

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORLD SERVICE (SCWS)

Area Assembly, November 19, 2022

Final Minutes

Zoom meeting

- Moment of Silence -- Serenity Prayer
- **Traditions** read by: Norma Jean District 66

1. Interim Chairperson's Report -- chairperson@scws-al-anon-org. . . **Marcia M.**

- Welcome -- Past Delegates (Miriam, Willie, Marcia, and Jayme) and new DRs and GRs (absent member of board, Michaela, Literature Coordinator)
- Guidelines for Participation** & Who Has a Voice and a Vote**
- Board Positions still open: Alateen Member Coordinator; Chairperson; Treasurer
- **Assembly Survey:** will be posted in the chat and the SCWS website. Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/bdFSXA4cBzQVP31P6>
- Allow "Voice" for the following member: **Finance Report:** Cathy S. and Christy R.
Poll with a show of hands
- Calendar for 2023:
 - **January 21, 2023:** Sharing Of Service (SOS) Workshop (More later from Alternate Delegate)
 - **February 18, 2023:** Area World Service Committee (AWSC) Meeting
- **Zoom Poll:** (Jon / Marcia)
What is your preference for holding our Assembly Meetings in 2023? Everyone who is affected will vote.
 - Remain on Zoom? 68%
 - Return to meeting at a physical location? 12%
 - Work on securing a physical location central in our Area and add a hybrid/virtual component? 16%
 - Don't know/care
 - Abstain 1%
If we had a hybrid Assembly, would you prefer to...
 - attend at the physical location? 49/212 23%
 - join through a virtual component (Zoom) 146/212 69%
 - Abstain 7/212 3%
 - Don't know/care 10/212 5%

2. Roll Call -- Group Records Coordinator -- **Teresa F.**

Number of Group Representatives (GRs) in attendance for each District:

D-3: 4	D-6: 4	D-8: 3	D-9: 4	D-10: 4	D-12: 13	D-17: 7	D-21: 9	D-24: 7	D-27: 5
D-30: 6	D-33: 5	D-36: 1	D-39: 7	D-40: 4	D-42: 9	D-45: 3	D-48: 1	D-51: 2	D-54: 13
D-57: 7	D-60: 9	D-63: 9	D-64: 12	D-66: 21	D-69: 14	D-72: 7	D-75: 8	D-78: 1	

3. Secretary -- Laleña C.

- **Voting During the Assembly** discussed from WSC summary p. 11 about what an abstention
- **Approval of May 21 Assembly Minutes**
Mary V. said D9 had 3 people attending. D9 is not listed in the May minutes. Michelle R. D12 made a motion to accept minutes with the correction. Maria D42 Seconded
Vote:
Yes: 164/211 78%
No 0%
Abstain 17/211 8%

Not a voting member 30/211 14%

4. Area Elections: Marcia M.

Procedures for mid-term (Panel) elections: Candidates will speak for 2 minutes as to why they would be an asset as an Area Officer. **If only 1 candidate per position, the vote is “YES”, “NO”, “not a voting member”.** The elected member would begin after the Assembly and continue on through 2023.

- Chairperson: Vicki V. discussed being of service, how she has learned to work with others, and has more time now that she is retired.

Vote:

Yes:177/208 85%

No: 3/208 1%

Abstain: 1/208 0%

not a voting member: 27/208 13%

Suzanne: asked if Vicki will need to step down as DR

Marcia: Yes, when you hold an officer position it is suggested to only hold that position.

Teresa: 206 registered voters online right now

Willie: D40 has 6

Marcia thanked Roxane and the Finance Committee for keeping the area afloat.

- Treasurer: Cathy S. shared her service experiences and how she loves working with numbers. Jayme: doesn't recall needing a motion for an election. Willie confirmed.

Vote:

Yes: 178/212 84% plus 10 spanish

No: 0/212 0%

Abstain:0/212

Not a voting member: 34/212 16% plus 1 spanish

5. Old Business:

- **Electronic Groups Task Force (EGTF) Presentation:**

- **Does our Area wish to welcome Electronic Groups (EGs) into our service structure?.**
- **Two presentations were posted on the SCWS website several weeks before the Assembly.**
- Zoom Etiquette** review: Sandra L. D69

reviewed Glossary of terms: EGs, Hybrid meetings, TEMs, Districts, Overlay District

reviewed Background Information: some TEMs split, some are floating without an attachment

Terri P D33: Reviewed What was the first task for this task force?

reviewed what were the significant findings of the task force? some TEMs want to be connected with SCWS, don't anticipate additional expenses

reviewed what we know: to be consistent with our Vision for AI-Anon

Tim Delegate: Reviewed choices of staying with Global Electronic area or our SCWS area

reviewed Principles, Policies and Legacies apply to this question? Tradition 1, Tradition 3, Tradition 5

Teresa GRC: Reviewed Concept 4, and what we don't know as well as are you still wondering about the main differences between an Electronic Group being registered in the Global Electronic Area or being registered in the SCWS geographic Area?

