

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORLD SERVICE (SCWS)
AREA ASSEMBLY - MAY 18, 2019
MINUTES**

9:00 a.m. -- meeting called to order

- A) **Chairperson's Report** Donna Emmanuel
- Moment of Silence -- Serenity Prayer and Welcome
 - Welcome -- Past Delegates Jayme Crisafi, Kay Dornbush, Willie Williams and new GRs
 - Donna: explained the purpose of the Assembly to the new GRs
 - Guidelines for Participation & Who Has a Voice and a Vote
 - Alateen Lunch Announcement: Mia., AFG Alateen Chair for AFG 2020. The money from the \$10 lunch ticket supports Alateens at AFG.
- B) Traditions read by: Elsa, District #21. After the Traditions were read, Donna: reminded members that the Assembly voted that we do not repeat/chant specific words from our Conference Approved Literature (CAL) so as to not elevate certain words to a higher status than others.
- C) **Group Records Coordinator** Roll Call Mary Myers
Registered GRs voting: 197
- D) **Secretary** Marley Dowling substituting for Laleña Cekosky
- Approval of November 17, 2018 Assembly Minutes:
 - Group Representatives (GRs) who attended the 2018 November Assembly may vote on the Minutes. One revision from Vicki D-72: 2nd and 3rd question "recertified" should be replaced with "resubmitted", "rescreened" not "resubmitted". Clickers were not working, so voting was conducted by a show of hands.
 - Tracy G.,D-9: Motion to accept the Minutes with revisions, 2nd Donna M.,D-57. Unanimous of minutes.
- E) **Treasurer's Report** Tarisa Ramserran
- Delay in screen presentation due to audiovisual equipment issues. Verbal report first.
 - 1st quarter contributions to SCWS from individuals, Groups, Districts and AISs: \$22,170.94
 - The CA(S) group contributions to WSO from July – Dec 2018 was \$52,598.35. The list is available on the table, if you want to see what your group contributed.
 - 16 group contributions checks to SCWS were received without a group ID number. Some had "WSO ID" numbers with letters, which no AI-Anon WSO number has. Tarisa needs to credit the appropriate group, and in keeping with AI-Anon's Tradition of declining outside contributions – she needs to know that the contributions come from AI-Anon members ONLY and registered meetings with WSO ID numbers. Tarisa emailed the DRs of the 16 unidentified contributions in April – please respond. Contribution often gives address of a facility not in our database, the facility has numerous meetings, or meeting has moved but not notified.
 - Made a contribution form for every meeting. Please take back to meetings and include the form with every group contribution. The form is also on the SCWS website.

- Info needed: REAL WSO number, District number, email for receipts (NO mailed receipts) People have been putting home address. If treasurer doesn't have email address, put the email address of secretary or CMA. She sent receipts to DRs
- (Financial information now on screen) Statement of financial position – 1st quarter of this year, total in bank \$74,691.32.
- Accounting system on modified accrual basis not cash basis; for example, we paid rent for a whole year – prepaid but haven't actually used. Reimbursements are on a cash basis
- Page 2: one thing stands out – 2019 financials compared with the same quarter of 2018: significantly more money in bank in 2019 because reimbursements of \$7000 were submitted and paid in 2018 after the 2017 books were closed. It's taken until last quarter to catch up. New procedure for Board members: all need to turn in receipts for reimbursement every 45 days. They can't wait until the end of the year.
- January had a profit but February and March had a loss. Overall, we brought in more than we spent for 1st quarter of 2019.
- Page 4, previous year comparison: 7th tradition at Assembly is up 337%. This increase was mainly due to new awareness from information presented last November about the average expense of an Assembly.
- District contributions are down – Jan-March
- Convention contributions: SCWS is not receiving contributions from local Conventions that have AI-Anon participation. Convention Guidelines speak of contributing to Service Arms funds that are in excess of "Seed money".
- The increase in cost for background check is due to the May 2018 Assembly voting that all current AMIAs must have a complete background check and many longtime AMIAs have not had a full background. Funds from savings account that was set aside for this project will be transferred to the checking account to offset the increase.
- Comparison from budget to what actually spent. 112% We brought in more than expected but also spent more. Overall fine because balanced out
- Reviewed how the 7th Tradition collection at Assembly is spent – last Nov Assembly – 1st time 7th tradition was over \$2362. Amazing. Expenses for Nov 2018 Assembly was \$6,690. Suggested donation \$20 per group: this is the group's contribution to the Assembly. Your meeting should have already discussed and decided how much to contribute to the Assembly. If every meeting put in \$20 the Assembly could be self-supporting. However this is not required and meetings are encouraged to contribute what they can.
- Group Representative Expenses – AREA reimburses \$100/person for hotel if traveling more than 200 miles round trip. The amount over \$100 is paid for by your meeting or district. Double occupancy is encouraged. Mileage: if travel more than 100 miles round trip, group responsible for the first 100 miles, (at .40/mile = \$40) The remaining miles are covered by the Area. GRs need to help educate their group by referring to Service Manual and GR Guidelines regarding necessary and acceptable expenses to attend District and Assembly meetings. Service should not cost money and groups can budget for these expenses. Mileage reimbursement can be completed, turned in, and pick up check from Tarisa TODAY – at the Assembly.
- Dec 31st books closed. The audit was conducted and completed. The findings indicated that the Area's accounts were in order. Accounting shows surplus of \$5330.04, however, outstanding training expenses need to be deducted so surplus for 2018 is actually \$2530.04. Recommending to contribute surplus of \$2530.04 to WSO.
- QUESTIONS/Comments

