


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORLD SERVICE (SCWS)
Area Assembly, November 16, 2024

MINUTES

8:00-8:50 a.m. – Log in/create virtual name tag with Tech member

Participants logged into the meeting using individual Zoom links.

**** Documents/Presentations found on scws-al-anon.org website: Area World Service Assembly Meeting Information Scroll to: 2024 November**

9:00 a.m. - Starting time (9:22am)

1. **Interim Chairperson's Report (25 minutes)** -- chairperson@scws-al-anon-org. . . **Tim P**
 - A. Moment of Silence -- Serenity Prayer
 - B. **Traditions** read by: Willie W., Past Delegate
 - C. Welcome -- Past Delegates and new DRs and GRs
 - D. Guidelines for Participation & Who Has a Voice and a Vote
 - E. Board Officer Position still open: Chairperson
 - F. **Assembly Survey**: will be posted in the chat and the link will be posted on the SCWS website.
 - G. Upcoming Calendar for early 2025:
 - a. **January 18, 2025**: Sharing of Service (SOS) Workshop (More later from Alternate Delegate)
 - b. **February 15, 2025**: Area World Service Committee (AWSC). Both events on Zoom.
2. **Roll Call --(25 minutes) Group Records Coordinator** -- grouprecords@scws-al-anon.org **Cathy W.**
(DRs were asked to update Cathy throughout the day in "Chat" GRs were added/removed from their total.)
Total voting members: **216 (as of 12:40pm)**

SCWS BOARD POSITION	NAME	present/ absent
Alternate Delegate & Forum Coordinator	Sean N.-G.	p
Interim Chairperson	Tim P.	p
Delegate	Teresa F.	p
Secretary	Donna E.	p
Treasurer	Vicki V.	p
Immediate Past Delegate	Tim P.	n/a
COORDINATOR POSITION	NAME	present/ absent
AIS-LDC Coordinator	Yoly W-H.	p
Archives Coordinator	Kathleen G.	p
Area Alateen Communications Coordinator	vacant	n/a

Area Alateen Events Coordinator	Jeri M.	a
Area Alateen Member Coordinator	Shana B.	a
Area Alateen Process Person	Suzanne P.	p
Area Alateen Sponsor Coordinator	Yvette K-B.	p
Bulletin Coordinator ("Newsletter Editor")	Irene C.	p
Cooperating w/ Professional Community	Nicole W.	p
Group Records Coordinator	Cathy W.	p
Hospitality Coordinator	vacant	n/a
Institutions Coordinator	Shauna S.	p
Insurance Coordinator	Elaine A.	p
Literature Coordinator	Andy S.	p
Public Information Coordinator	Ruby G.	p
Spanish Coordinator	vacant	n/a
Website Coordinator	Heather G.	p

AIS-LDC LIAISON	NAME	present/ absent
Coachella Valley/Upper Desert	Julie W.	p
Inland Empire	Ana A.	a
Los Angeles County	Jen B.	a
Orange County	Veronica B. or Richard M.	a
San Diego County	Sandra L.	p
Spanish Intergroup	Josefa J.	p
Ventura County LDC	vacant	n/a

CONVENTION CHAIRPERSONS	NAME	present/ absent
AFG Convention	Ben P.	
Southern CA Alateen Conference	Bear W. (Bernadette)	p

SoCal AA Convention/Al-Anon Chair	Susie H.	
Young at Heart in Al-Anon (YHA)	vacant	n/a

PANEL	NAME	present/ absent
2003-2005	Miriam M.	p
1997-1999	Willie W.	p

Number of Group Representatives (GRs) in attendance for each District: 205 at end of count

D-3: 4	D-6: 7	D-8: 2	D-9: 3	D-10: 1	D-12: 8	D-15: 2	D-17: 9	D-21: 11	D-24: 2
D-27: 9	D-30: 6	D-33: 7	D-36:	D-39:	D-40: 9	D-42: 11	D-45: 13	D-48:	D-51: 5
D-54: 14	D-57: 5	D-60: 9	D-63: 9	D-64: 6	D-66: 15	D-69: 14	D-72: 14	D-75: 12	D-78: 1

Teresa, Delegate explained the process of noting abstentions, but they are removed from the final percentages.

3. Secretary (15 minutes)– secretary@scws-al-anon.org **Donna E.**

• **Approval of May 18, 2024, Assembly Minutes** *** (Please read them prior to the meeting.)*

Several changes were made to the posted Draft Minutes and were incorporated into the Final version, to be posted on the scws-al-anon.org website.

Motion: Approve the Meeting Minutes as Amended?

Motion made by: Rob, D#40 Seconded by: Conna, D#54

VOTE: Total Votes - 194

Yea	Nay	Abstentions	Adjusted Percentage (w/o Abstentions)
104 53.6%	29 14.9%	61 31.4%	Yea: 78.1% Nay: 21.8%

The vote took much longer than anticipated because of moving non-voting members from the main room into the waiting room.

Break (10am)

[#4 on original Agenda, Election of new Chair, was moved after Insurance Coordinator's report and vote.]