Sally L D17: Reviewed: If Electronic Groups were welcomed and registered in the SCWS area, Task force summary

■ Questions:

Laurie D54: Would GR need to be physically located in the District?

Jaymie: If a group is located in the SCWS area, that GR would need to be able to physically go to the District meetings in that District.

Carol D60: This seems fuzzy

Teresa GRC: We have 2 kinds of groups: Physical and Electronic.

Nick D17: Some members came to his meetings from other areas pushing their agenda, it took a toll on their unity. Young people prefer Zoom meetings. How would that be taken care of?

Marcia: Some feel they do not have a home base. If they are a Permanent electronic meeting means that they are registered with WSO and it is listed on their website. They are only listed by their physical location where they used to meet.

Tim: Yes, there are going to be residency requirements. We are going to vote on that as a standard.

Kelly D45: What are the downsides of doing this? other concerns?

Marcia: The task force could not come up with any down sides.

Teresa GRC: The group gets to decide

Tim: We have 3 separate votes. Maybe we should show them the criteria now.

Sabina D30: If we accept electronic meetings, where would they be listed?

Teresa GRC: WSO is figuring out how to list them. You would be listed if you connected with a district on a local side. It's confusing but they are listed where they are connected.

Newt D12: Is it true younger people want to connect on Zoom?

Tim: It's an assumption that was made

Terri D33: From their experience, they notice a lot of younger people are attending. There is no hard evidence because of anonymity.

Rubi D27: Disturbed how it's become about fears, instability of internet, what happened? What are we talking about now?

Lydia D45: Would electronic groups have a WSO ID#? How would we know if their group is doing what?

Teresa GRC: every group gets a number. we are jumping so far ahead, the group will decide

Miriam D66: How do we phrase this to newcomers? Do groups have to decide?

Donna: Yes, temporary groups cannot exist forever. Eventually they'll need to decide.

Nick D17: Maybe we could talk about this at the end after everything is presented?

Sally D17 This is not about breaking up groups.

Jayne: The GRs get to decide.

Luana D66: Asked where the presentation is.

Jon: It is on the website.

Dasha D21: Can we see the rest of the presentation? Also, can there be someone who fields the question so questions can get answered?

Continuing on with presentation:

Sally D12 reviewed: If our GRs vote, how soon could EGs register in our Area?

Jayne:

Task force Proposal one:

1. The TF proposes to welcome all Electronic Groups that have formed in our Area with the same criteria that would apply if they were a physical group. This is because...

a. We want members of these groups to feel connected and a part of our Area.

b. We want to welcome these members to participate in our Area service structure

Task Force Proposal Two

1. The TF proposes that the Area form a "SCWS Electronic District" available for Electronic Groups (registered in our SCWS Area) to have an option to join. Proposal is to form the SCWS Electronic District on a three-year trial basis.

2. Why is the TF Proposing adding an Electronic District? a. Some groups have no connection to one Geographic District/city or county, but still have a connection to SCWS. b. Some groups contain a higher number of members who are spread across Southern California instead of being in one District. This would allow more members to step up for service beyond the group level.

3. How would the Electronic District be formed? If our GRs agree to forming this District, the EG Task Force will continue to work out these details and support the initial stages of forming the new District. 23 Task Force

Proposal Two, continued. What District would the SCWS Electronic Group join?

1. The Electronic Group would have the autonomy to choose to belong to a “geographic” District (like D-8, D-27, D-60), our Spanish Overlay District (D-64), or the new Area “SCWS Electronic District”.

a. If the EG chooses to be registered in a geographic District, their GR would need to be able to attend a face-to-face District meeting if applicable.

b. If the EG registers in the Electronic District, the GR can reside anywhere in the SCWS Area and will attend a virtual District meeting.

2. The Task Force encourages Electronic Groups to have a Business Meeting(s) to discuss their District options and take the time needed before taking a group conscience

Terri D33: There are 3 choices: just your district, all of SCWS, or global, or stay hybrid.

