, D57: 2 active Al-Anon meetings and 1 Alateen meeting. Grunyon Gazette: Advertisement in paper cost \$1,200 for 6 months.
- Libby, D75: District did a 4<sup>th</sup> step inventory. This is her last Assembly because of rotation of leadership.
- Bob, D69: January 25<sup>th</sup> they are hosting an event.
- Tracy, D9: 36 active meetings, 2 meetings a day, outreach to the schools and Sheriff's Department. This her last Assembly because of rotation of leadership.
- Sandra, D3: Host a Speaker meeting 1x month, had 2 workshops on the Traditions, finished Central Coast Roundup, having an anniversary Speaker meeting on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>
- Micheila, D27: had first Alathon in Malibu which was very successful. Will have it at same venue next year. Did a 360 campaign for National Recovery Month.
- Sam, D36: Event Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, holiday potluck
- Teresa, D30: Alathon in October was successful. Didn't charge anyone because it was our gift to them. May 30<sup>th</sup> will be AMIAS certification.

Roxanne, SD AIS Liaison, offered a motion to close the meeting, Barbara, D17 seconded at 3:35pm. Yes: Unanimous. Motion passed.

Ended meeting with the *Al-Anon Declaration*.