- Micheila, D-27: Clarified that convention contributions were down 95% and also District contributions were down compared to last year's quarter. This applies to the first quarter ONLY. Reminder that the conventions are supposed to send surplus to service arms.
- Tim, D-27: revenue and expense report at bottom – should it say “expenses” not “revenue” (Pg F6)? Tarisa: Yes – that should be corrected. Will change total “revenue” to “expenses.”
- Nancy, D-12: Pg. 1 under what is retained earnings “OE” – what is it? Willie W. answered: “Owners Equity” is the
- Bruce, D-27: Raised this point before – has an issue with the wording that Assembly meeting needs to be self-supporting. All meetings don't have to be self-supporting, only individual AI-Anon groups should be self-supporting. The Assembly should be paid for out of group contributions to Area.
- Tarisa: All events in the Area strive to be self-supporting. Group contributions pay for ALL Area expenses. 7th Tradition isn't intended to throw more money at the Area but to pay for this event/Assembly, in addition to other Area expenses. Her announcement is a way of raising awareness of the cost of the Assembly vs the past GR/group contributions at Assembly.
- Carol, D-60: Referred to *Service Manual* regarding conventions. Once a Convention meets its expenses and retains “seed” money for next year, surplus funds are to be distributed to the other service arms.
- Donna: Groups are within their autonomy to create their financial budget (pg. 55). Groups retain “just enough funds to pay the GR expenses to Assembly.” Interpretation of the Area is that the Assembly is a business meeting, therefore, groups should contribute to the cost of hosting the Assembly via the 7th Tradition basket. Many areas charge a registration fee for attending their Assembly.
- Also, being of service should not cost us money. Even if a GR can afford it personally, not asking for reimbursement from your Group's Treasurer sends the wrong message to the group and the next GR, who might not be able to afford to attend the Assembly without being reimbursed.
- KayDornbush/ Past Delegate: Our group sends quarterly donations to SCWS. If we start paying a fee to send GR to assembly, you will lose. It's up to group autonomy how to support this Assembly. Our group has chosen to make a small donation today for Assembly, but we give a larger quarterly contribution.
- Liz, D-75: Second to last slide of the presentation shows there is a surplus of \$2,000 for 2018 – suggest not distributing until expenses from this Assembly be paid.
- Tarisa: This was surplus from last year, and we are starting another year. We distribute our surplus funds to the next level of service arms per AI-Anon Tradition. Will need to do hand count for approving financials with correction that Tim made.
- Motion to approve the first quarter financials as amended made by Enid, D-17; Second: Marilyn, D-66. All voting GRs please stand - approved – unanimous.
- Motion to send surplus of 2018 \$2,530.40 to WSO? Motion: Saadia, D-33; Second- Maureen, D-12.
- Casey, D-27: Wants to discuss that motion. We were just told we can't use surplus from previous year on expenses for the following year and that we have to use it in the current year. Is that correct?
- Tarisa: We have a prudent reserve of \$35,000. Plus we have money in savings account for on-going projects.
- Cathy, D-3: Is the prudent reserve specific to the Assembly?

- Tarisa: The reserve may be used for any expenses to the Area including all Area meetings.
 - VOTE: NO votes – 14 ; Abstentions – 5; the rest of the voters: YES
 - Voting clickers were inoperable so it was not possible to get an exact count of the “yes” votes. It was observed to be a clear majority.
- F) Observed 7th Tradition (Continued the meeting while baskets were being passed)
- G) **Alternate Delegate’s Report & Area Forum Coordinator** Eva Bisquera
- Sharing of Service (SOS): Jan. 18, 2020
 - Ask-It Basket: Questions/answers will be published in *Bulletin*; talk with Bruce regarding subscriptions to the *Bulletin*.
 - *Forum* Subscriptions can: put \$1 or whatever you can afford in *Forum* can, to be eligible to win a *Forum* subscription at the end of today.
 - SWRDM Report: Southwest Region includes AZ, CA North & South, Hawaii, New Mexico/El Paso, CO & Utah. Was her 4th SWRDM: humbling and powerful experience. What attendees will see when they attend: the meaning of Big P, Little P, Big T, Little T. We are going to have these workshops for the Sharing of Service workshop January 18, 2020. .
- H) **Delegate’s Report** Marcia Meyer
- For those districts that sent love gifts to the World Service Conference (WSC) for the Delegate to distribute – thank you so much. The Love Gifts that were supposed to come back to our Area to share were lost, due to post office issues.
 - To show appreciation for members attending the Assembly, there will be “Door Prize” drawings right after lunch. The “prizes” are CAL: *Many Voices, One Journey*; *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* (New); *When I got Busy, I Got Better*; *Courage to Be Me*; *Living with Alcoholism*; and *Groups at Work*.
 - This year’s Delegate Report Powerpoint is different from last year’s based on your feedback. Hopefully the font size is large enough to be seen from the back of the room.
 - Every year Conference members make suggestions for the next Conference theme. The Conference Leadership Team reviews the suggestions and picks one, making sure the theme can translate well into Spanish and French. 2019 Conference Theme: “Action is Attraction – There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone”.
 - Please see the complete Delegate’s written Report in the *Bulletin* and the PowerPoint presentation on the SCWS website (scws-al-anon.org).
 - The Delegate is happy to attend a District meeting on a weekend. Suggested one-hour minimum for presentation due to travel time as she lives in San Diego. Unlikely to be able to attend a midweek District meeting.
 - Shared information regarding using Conference Approved Literature (CAL), using current editions and copies of CAL.
 - Documents on this topic from Sue Perez (Associate Director-Group Services, WSO) are available on SCWS website.
 - Question: Using older editions of our *Service Manual* – “the new *Service Manual* REPLACES the old *Service Manual*” so the old versions are OUT OF DATE.
 - **We no longer use hand-typed copies of CAL.** Before our *Service Manual* was published, WSO originally gave a notebook with typed pages to registered meetings. There have been many changes/updates since these notebooks were distributed many years ago. Some groups are still hanging onto those outdated notebooks or other old, typed

