

**Al-Anon - Southern California World Service (SCWS)  
Area Assembly - Saturday, September 26, 2020**

Final Minutes

**9:30 a.m. - Starting time -- Virtual Meeting**

**A) Chairperson's Report -- [chairperson@scws-al-anon.org](mailto:chairperson@scws-al-anon.org) ..... Donna E.**

- Moment of Silence -- Serenity Prayer
- Welcome -- There were **291** total participants (which is close to the number who attend in person).
- Guidelines for Participation & Who Has a Voice and a Vote

**B) Traditions read by Jayme C. Past Delegate**

**C) Roll Call -- Group Records Coordinator -- [grouprecords@scws-al-anon.org](mailto:grouprecords@scws-al-anon.org) ..... Mary M.**

D03 = 8	D06 = 7	D08 = 5	D09 = 4	D10 = 3	D12 = 15	D17 = 10
D21 = 11	D24 = 5	D27 = 11	D30 = 12	D33 = 4	D36 = 3	D39 = 3
D40 = 4	D42 = 2	D45 = 5	D48 = 0	D51 = 6	D54 = 9	D57 = 12
D60 = 14	D63 = 8	D64 = 10	D66 = 12	D69 = 14	D72 = 10	D75 = 10
D78 = 4						

Mary's revised records: 221 voting GRs

**D) Secretary -- [secretary@scws-al-anon.org](mailto:secretary@scws-al-anon.org) ..... Laleña C.**

**Approval of November 16, 2019 Assembly Minutes:**

- Yes=102 (47%) ■ No= 0%, ■ Abstain=55 (25%) ■ Not a voting member=60 (28%)
- (Adjusted % excluding non-voting members = approved by **65%** of voting members)

**E) (Interim) Treasurer's Report -- [treasurer@scws-al-anon.org](mailto:treasurer@scws-al-anon.org) .....Eva B.**

**Vote: to approve Interim Treasurer as Treasurer for remainder of this panel:**

- Yes=199 (79%) ■ No=0, ■ Abstain=5 (2%) ■ Not a voting member 48 (19%)
- (Adjusted % = approved by **99%** of voting members)

- **Financial Report:** Profit and Loss: contains income and expenses, Sources of income: 7<sup>th</sup>Tradition, *Bulletin* subscriptions, Convention contributions, District contributions, dividends from CDs, Forum collection, Group contributions, individual contributions, SOS workshop.
  - **Total revenue** \$83,419.78

- **Expenditures:** Background check, bank fees, computer expenses, contributions to WSO, Delegate Equalize expense, Depreciation expense, equipment, event registration, Forum, hotel and lodging, insurance, meals, mileage.
- **Total expenditures:** \$70,885.96.
- **Net revenue:** \$12,641.09.
- **Balance sheet -- Assets:**
  - Bank accounts \$87,606.51,
  - Current assets \$7,818.06.
  - Total current assets \$95,424.57;
  - Fixed assets \$3,822.51,
  - Total assets with liabilities and equity: \$99,247.08

Mark, D57: How did hotel expenses compare to prior years?

Eva: Will look up and get back to him. (\$14,205: total is less than prior years)

Alice, D45: What is SOS?

Donna: Sharing of Service, Area-hosted event held every January.

Micheila, D27: What is meant by prepaid expenses for travel, insurance?

Eva: Certain things are paid in a lump sum, for the whole year, such as insurance. We pay the total up front to save money. Every month as we use it, we "share" it as an expense. Same with the rent.

David, D30: Are we in a good financial situation?

Eva: Yes, we have abundance

Patty, D64: Can you explain background check expenses and what is interest income?

Eva: Interest income is interest earned from CDs, and interest paid by the bank on our savings accounts.

Background check: expense we incur to check the backgrounds of our AI-Anon Members Involved in AI-Anon Service (AMIAS) which is a requirement for our area.

Naomi, D12: Last May we decided to reserve money for a lawyer?

Donna: The attorney who reviewed our Area Safety and Behavioral Requirements (ASBR) volunteered to work for us "pro bono."

Lynne, D21: Does SCWS carry D&O insurance? Are we a nonprofit? Are we audited yearly?

Eva: The Area performs an internal audit every year. Every month our budget goes to and is reviewed by the Officers. There are definitely checks and balances. We do have Director & Officers insurance; unsure about Liability Insurance. We are a 501(c)(3).