Laurie D54: Attends a meeting, asked if the group will take a group conscience?

Marcia: Yes, we hope you ask some KBDM questions.

Jane D54: Is there a block they are put in with WSO? Would we use that with our area?

Tim: Global area has a delegate and an assembly and they will come to WSC every year.

Cherie D60: If they want to become part of a district even if it is SCWS?

Teresa: Where does the group connect? It cannot ping pong.

Terri D57: Do we want to give groups the option? Is that what we are asking? Stay with WSO? SCWS? or attach to a district?

Marcia: Yes

Holly D66: Would the other members get a voice and vote

Jayne: Yes they would at the business meeting. The group needs to decide if they want to be with SCWS or the global area

Toni D66: To not use reside but to use the word principle residence:

Marcia: Need to attend a Face to face if applicable.

Elodia D75: Would it be like D64

Donna: Yes

Kelly D45: Can a district say we don't want to have electronic meetings?

Marcia: No, this is an area decision. As long as the district knows. We welcome all groups

Jayne: The district doesn't have that type of autonomy. How would you rotate leadership?

Terri D33: Gave an example of her meetings, went electronic, but now some want to meet in person so there might be a split.

Mary D66: How would you help newcomers get sponsors, etc.

Donna: Same as you have been doing.

Sherry D72: If a split occurs, do they get a new WSO ID #?

Teresa GRC: It would be a group update, yes you would.

Gloria D30: Is it possible for them to register right now or do they have to wait? They have no voice right now?

Teresa GRC: If it is a yes vote, Tim will notify WSO.

Tim: Most likely by December 1st. WSO is not pressuring us.

Nick D17: What is the consideration for Rotation of leadership.

Marcia: The CMA needs to be in our area.

Josefa: Do we have a GR for TEM?

Teresa GRC: Most of the meetings are TEMs, attached to a physical location. It depends on the circumstance of the group.

Ruth D33: The district meeting should be hybrid so they can attend electronically.

Teresa: It's up to district autonomy, you would be listed differently.

Carolyn D3: Do we have to get rid of hybrid?

Tim: That will always be ok, but it will be attached to a physical location. From now on we will.

Jayne: Need representation, participation, and communication are needed to thrive.

6. Concepts read by: Marcia District 30

Marcia announced there will be a town hall meeting February 11th to answer questions about Electronic

Meetings..

Questions continued

D66 Norma Jean: Made a suggestion to put all questions go into the chat, then the tech person would let us know and we could answer it accordingly.

Kelly D45: Do we want EG to join the district? Is that the way it has to be? Just do the overlay and forget about the districts?

Marcia: Yes it is confusing. If the answer is yes to the first question then we go on to the criteria of what they would need to be registered with SCWS. If they want that, then the third part is the district part. The group would get to choose the SCWS area or do we want to be more Global?

Kelly D45: Why be part of a district? Why not be part of the electronic district?

Teresa: Many are attached to their local AIS. The groups have to either feel a connection or not.

Tim: About one-third of Areas have completed the process. We have had the benefit of looking at their guidelines.

Rubi D27: Do they still have the right of appeal in this assembly? We don't know how any of this is going to work. If it doesn't work out in the long run, can we change our mind?

Marcia: Yes, the idea of an overlay district is a 3 year trial basis. At the end of the 3 years, we will check in to see if it is working and make the decision then. Anytime we have an issue, and new information comes up, we can always bring that information to the assembly so we are not doing a knee jerk reaction.

Tim: Whatever our vote, we are not disbanding our task force. The task force will help make these adjustments.

We will have a report and keep everyone up to date at the next AWSC meeting in February.

Luana D66: Is there a location of how to become a virtual or hybrid meeting?

Marcia: We have had presentations in the past

Barb D66: Why is the district proposing the overlay district?

Teresa: It's that connection

Pete D66: Thinks we need to vote.

Marcia: We are voting on policy and criteria.

Sue D60: Are there any other pros or cons we need to know about at this point?

Marcia: No, the task force will be looking at this.

Nick D17: Are we doing KBDM before doing the vote?

Marcia: Exactly

■ **Comments:**

Lynne D75: We need to move on. If the area made the decision it would be more efficient. GRs would make it permanent in 3 years.

Sean D6: It could be a wider range for us to discuss things, it is nice to go to other meetings.

Andy D66: Has a lot of young members asking for face to face meetings. Why aren't DRs giving reports?

Marcia: We don't have enough time today.

Jayme: Before everyone votes, the February 11th town hall meeting is information only, no voting will occur. This is the place to vote right now.