copies. *A hand-typed copy is not considered "CAL".* When you use these materials for your Opening, Closing and other meeting format readings, our members have no clue where to find the actual CAL. New members may feel that the "notebook" is only for a select few who are in higher group positions, for those "in the know," and may not understand that the information is available for everyone to read/have. It is strongly suggested to have copies of *Groups at Work* available from which members can read during the meeting. Some groups purchase one copy per member. They are not expensive and some members prefer to buy their own copy.

- The 1960s edition of *Living with an Alcoholic*: There is no policy for using literature that's out of print. But why would you? Revisions reflect what's happening now in Al-Anon based on member feedback. There are great articles in the May and June *Forum* about CAL written by Tom Coffey, Associate Director- Literature, WSO.
- Making copies of CAL? Please refer to the *Service Manual* (starting on p. 108) and read information regarding CAL/Copyright. You may download the *Service Manual* from the WSO website as an interactive PDF. Pages can be scaled up/enlarged then printed so the font size is larger, especially for meeting format readings. Or print out the page as is, and then increase the scale/copy size on the printer/copier. This way it is the actual CAL but increasing the font size makes it easier for visually-impaired members to read it.

I) **Old Business**

1. **Creating a Safe SCAC (Southern California Alateen Conference) 2020 Task Force Report: Changes to the Draft Area Safety & Behavioral Requirements (ASBR) . . .**

..... Gerald (Bear) Weil

- The work of this Task Force has turned out to be much more complicated and required more detail than we originally thought.
- Appointed in February, 2019. First met March 24th and have been meeting almost weekly.
- Main objective: to revise SCAC Bylaws then to move forward into SCAC.
- The Area Safety and Behavioral Requirements need to be revised first, then incorporated into the SCAC Bylaws.
- The ASBRs need to be reviewed by legal counsel familiar with California laws regarding minors.
- The ASBRs are then sent to WSO for review/revisions/approval.
- Then the ASBRs are submitted to the Area World Service Conference (AWSC), then to the Assembly for GRs approval. The earliest the ASBRs could be ready for Assembly approval would be November, 2019. That still leaves the process in which the ASBRs are incorporated into the SCAC Bylaws, and the Bylaws are approved by the Assembly. After the SCAC Bylaws are approved, a SCAC Committee is formed to begin preparations for SCAC, including the Alateen Event Plan, etc. There are timelines for all of these pieces.
- We wish could say when this will happen. It is highly unlikely that this process will be completed in time for SCAC to be held in 2020. We are sad to report this unpredictable turn of events, and are sorry that we could not meet the original timeline.

Questions: . Kat, Alateen Member Coordinator: How many members are on Task Force? Bear: Ten. Kat: How many are Alateens? Bear: 1. 10% are Alateens. Kat: Why is percentage so

low and who made that decision? Bear: Board. Kat: I'm concerned about that. It's not from lack of willingness of Alateens to participate. We are used to feeling lied to by alcoholics – so we don't appreciate feeling that way in our program, from AI-Anons

Leah, D17. Last SCAC was in 2016. It's 2019. Three years for legal counsel to do all of this. Why did it take this long to do this? Bear: A Task Force was formed immediately after SCAC was canceled. A Report was passed to the Resolution Committee. They worked on it. Plan for SCAC was written up by that Task Force, but it was not complete and didn't address the revision of the Bylaws. Leah: Do we have outside counsel and are they an AI-Anon member. Donna: We are in the process of engaging outside counsel for SCWS. It's not appropriate to comment on whether or not he or she is an AI-Anon member. Leah: SCAC is such a big part of our program, so disappointed that it isn't happening yet after all this time.