Pia, D57: Asked for her to repeat the gross revenue.

Eva: \$83,419.79

Donna: The Financial Report is on the website

Marge, D12: Do we have enough funds to cover this year's expenses? Especially since contributions are down.

Donna: Yes -- and this will lead us into the next report.

- **Recommendation from Treasurer and Finance Committee to approve donation to WSO for 2019:**  
**Cathy S.**, Chair of Finance Committee and Past Treasurer:
  - Recommendation was made by former and current Treasurer and by the Finance Committee that the Area contribute \$12,641.09 to WSO for 2019. Cash on Hand currently = \$110,180.55; current ample reserve \$35,000. After distributing the recommended contribution of \$12,641.09, we will have \$62,539.46 cash.

- **Jayne C., Past Delegate:** PowerPoint presentation regarding our Area's contributions to WSO. (*Available on SCWS Website*) The World Service Office (WSO) in Virginia Beach is the clearinghouse for our worldwide fellowship.
  - SCWS history: has contributed to WSO since 1971,
  - contributions have been based on our budget surplus and ample reserve,
  - contributions have been made annually or semiannually depending on area expenses/surplus.
 What does WSO provide? Group services, public outreach/professionals, literature, conferences, international and other program services, operation and administrative services, digital strategy, finance, and customer service. Quoted Warranty 1, *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, p. 213.
  - WSO's Revenue: Contributions to WSO = 40% of its income; Literature sales = 54%. These 2 sources do not fully support WSO's work. Current projected deficit for 2020 is \$420,000.
  - SCWS Area responsibilities: communicate with and support 1,250 groups, host Area Assembly, Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meetings, help Districts and Groups resolve issues, host website and virtual meetings, provide resources for education, communication, and Public Outreach, provide workshops, oversees Alateen, *Bulletin* production, Delegate's equalized expense to attend World Service Conference (WSC), hospitality for AWSC and Assemblies, travel expenses for Delegate and Board members, insurance expenses, office supplies/postage/printing, storage, prof. tax prep, contributions to WSO.
  - *Service Manual*, pg. 105, 160, 102
  - Addressed Question from February AWSC meeting: Could SCWS contribute to Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) offices? No, per *Service Manual*, p. 67.
  - Referred to *Reserve Fund Guideline (G-41)*
  - Group Representatives (GRs) decide where to direct funds.
  - Quoted Anne B., Al-Anon Cofounder re "paying it forward."

**Donna: Floor open for questions**

Rebecca, D17: Can we increase that amount to WSO?

Donna: We need to vote on the recommended amount for 2019. Will vote on another amount at a future Assembly to keep it from getting confusing.

Josefa, DR 64: What is involved in the \$2000? [for SOS?]

Donna: Our event is paid per event, not for the year. We also decide if there's a registration fee.

Eva: We also pay our guest speaker's airfare, hotel, and meals and we pay for decorations.

Patti D64: Can you explain the Reserve Fund?

Donna: That is a Guideline published by WSO with suggested ample reserve amounts for meetings, Districts, AIS offices, Areas, and WSO.

Sam, D36: Is that money (\$12,000) set aside already?

Donna: Yes, it is included in our checking account as cash on hand.

Elena D21: Asked to restate the amount of the WSO deficit amount.

Donna: \$420,000.

Ellie D12: How did they determine the amount to donate to WSO?

Donna: The Treasurer determined that this was the amount of "surplus" from 2019 after all expenses were paid and our ample reserve and some other expenses were accounted for.

Sandra D69: Is this out of order? Should we address the insurance for the groups first?

Donna: We will be discussing forming an Area Insurance Task Force to address that issue later today. The recommendations of that Task Force will be put on the Agenda for a future Assembly.

**Comments:**

Lorraine D69: I think we should vote no, because the district needs insurance for meetings. We should double our ample reserve first. Insurance should come before contributing to WSO. Their deficit should be covered by the quarterly appeal that just went out.

Willie, Past Delegate: Commented on all the work that went into the Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee and thanked them for their work.

Sandy D54: The Groups she attends have suggested not sending any money to SCWS, but to send everything to WSO.

Eva: There is plenty of money in the Area account. Believes this recommendation was well thought out by the former Treasurer and the Finance Committee

Kathi, Past Delegate: We need to trust our trusted servants

Micheila D27: Deficit was \$1.6 million, now it is \$420K. That is a big change.