Tim: What does our number need to be for substantial unanimity?

Marcia: That means it needs to be a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, we will check in with Teresa for verification of numbers.

Teresa: We have 194 voting members

■ **Voting:**

Marcia D30 made motion

Sherri from D3 seconded

Vote: Welcome Electronic Groups into our Area

Yes: 172/214 80% plus 9 spanish

No: 8/214 4% plus 2 spanish

Abstain: 2/214 1%

Not a voting member: 32 15%

94.7% 181 yes votes and 10 opposed

Sean D6 Made a motion

Char D42 seconded

Vote: Register Electronic Groups like Physical Groups

Yes 175/220 80% 11 spanish

No 5/220 2% 3 spanish

Abstain 6/220 3%

Not a voting member 34/220 15%

Adjusted

Char D42 made a motion

Mimi D27 seconded

Vote: Create an Overlay Electronic District for a 3 year trial basis

Yes: 169/206 82%

No 5/206 2%

Abstain 4/206 2%

Not a voting member: 28/206 14%

Tim: This was a historic vote, grateful to everyone. He appreciates how everyone took it very seriously.

7. Treasurer's Report: Cathy S.

Encouraged groups to send in their Seventh Tradition.

Budget vs. Actual we are on target.

Budget Overview: Christy R. 71,300 of expenses planned, therefore we have 71,300 income planned.

Asking for approval of the 2023 budget.

Tony D66: Why are there a lot of little CDs?

Christy: Because they mature at different times.

Tony D66: She was wondering why not keep it in a money market account since the interest rates are higher there.

Christy: A safety issue, don't want them easily accessible.

Tony D66: Where is our physical equipment? Christy: Some of it is computers, we used hand held clickers to use at physical assemblies. We have storage, but no assets are there. The clickers are with Roxane. There is also translation equipment.

\$105,278.23 total bank accounts

\$111,458.06 total fixed assets

Suzanne: How many attended SWRDM in 2022? Noticed an increase in mileage.

Christy: Need to be in contact with Roxane. Mileage we were anticipating if we met face to face or a hybrid/face to face

Cathy: The registration for SWRDM was \$780.

Andrea D42: Is there a line item for Delegate to go to International?

Jayne: There was a motion that the Delegate would be sent during a panel. Our delegate Tim will go with his expenses paid. There is also a motion that the Delegate, Alt. Delegate, Past Delegate, and Chair will have their expenses paid to attend SWRDM each year.

Char D42 Why do we have storage?

Christy: We have financial records, we have hospitality items, and some archives. Our Archives is in a temperature controlled area. It is in Glendale near where we were meeting Face to Face.

Char D42 Why can't we make them electronic?

Christy: They need to be available for 7 years per the IRS.

Newt D12: How was a budget formed? I was curious about the process.

Christy: We looked at our expenses and then matched income to match it. We do look at it year after year at what our expenses and income have been.

Yoly: What is SWRDM?

Christy: Southwest Regional Delegate Meeting, it moves from area to area.

Jane D54: When you say 7th tradition, was there a physical basket that went around? Why aren't we doing that in an electronic format?

Christy: Yes.

Marcia: Is it on the SCWS website to do an electronic contribution?

Truck showed it on the website.

Ruby D27: We have had a loss of meetings in our area from 500 to 300.

Christy: it has been decreasing some but we are ok.

Ruby D27: Sounds like we are doing really well, seems like there is an underlying assumption that face to face brings about more prosperity.

Elaine D75: Where would be the money for members of the board to go to events?

Christy: Some are in SWRDM and some are in Travel.

Teresa: She is working with AISs to get the numbers to be more accurate

Kelly D60: Why do travel expense trips go up from August to November?

Christy: We were anticipating face to face.

- **VOTE:** Financial Report year-to-date: Rob D40 made a motion to accept it, Lydia D45 seconded
Yes: 149/175 85%
No: 1/175 1%
Abstain: 2/175 1%
Not a voting member: 23/175 13%

Suzanne: Asking for clarification of the procedure. We were not asked of any expenses coming up?
For example, hiring a translator, outreach

- Finance Committee update

Cherie D60: Is travel spread across the year?

Christy: Yes it is, Oct/Nov/Dec it's the people who traveled over 100 miles getting reimbursed.

Suzanne: talked about the subcommittee for the board who attend service events. Many of us have not received the opportunity to go. It's an observation that the expenses will break the budget.

Christy: GRs will vote in May to add more money to that line item. We weren't ready to present this today. We look forward to seeing what happens in May.