Nia, D60: If only 1% [of Alateens' behaviors] were unsafe but other 99% are safe, why do there have to be so many guidelines? The Alateen community is for making new friends. I expected to go to nine SCACs because my first SCAC was 2013. Not going to happen. It's not going to be in 2020, we know that, so I won't be able to go to SCAC again. Obviously. It's for Alateens. I'll be aging out in 2021. As long as Alateen is here and I have a voice and vote, I'm going to fight for Alateen and SCAC. It doesn't feel like we're together Alanon/Alateen – so many rules but no outcome. I feel a part of my program is being taken away from me because it's such a fun thing. I've gone to two SCACs and I got to see everything. Now I'm not going to be able to go to another one ever.

Tracy, D9: Thanks for the work and your genuine care, Bear. Question: why are we required to get approval from WSO? If we follow guidelines that have already been voted on? Marcia: background: We thought we would be ready to have SCAC for 2020. Please presume good will. I was at the World Service Conference and Sue Perez said from the podium: "and when there are revisions for ASBRs, they have to go back to WSO because WSO was the body that approved your requirements the first time." It's disappointing but WSO is the guardian of the Alateen name. Because of poor communication issues in the past, WSO was informed that we were not following the Area's ASBRs. In 2017, WSO revoked our permission to register any new Alateen meetings because our Area had not been complying with our own ASBRs and WSO's requirements. They have a group of people working on these policy divisions. At the Conference, Marcia asked Sue Perez: do we need to send the ASBR revisions to WSO? She said yes. When we change them, we have to go through this review and approval process. When we created the ASBRs originally, the process was different.

We recently sent them our latest revision, expecting WSO to approve them quickly. Instead, they came back with a number of questions and revisions, some of which cannot be resolved quickly. Another piece we were unaware of is that we have to have the ASBRs reviewed by legal counsel. These are things we did not know. We apologize for that. We are going to be working on all of this. Bear was the bearer of bad news. Awareness – We all now have an awareness of the process we need to do. We're using the Alateen name that WSO allows us to use. So we have no choice but to follow the process they've determined. This has to do with legally protecting minors and AI-Anon as a whole.

Sybil, D30: Wanted to get more AMIASs in District so I registered as an AMIAS. Easy. Did it at my house. What can we do as groups or members to support this process in the meantime? Bear: good question. Important to remember that SCAC is not the Alateen program. It's an event that's historically been put on in Southern California so Alateens could get together for meetings, fellowship, and fun. It happens to have been a powerful event. But that's not the Alateen program. The Alateen program is the meetings, Alateen CAL, and outreach. Alateen meetings are closing because membership is dwindling. There are things we can do in our Districts, in our meetings, to support Alateens – increase sponsorship. It's fun.

Bruce, D27: is it correct that we do have an existing ASBR? Bear: Yes. Bruce: Does the convention have separate Bylaws. Bear: Yes. Bruce: I don't understand why there cannot be a SCAC or "ought" not be a SCAC. Bear: SCAC is its own 501(c)3 tax exempt corporation. The current Bylaws have no provision in it for the situation we're dealing with, which is to provide guidance from year to year, with no standing committee. We have to build it. No way to elect or select a SCAC Chair or Sponsor – all of that has to be put into new document. Bruce: There is no existing structure or Board? Bear: The way it used to work: there was a meeting after SCAC to form a new committee to meet with old committee. The former SCAC Chair usually aged out. There is no provision now to find a SCAC Chair. Bruce: This was an adult problem but the kids were the ones who suffered the consequences.

Christina, D3 and Alateen Liaison (DAL). Alateens can go Al-Anon meetings. Can they go to Al-Anon conventions?

Joyce, D69: It's a legal issue. In 2003 the World Service Conference said that we legally had to change our oversight of Alateens but we didn't even start to try to change our structure until 2013. Threats of suits can harm Al-Anon as a whole.

Kat, Alateen Member Coordinator. Bear repeated that SCAC is not the Alateen program. Membership has dropped since it was canceled. Task Force members didn't find out this information until this morning. I don't understand why there isn't better communications with those of us who are affected by this information.

Bear: That's on me. I found out 2 weeks ago.

Donna: We created the Task Force and named it Safe SCAC 2020 because we thought it would be a piece of cake, as most of the ASBR changes had already been voted on at our Assemblies. Marcia called me from the World Service Conference informing me that she'd just learned that the ASBRs had to be reviewed and approved by the WSO before the final version could be voted on at our Assembly. That day, I sent the changes to Sue Perez, at WSO, thinking this would be a "no brainer." Last week, we got them back from her and another staff member – with a lot of comments. Several issues were substantive that will require time to review and reason out, then determine a policy. We were as taken aback as you are. All of this was a shock.

Kat: What concerns me is all the false information given to Alateens just last week, since you've had this information. .

Donna: This was a no-win situation. We didn't think sending an email trying to explain all of the ins and outs of these issues and ending with the message "no SCAC in 2020" was the right way to go. So we decided to wait until the Assembly, when we could talk to everyone and "reason things out" in person about this complex situation. Our Higher Power is in charge. I am really sorry, as are the Officers, the Board and the Task Force members. If we could talk to Sue Perez, she would probably say that she's sorry, but we have to address all of these issues before WSO can approve the changes.