Nuria D24: We cannot foretell the future of virtual/non-virtual meetings. Everything is all over the place.

Mary C. D63 Asked Jayme for her experience

Jayme, Past Delegate: If WSO disappears, then AI-Anon Family Groups, Inc. disappears, and we cannot exist without it. Northern California provides insurance for their Groups, but we need to create a Task Force first to explore the issue for our Area. That's a separate issue. We have plenty of money if we need it. Please think abundantly rather than in fear.

Joyce D69: Shocked by the amount of \$2,900 in SCWS insurance; has been denied access to see the policy; It would take a change to the Bylaws for the Area to provide insurance. San Diego AIS office is no longer able to insure meetings because of a line in its Bylaws.

Chuck D69: Agrees that we should create a Task Force for insurance. Suggested it should be chaired by the person who was the chairperson of the Thought Force.

Donna: We need to decide to vote on sending the contribution to WSO, not get sidetracked talking about insurance.

Connie D69: The reason the WSO prudent reserve and assets has decreased

Linda DR54: If we had had an Assembly in May, we would have voted on this. She thinks people are confused right now.

Kay, Past Delegate: This amount was already voted on by the AWSC as appropriate. Let us move into 2020.

**Vote:** Send \$12,641 to WSO?

■ Yes=197 (78%) ■ No=5 (2%) ■ Abstain=4 (2%) ■ Not a voting member 47 (19%)  
(Adjusted % = approved by 96% of voting members)

**F) Observe 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition:** please go online to [scws-al-anon.org](http://scws-al-anon.org) and use our new "Contributions" buttons to contribute.

**Ben** showed the links on the SCWS website in English and Spanish.

**Eva:** Thank you for voting. She will write the check and send it out on Monday.

**G) Old Business**

1. Approve the revised Area Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements (ASBR):

**Bear:** We have incorporated all revisions suggested by the attorney and by WSO. Reviewed background and history of AFG, Inc. Board of Trustees motion requiring each Area to create ASBR. Alateen is AI-Anon. Tried to simplify and clarify policies and procedures while being aligned with 3

Legacies (Steps, Traditions, Concepts of Service): Unity, Recovery, Service. This latest revision was reviewed and approved by WSO. Final filing date with WSO is dependent on Assembly approval or disapproval. Thanked all the members who supported and participated in this project over the past few years.

**Donna:** Given the time (11:30am), wants to vote to extend Assembly by 30 minutes.

**Vote:** to extend Assembly 30 minutes:

■ Yes=66% ■ No=17 ■ Abstain=3%; ■ Not a voting member= 14%

**Comments:** 1 minute:

**Donna:** Noted that the two significant policy changes (to have 2 AMIASs per meeting and change the upper age of Alateens from 21 to 19) have already been voted on and approved by prior Assemblies.

Rene D17: Is amazed by the work Bear and committee is doing. Thanked him and team for being of service.

Brenda D51: Thought we did not have enough information to vote last time, thanked them for making sure there was enough information to vote now.

Kim D24: We are voting on the entirety of the document? If we vote no, they must start all over again? This is 5 years of work.

Lynn D21: Excellent work. Why background check every 5 years versus 3 years?

Bear: Does not remember why. He knows they explored vicarious time frames. Believes it has to do with feedback from WSO. Appreciates all the appreciation, but it was all of them working together.

Irene D3: How does age work?

Donna: Upper age limit is going from 21 to 19th birthday.

Carol D60: This is not an intellectual exercise. If we do not approve it, it will continue to halt Alateen.

Willie, Past Delegate: Wants to applaud the members who did the ASBRs, he supports it because it is important to know we have our Alateens in good, safe hands.

Christy D54: The Assembly voted to approve the 5-year sequence at the same time they approved requiring social security numbers to have a comprehensive background check.

Erica D45: I work with children. If something occurs you will know. They get updated if anything happens.

Micheila D27: Thanked Bear and team.

Bernadette D54: She will vote yes, has been an Alateen, a person serving in Alateen, and now has a child in Alateen.

**Vote:** To accept current revision of ASBRs.

■ Yes=194 (80%) ■ No=0 ■ Abstain=2 (1%) ■ Not a voting member = 46 (19%)

(Adjusted %= Approved by 99%.)