Willie D40 made a motion
Maria D42 seconded

- **VOTE:** Review and Approve 2022 Budget
Yes: 161/195 83%
No 1/195 1%
Abstain 6/195 3%
Not a voting member 27/195 14%
- **VOTE:** Contribution to WSO to be \$25,000. That would make our contribution for 2022 to be \$50,000
Questions:
Tina: Is not happy about sending more money to WSO. I think board members should be able to go to International to share experience, strength and hope. Maybe we could lower it to 15,000.
Connie D69: Why is the world service in the stock market? We are always having to help them. We should not send any more money until they stop doing that.
Carol D66: What is the WSO deficit?
Cathy: it is \$332K
Tim: There are significant travel expenses that took place in October but won't show until November and December. Al-Anon has a reserve fund. Yes some is invested in stocks and bonds and it does fluctuate. it is a reserve fund, it doesn't come out of revenue.
Ann D39: Why is it such a huge deficit? travel expenses? or is that on top of that? It sounds like SCWS is a big donor to WSO.
Cathy: WSO did not sell a lot of literature during covid, they had to lay off a lot of employees. We need to pass it on.
Tim: Did include a graph in his report, can see it on the website. Unsure with time if we will get to that today.
Jayme: The trustees were unable to travel for 3 years, now they are able to. We also had to become a book publishing company because the contributions were not sufficient.
Marcia: All of their information is on the WSO website. From her personal experience, we pay it forward to further public outreach.
Newt: Is that deficit for the current year? Do they need the money now?
Cathy: It's always worked itself out. A few years ago we did not make any contributions. We need to presume good will.
Tim: Can I give the delegate report? It addresses how WSO uses our Area contribution.
Marcia: Yes, let's do it.

8. Delegate's Report Tim P.

- Electronic Groups, we are thrilled to now be part of this!
- Program services provided by the WSO: registers new groups, supports international structures, maintains and updates meeting locations, produces new literature, prepares program and staffs the WSC, maintains our website, mobile app, enhances communications, and develops PSAs, attends professional conferences to share the Al-Anon message.
- 2022 projects: Electronic meeting transformation, new Service Manual translation, new daily reader translation, first longitudinal study, 2023 International Convention.
- A 50-page update on work done by WSO in 2021.
- October 2022 Chairperson of the board letter to be published on Al-anon.org.
- Year to date actuals, YTD, and revised budget. We get an A+ for audits.
- October met in London, a quarterly board meeting in Cleveland.
- \$1 in 1952 is worth 10.76 now.
- Envisioned Future Work Group: discussion re: diversity and inclusivity.
- WSO in Virginia Beach is opening its doors for guests for tours.
- SCWS did not send a resume to stand for trustee.
- The printed version of the Service manual should be ready by the end of year.
- Al-Anon brand communications
- Literature price increases
- Road trip to Southern CA in 2023?

- In the Loop

Questions:

Christy: This is common to get into financial fear. We will be fine.

Lorraine D 69:lis concerned, so disappointed not getting a hard copy of Service Manual out and Paths to Recovery. It's now out of print. What would happen if we waited until they did those things?

Christy: We can't control how WSO does things. It happened with Courage to Change before because there was a delay in publication.

Eileen D57: How was the amount decided on? Formula?

Christy: We use the prudent reserve, look at the total amount of cash and take the difference.

Carol D60: Are we looking at the needs of those we need to serve?

Lydia D45: Could they increase their revenues to cover expenses?

Tim: They won't have that International Conference for another 2 years, they are watching their expenses. No, money cannot be earmarked.

Comments:

Sandy D63: We need to remember abundant thinking, trust the process, and to support our trusted servants.

Anita D75: Thanked everyone on the Finance committee. Do we have a cost of how much was spent to send other members of board to international?

Christy: Only the delegate is in the budget to go.

Martha D63: [Orange County AIS](#) fully stocked with Paths to Recovery.

Motion: Does our area want to send a contribution of \$25,000 to WSO?

Tim: Does the vote need to be substantial?

Marcia: Yes, let's do $\frac{2}{3}$ majority and we can revisit in May.

Michelle D40 made a motion, Jennifer D57 seconded.

Vote:

Yes: 128/184 70% 7 spanish

No: 25/184 14% 1 spanish

Abstain: 5/184 3%

Not a Voting Member: 26/184 14%

Closing time – 4:00 p.m. - Close with AI-Anon Declaration (Service Manual, pg. 3)