Willie W., Past Delegate: I've been very involved with SCAC. I've attended 25, 26 in a row. I was part of the group that originally incorporated SCAC. Two issues: The Al-Anon fellowship is one entity, SCWS is incorporated as a part of the AFG, and SCAC is a separate corporation with its own Board of Directors and Bylaws. SCAC is a separate corporation that sponsors an event that houses youth who happen to be Alateens. The issue that we are faced with, that AFG is faced with: WSO has the power to withhold the Alateen name. SCAC depends on funds from the Area, the use of the name, and kids that attend are from the Alateen fellowship. We have to protect the Alateen name. If the Area's Al-Anon meetings withhold the funds and all that our meetings do to contribute to SCAC, SCAC can't support itself. How would they fund themselves? Who protects the kids?

2021 is still an optimistic date for SCAC. It's very complicated to merge these corporations which have separate Bylaws so can have a united community when it does happen.

Casey, D27: Donna, I have noticed when someone says something you are not in support of, you are more likely to pull the mike or stop applause. I ask that you apply the rules fairly. Limiting Alateen participation in a conversation that affects Alateens is not okay.

Vanessa, D10: Came into this room, no Alateens involved and not allowed to speak because they're not Group Reps. Last Assembly, there was a petition that they were all willing to be involved. Not allowing Alateens to participate even if they're willing is wrong. It's been this way in three Assemblies about this issue with no input from Alateens. They're trying to contribute voice, thoughts, energy. There's been no forward momentum. Upset with how my sisters and brothers in Alateen are being treated. They need to be respected and need to be involved. We are not being heard—saying that—but still not heard. How to change that? Bear: I am the Area Sponsor Coordinator and have a role interacting with Alateens. Aware of this situation for many years. Encourage Alateens to become Group Reps to have voice and vote at Assembly. That's the only thing I can think of to increase their participation.

Rob, Chair YHA convention, GR D17: Interested in the motion to give a vote to Past Delegates at Committee meetings. Perhaps form a Task Force to give all Alateens voice and vote at Assembly.

Diane, D57: Before I got here 32 years ago, chaperoned in public schools before Al-Anon. Overnight programs were coordinated through the public school. Substantial paperwork was required on each child. There were a lot of guidelines and rules to follow. I went to SCAC as a chaperone. I was pretty surprised at how few guidelines there were at SCAC.

Thought: there is a huge liability here. There had to be rules to protect children, chaperones, institutions. Going forward, everything must be done to protect the whole enchilada .

Tina, D21: Alateen Sponsor for 14 years. Both churches where Alateen meetings were held required me to go through their class for protecting children. I've had to be fingerprinted at the facility. I don't want Alateens to have voice and vote at Assembly unless they're GRs.

Carol, D60: I want our organization to be around. Boy Scouts may not be around because of abuse issues with children. It is critical not to jeopardize our program. If no AI-Anon, there won't be SCAC. Our officers are taking lots of abuse. Officers are volunteers. If the abuse continues, who would want to volunteer to be an officer?

Chelsea, D2: How can we compare the large number of AI-Anons with the small number of Alateens? Only a few Alateens. You [AI-Anons] are responsible for us. Although we all want to participate and have a say in events that concern us, we can't have an impact. I get that you are concerned about our safety...and we acknowledge that safety is necessary. You are the voice for us than we are for ourselves. We see all these people trying to have a say but we can't have an impact. Thank you for trying to bring back this event but you are responsible over us and it's annoying.

Leah: something that happened the last Assembly. Presentation was made. We corrected some of the things. Someone said to her afterwards, "That was a comment not a question. Your people [Alateens] aren't doing it correctly." Alateens are not becoming GRs because we're afraid of coming here sometimes.

STOPPED FOR LUNCH 12:25p

12:25 p.m. Lunch Break –

Alateens from the AFG Convention will provide lunch for the first 200 people who buy tickets: \$10 each.

RESUMED MEETING: 1:28pm

Vanessa, D10 asked to read Tradition Two of Conflict Resolution card.

Donna read the Wallet Card – "Loving Interchange to Resolve Conflict" S-71

Drew names from a hat for books donated by Delegate. Six books won by: Denise H. D21, Cecelia M., Cecelia M., James P. D21, Lupe C., Sofia C.

Old Business (continued)

2. District 64—Marcia and Brissa: will create a survey to send out to everyone regarding what's working and what's not working in the District 64 Spanish-speaking overlay district.
3. Thought Forces to explore:

- a. Assembly – what are the possibilities for changing our location? Timing? Frequency? Many other considerations re changing Assembly. How do other Areas structure their Assemblies? Members of the Thought Force: Kay D., D12; Willie W., D24; Lalena C., D12; Eva B., D75; Micheila, D27, Chair
- b. Insurance for Groups in Area--research solutions for groups in our Area regarding the request by facilities to provide certificates of insurance for AI-Anon and Alateen Group meetings. Members: Chris C., D40; Jocelyn F., D8; Joyce D., D69; Laura H., D69; Maureen D., D12; Eva B., D69; Elaine A., D75, Chair