Donna: She and Marcia (Delegate) will post a Brief Summary of the Assembly on the website, which will include a summary of the votes from today.

2. Creating a Safe SCAC Task Force: (No Report)

3. Task Force Report – District 64 (No Report)
4. Thought Forces:

- a) Assembly (no report)
- b) Insurance for Groups -- vote to form Task Force:

**Elaine D75**, Chair of Area Insurance Thought Force: Thanked members who worked together on the ThF and explored three broad questions: 1) what are Groups (and other Areas) currently doing? 2) What are other options? 3) What role might SCWS play? (Elaine's presentation on SCWS website:

[https://www.scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200926\\_Insurance\\_Thought\\_F\\_Presentation.pdf](https://www.scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200926_Insurance_Thought_F_Presentation.pdf))

- Traditions that were relevant: 4, 7, and 9.
- Elaine has received a lot of calls during Covid because some meetings are being told they cannot return to their former meeting places
- Problems for groups:
  - some groups have not had funds to pay for insurance,
  - more meeting places require insurance,
  - individual members are reluctant to assume responsibility for their groups as the signers of policies,
  - individual Al-Anon groups are not 501(c)(3) tax exempt entities which would qualify them to get best rates.
  - Survey: got 100 responses: 35-40 are paying for insurance. Range in what they're paying from \$460 a year to \$60. Another 12 Step program: groups went in together and pay less than \$15 per Group.
  - Northern California purchased a policy for their Area meetings. Their bylaws had to be changed to allow the Area to purchase a policy that would cover individual groups in that area.
- Two possibilities for the role of the Area:
  1. Provide specific information and resources for Groups to decide for themselves how to proceed, or
  2. Propose that the Area purchase a policy that covers all Groups (would require change in SCWS Bylaws).
- Thought Force Recommendation: Create a Task Force to follow up and make specific recommendation to the Assembly.

Donna: Floor open for questions.

Joyce D-69: Begged everyone to vote yes.

Peter D27: What about waivers? Could the Task Force find out if it is okay if they sign a waiver for Covid?

Larry D8: Would like to volunteer to be on the Task Force.

Katrina D75: Thanked everyone, urge to vote yes

Chuck D69: Believes it should be formed and Elaine should be chair on it, and that it should report its findings at the November Assembly.

Linda D54: Would it be a new Task Force? Or does Thought Force become a Task Force?

Donna: It will be a new group and may include some of the members of the Thought Force. Anyone interested, contact Donna

Jayne Past Delegate: Has served on numerous Task Forces, should not be under pressure to get everything done by November, but when they are done gathering all of their data. Referred to *Service Manual*, pgs. 71,72, for further information about what a Task Force does.

Nuria D24: How can we make sure the Task Force focuses on Thought Force findings?

Donna: Yes, everything is documented in the minutes of the ThF.

Sandy D54: We did have a time frame to give our complete report on the Alateen Task Force several years ago.

Terri D33: Can we not go back to in-person meetings if we don't have liability insurance? Will they get information back to DRs?

Donna: This is a complicated issue. The Area recommends that Groups first follow rules of their local public health agency, then the requirements of the places where meetings are held. These issues will be explored in the Task Force.

Mary D75: Thanked Elaine. Is there a way to put a time frame on it?

Donna: While the issue of meetings opening back up in person is a pressing issue, the Task Force will report to the various bodies in turn: Area Officers, Board, Committee, and then Assembly. The Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) process will be used at each point to see what further questions or comments need to be addressed by the Task Force before each body, and then it is brought before the Assembly for a final recommendation and a vote. COVID is adding a layer of complexity to all of the insurance issues to consider. The Thought Force did not explore any of those issues because they finished their report before the pandemic.

**Vote:** to form an Area Insurance Task Force.

■ Yes=187 (80%) ■ No=0 ■ Abstain=3 (1%) ■ Not a voting member = 45 (19%)  
(Adjusted %= Approved by 98%.)

Donna: Announced upcoming meetings; reminder about attending the November Election Assembly

Marcia, Delegate: Asked for everyone to look at the Elections PowerPoint online. Deadline for Officer

Resumes extended to October 10. They will be posted on the website by October 15. Contact Marcia if you have any questions.

<https://www.scws-al-anon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Area-Elections-9-16-20-final.pdf>

**Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. with AI-Anon Declaration**