Concepts read by: Camille, D27

- 4. Delegate, Marcia: Area Group and Member Concerns Update
 - a. Powerpoint – background of the Group and Member Concerns Policy
 - b. There's now an email address to send your concerns:
groupandmemberconcerns@scws-al-anon.org
 - c. All emails go to Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Chair. The process of addressing concerns begins with consulting the *Service Manual* and other CAL.
 - d. Some issues come up over and over. Several to address today:
 - i. Groups that require women to wear skirts/dresses to be a speaker
 - ii. Groups that tell members that you can't share if you are a member of AA
 - iii. Use of AA Big Book during AI-Anon meetings
 - iv. Groups that display/use "AI-Anon Promises"
 - v. Groups that use prayers from a specific religious denominations
 - vi. What can we do if conflict results from bringing the CAL information to our meeting?
 - e. Skits presented addressing these issues, along with CAL quotes. These will be posted on the SCWS website.

K) **New Business**

- 1. Election of new Area Secretary – previous Secretary moved out of the Area. Resume presented for one candidate, Lalena C., who has been acting as the Interim Secretary. MOTION yes/no vote: Donna M., D57 made the motion, seconded by Larry. D8. 1 abstention, rest of votes: YES. Motion passed: Lalena C. is new SCWS Secretary.

7th Tradition Report, Tarisa: 7th Tradition today brought in \$2,698.26.

Alateen Lunch Report: \$1,100 raised today. Remaining cookies are being sold for \$1 each.

- 2. Treasurer: Tarisa: Recommendation that Past Delegates (PD) be reimbursed for mileage and hotel for AWSC and Assemblies.
 - a. Recommendation would include PDs who still reside in CA South only. Reimbursement rate the same as for other Board members.
 - b. KBDM: They share knowledge of the Area, past World Service Conferences and history during meetings.
 - c. Members could benefit from their experience strength and hope.

- d. What know about our resources relevant to this topic? Eight PDs living in our Area. Panel 52, 49, 43, 40, 37. Two might require hotel/overnights. Only 2 or 3 attend. \$90 if they are reimbursed
- e. Consulted other Areas via AFG Connects. 21 Areas responded. 13 Areas reimburse PDs to attend meetings. The Areas that don't are much smaller than others that do.
- f. Groups support their GRs. PDs don't have any service arm to support their attendance.
- g. PROS: PDs who may not have been able to attend would be able to come.
- h. Demonstrates appreciation for their experience strength and hope
- i. CON -- some financial obligation placed on our Area
- j. What do we wish we knew but don't: Would this encourage more attendance from PDs? Could there be a time when there are too many who want to attend, and it would become too expensive?
- k. Area has invested in our PDs and have an obligation to support them attending. Tarisa called and asked several PDs who are not attending if the lack of reimbursement was the reason.
- l. Five PDs are not regularly attending. Of those, 3 said that money was not the issue. If at the time when they stopped, if they had been reimbursed, would they have come? They said when you're of service at that level, you will spend your own money out of pocket to be of service.
- m. Question: What is the current reimbursement policy for Board members? Round trip mileage reimbursed and full cost of hotel (encourage double occupancy).
- n. Questions/Comments: Donna M., D57: Appreciate the experience strength and hope from PDs. They often brings peace to the conversations.
- o. Gail, D8: PDs said didn't need money to come. And you mentioned that we have a deficit. Tarisa: They would have come even if they hadn't been reimbursed, not that they didn't need the money.

MOTION: SCWS Past Delegates who attend the SCWS Area Assembly and Committee meetings to be reimbursed for mileage and hotel the same as Board members. Motion: Joyce D., D69. Seconded by Sam, D36. No votes: 11. Abstentions: 7. All others present voted Yes. Motion passed.

- 3. Donna: Our SCWS Bylaws do not specify who has a *vote* at the Committee (AWSC) meetings. Our Bylaws state that Elected Officers, the Immediate Past Delegate, Coordinators, AIS and Convention Chairs, DRs (or their Alternate), and Past Delegates have a voice. (Article VII, Section 2).
 - a. Policy issues are decided by GRs at Assemblies, not by the members of the Committee.
 - b. The Committee members set the Agenda for the Assembly, which sometimes requires a vote. Past Delegates are members of the Committee and will have a vote in the future.

EVA: *Forum* Subscriptions won by: Karen G., D17; Mary O., D39; Tina, D33. Winner of the fourth subscription wasn't recorded.

- 4. Tarisa: Creation of a Finance Committee (Eva and Tarisa). See full Treasurer's Report in *Bulletin*.
 - a. Finances get audited every year – by AI-Anon members.

- b. Auditors write an Observation/Recommendations Report to the Officers to address any financial issues or needed changes in procedures.
- c. 2016 Audit (for 2015) – four issues identified, among them:
 - i. Reimbursement requests longer than 60 days; violates IRS rules
 - ii. Inaccurate reporting of financials
- d. 2017 Audit: several issues identified
- e. 2018 Audit: Observations/Recommendations not provided
- f. 2019 Audit: 4 recommendations
 - i. Key recommendation: form a Finance Committee
- g. Approached the SCWS Board about forming a Finance Committee. Issues for them to address:
 - i. Analyze internal control policies
 - ii. Propose solutions to the Assembly
 - iii. Update SCWS Bylaws re Treasury
 - iv. Develop written procedures for current and future Treasurers
 - v. Review budget formation procedure
 - vi. Develop procedure for recommending contributions to WSO
- h. Committee has authority to form a Finance Committee. Today we're reporting that we'll be forming the Finance Committee in the next few weeks.
 - i. Group treasurers on Finance Committee?
 - ii. Check other Areas – who's on their committees? Varies from Area to Area.
 - iii. Deadline for Finance Committee report? No--we will take as much time as we need to review all of the financial process, Bylaws, etc.
- i. No start date as we haven't yet determined who all of the members will be.

Question: Darcy, D63: As a DR, one of the questions I have is "Where did this money go?" You're looking at it for the Area, but will the Finance Committee also address how Districts and Groups handle their treasuries? ANSWER: Everyone will be free to use what the FC finds/decides.

Jayne C., Past Delegate: Because SCWS is a nonprofit, please ask some past Area Treasurers to be on the FC and other people who've helped with the audits. Need a higher level of oversight than group Treasurers.

Eva B., Alternate Delegate and former Area Treasurer: Books must be kept so that everything is clear.

Kay D., Past Delegate: Thanked everyone for the vote of confidence on reimbursing the Past Delegate's expenses. At the International Convention in Baltimore, there were workshops for Treasurers of all levels. Tapes are still available through the tape room.

5. Marcia, Delegate: Safety in Meetings Document from WSO

L) **Hospitality Report**Shauna Spellman
 Host Districts for August 17 Committee Meeting: **6, 9, 21**
 Thanked everyone who brought food and water for today's Assembly. Had both left over.
 Please put all food into the main room and NOT the kitchen. And please put your food out – open any bags, display food.

M) **Coordinators Reports**

AIS-LDC CoordinatorAndy Sunshine

- April 6th – new Korean-language meeting 1-2 on Saturdays, Alano Club in Orange Grove.
- Service – challenging to get people to step up to service
- Newcomers – meet and greet them and enlist them in getting into service
- Coordination between District and AIS and Area is crucial so that two different service arms don't approach the same judge and institutions.

Archives Carol Goold

- Group members should put the history of your meeting together. Record them now so we'll have them when we need it. Find a couple of members in group willing to compile a group history. Include as many details as possible:
 - name of locations and cities you've met?
 - time of day,
 - how did you decide on format? Change it? And why? Keep updating it. Send a copy of your history for the Archives, even for relatively new meetings.

Area Alateen Communications CoordinatorSuzanne Picott

- Asked for a show of hands of how many present are AMIASs? How many sponsor meetings? Or substitute at meetings?
- Need AMIASs to drive Alateens to meetings. Please consider serving as an AMIAS.
- RAD2.0 Flyers -- one-day Alateen event for Area's Alateens, in San Diego.
- If you're not getting the monthly Alateen Newsletter, let Suzanne know and contact Laura, our AAPP.

Area Alateen Events CoordinatorJida Sukpradit

- I approve events, so be sure to contact me if you're planning an Alateen event.
- We're instituting a two-phase Event Plan--a Provisional Phase and a Final Phase.
 - Provisional Phase could be completed and approved up to 11 months before the event.
 - Final Phase must be completed and approved 30 days prior to the event.

Area Alateen Member Coordinator. Kat H.

- Alateens have had a number of negative experiences at Assembly. They've felt attacked. A member told her that they "don't want to hear Alateens speak" at the Assembly.
- She's felt criticized and attacked and has seen the Chair being attacked. "All not cool."
- We're all just being of service in our positions.

Area Alateen Process Person.Laura Hamilton

- Twelve Alateen meetings have closed: 70 current meetings (down from 82). We think two more will close in the next few weeks.
- Two closed because not enough AMIASs available to sponsor the meeting, the others lack Alateen participation.
- Need more active outreach.
- 3 new meetings, one in a juvenile correction facility.

Area Alateen Sponsor Coordinator Gerry "Bear" Weil

- 2 scheduled Recertification Workshops remaining – tomorrow in English, next Sunday May 26th, is in Spanish.
- Might put together a make-up workshop, but best if AMIASs attend a scheduled one.
- Once complete, DRs will get an updated roster of certified AMIASs and Alateen meetings
- Lots of interest having Alateen meetings in schools. We have 8 in schools.
- I sponsor a high school Alateen meeting with 40 kids. There is another one in a local middle school with 40 Alateens

Bulletin Bruce Silverstein

- *Bulletin* is published 4 times a year. Written reports are included.
- Suggested reconsidering publishing hard copies of the *Bulletin*? It costs us more money to provide those subscriptions than we get for it.
- You can print it out yourself from website.

Cooperating w/Professional Community Open Group Records Coordinator Mary Myers

- Has received tons of group records changes at the Assembly.
- Latest Area numbers:
 - 1238 Active AI-Anon meetings
 - 286 Inactive status
 - 67 meetings in No Mail Status – snail mail was returned to WSO
 - 21 Reported Not Meeting – need to follow up to find out what happened
 - New meetings since last Assembly: 32
 - 382 Spanish-language meetings
 - 3 Farsi-language meetings
 - 1 Korean-language meeting
- DRs: pick up fliers in your folder but leave the manilla file folders.
- You can find your group’s WSO ID number by looking on the WSO website for your meeting. The very last number on the left of the page is each group’s WSO ID number.

Institutions Sandy Weatherly

- Took over the position in February
- Court program in District 66. Wrote up procedure. Got into drug and alcohol court to observe. Will be meeting with court officials to distribute both AI-Anon and Alateen literature.
- Is working with Public Information Coordinator to create a flowchart to show how all the different outreach service entities departments work together.
- Compiling a list of contacts. We now have a list of 20 different rehabs in our district to consider for outreach.
- New email address for Institutions communication: sandy.scws.institutions@gmail.com

Literature Judy Purcell

- Please write for the *Forum*. Share about the new reader, or about your experience with our Steps, Traditions, and concepts of Service.
- New book is popular: *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*
- Publication from WSO can be photocopied: *Let’s Talk About Safety in AI-Anon Meetings*
- WSO is adding more electronic literature
- She would like to sponsor a writing workshop. Anyone want to work with her in doing a writing workshop? If so, please contact her.
- WSO is looking for a Spanish copy editor – part-time contract work

Public Information Kathleen Goblirsch

- Reaching out to locals
- Need to do outreach to have meetings grow

Spanish Coordinator Brissa Marquez

- Translating information about how to connect with local tv and radio stations
- Eager to help with anything related to Spanish AI-Anon

Website Ben Popelar

- Let me know if you see anything that doesn't work or irritates you
- Starting to update the website – any ideas, come join us and help

N) Convention Chairpersons Reports

- AFG Convention 2019 (AI-Anon), Steve F.: A big success last year. A challenge. Grateful for support of Area. Past years we weren't able to donate funds. We worked really hard to improve the experience this year. To increase participation.
 - New chair: Susie – please support her!
- Young at Heart (YHA), Rob M.: Last report as Chair as convention will be on August 3. Register online at yhaconvention.com. May 25th fundraiser, auctioning art projects. Still looking for an Alateen Chair.
 - Question: Are Alateen members welcome at YHA? Answer: It's an AI-Anon event so they can't tell anyone that they can't attend, as Alateens are AI-Anon members.
- Southern California A.A. Convention with AI-Anon Participation, 2019, Lisa M.:
 - Registration open
 - June 22nd fundraiser – Wendy G + Bingo
 - AI-Anon Luncheon speaker -- Jayme C.
 - Program is done.
 - Spanish program has topics, looking for leaders
 - No Alateen program yet
 - One-day program with YHA
 - Call Westin Mission Hills, ask for group registrations with no resort fee

Future Agenda Item: what to do about unaccompanied minors at AI-Anon events?

O) Intergroup Liaisons Reports

- Orange County, Marque H.: Saturday hours, 9am to 1pm. Will start accepting credit card payments soon after upgrading wifi and phone lines. New Board position to start meetings and support new meeting. Outreach from organizations that want to attract an AI-Anon meetings. Clarified that 50/50 raffles are not legal, so they will not be advertised in their newsletter in the future.
- San Diego County, Roxane S.: Credit card payments possible but only when in person at the office. Fundraiser last weekend with various speakers.

P) Ask-It Basket – Q's & A's: Alternate Delegate. See *Bulletin*.

Q) District Representatives and AI-Anon-Related Announcements

- D75: One of their members contacted all radio and tv stations in San Diego, and 6-8 stations ran the PSAs. Their members sent thank you's to the station managers every time the PSAs ran. Every time one station manager got a thank you card, he took a picture of it, he was so excited. Personal contact is important!
- Vicky, D72: Hostina a Longtimers event in San Diego July 27. There will be an "opportunity drawing" at the event. Members with 25 years or more in program will be our speakers.
- Barbara, D17: With District 21, hosted workshop on new book, *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*. Covered the first three chapters of the book. Over 100 people attended.
- Micheila, D27: Planning an Alathon – September 21st in Malibu

- National Recovery month – push to getting PSAs, bus ads, an event for the public
- Reaching out to WSO for help with that
- Would love to coordinate Recertification workshop with another District. Please contact her, if you're interested.
- Libby, D75: 175 PSAs went out in San Diego. Retiree from that industry made it happen. Already have commitment from two business wanting panel presentations
- Tracy, D9: Prescription pads outreach was good; got a meeting with sheriff's station. None of them knew what Al-Anon was. Big stretch for me.
- Selina, D10: Army base – went to a fair there. Got a call from a high school. We went and 25 parents were interested in program.
- Mary Jo C., D54: Alathon June 8th. \$10 charge includes lunch, 2043 Lolita Blvd
- Josefa /District 64. Table at Orange Co fair. Workshops – cooperating with AA June 1st.
- Darcy, D63: a lot of meetings and new YHA group. Wanting to partnering with YHA to do a writing workshop.
- Donna M., D57: voted to do public outreach

Motion to end meeting.

Closing time - 4:00 p.m. - Closed with *Al-Anon Declaration*