5. Old Business (60 minutes)

- **A straight-up report and vote on the updated 2023 SCWS Bylaws, as posted on our SCWS website, approved for the Agenda by the August 19, 2023 AWSC, and restored to the May 18, 2024 Assembly Agenda by GR vote.** Presented by Miriam M. and Willie W., Past Delegate

The history of the Bylaws was presented. About every three years, the changes made by the GRs after the previous amended Bylaws are incorporated into the most recent amended/updated Bylaws. The Bylaws Committee

is composed of Past Delegates. The draft is presented to the Area World Service Committee which approves posting the Bylaws vote on the Assembly Agenda. The future Bylaws will be updated as new items are added.

Miriam reviewed the “comments” or additions to the previous Bylaws.

Willie explained that they would take questions regarding their process but not the individual items in the Bylaws. They will vote “yea” if they agree, “no” if they don’t agree with them, or “abstain” if they don’t want to vote or if they did not attend the previous Assembly.

- A. One member objected to the procedures of the meeting, and expressed concern about how long the registration and renaming process took.
- B. One member asked about the legality of restricting membership as a Group Representative to residents of Southern California. The Assembly voted in November, 2021 for Electronic Groups to meet the same requirements as physical groups (for GRs and Current Mailing Address members to reside in Southern California).
- C. There was a comment that the Bylaws are not “required” to be changed. Our Bylaws need to be extensively reviewed going forward.
- D. Question about the corporation’s legal rights. Comment that the section regarding open officer positions is vague.
- E. The Bylaws are revised approximately every 3 years, after the current panel’s changes have been voted on.
- F. Could we pull out individual items for discussion? No action taken.
- G. Most of the changes in the Bylaws are “housekeeping” items.
- H. Was an attorney consulted in the writing of the original Bylaws? An attorney was a part of the original committee that wrote the Bylaws. Other attorneys have looked at the Bylaws more recently.
- I. It would be helpful for the Comments to include in future Bylaws revisions the date of the Area Assembly at which the change was made.
- J. Future changes to the Bylaws could be made starting tomorrow and could be presented as soon as the May 2025 Assembly.
- K. Why are the procedures for making amendments not spelled out more specifically? Those could be included or could be included in a Policies and Procedures Manual with more detailed steps than should be included in the Bylaws.
- L. Important to have Bylaws reviewed by legal counsel on a regular basis, and before the Bylaws are brought before the Assembly.
- K. If the Bylaws are not approved today, what will happen to SCAC and the relationship of SCWS as their fiscal sponsor, plus the electronic platform/overlay issues? These were voted on by the GRs and will be in effect but will not be encoded in the Bylaws.

Lunch Break (30 mins) [12:40pm - 1:15pm]

6. Treasurer’s Report (30 Minutes) – treasurer@scws-al-anon.org Treasurer, Vicki V.

- A. Financial Report year-to-date
 - a. Total checking/savings = \$173,726.13
 - b. Total assets=\$180,768.87
 - c. Reserve = \$70,000
 - d. SCAC = \$40,000
 - e. We had to pay \$6,284.20 for insurance to keep it from lapsing because of the increase in the premium.
 - f. District Contributions = \$7,130.05
 - g. Group Contributions = \$62,279.16
 - h. Net income = \$31,000
 - i. Proposed Budget–based on actuals for this year
- B. Questions:
 - a. What is the “equity” line as it’s not a standard accounting category but is a QuickBooks category? She didn’t know and will include that in her written Report for the Bulletin.
 - b. Question about the \$6,284.20 insurance payment and what period of time that covered. It was only for the first quarter of this current year (which started October 1).

- c. We get significant revenue from Groups and much less from Districts. Explanation of how groups exercise autonomy when they decide how much and where to send their surplus funds.
- d. Do we have a category of expenses for our website? Not a line item at this point.
- e. The literature costs are for public outreach.
- f. Hotel and lodging is \$1,750 a month. That is the 12-month cost of the Officers and Coordinator's "service event" spread out over 12 months. Given the cost, the opinion was expressed that this should be brought to the GRs and explained thoroughly. The Finance Committee recommended that there be a Task Force to look at service events to see if it's useful to the Coordinators and Officers.
- g. One member commented that the Area spending \$300 on literature is "miniscule."
- h. Contribution to WSO – what are the factors for deciding whether to contribute surplus funds to WSO? It's based on our current and upcoming expenses.
- i. Background checks? What are we storing in the storage facility? What are we insuring?
 - 1. We pay for the background checks for AMIAS.
 - 2. We store financial records (as required by the IRS), archives, and hospitality supplies. The current challenge is to sort through and eliminate unneeded items in order to purchase a smaller unit.
 - 3. We provide insurance for registered physical groups published on al-anon.org. All meetings are covered. Certificates of Insurance are provided for locations that require proof of liability insurance coverage.
- j. Question regarding the cost of tax preparation. More work was required this year for tax preparation than was required in previous years.
- k. What was the total amount of the expenditures submitted for reimbursement that were problematic (nonstandard expenses) = \$1,500.
- l. The issue of the \$5,000 CD has been resolved as it is now visible to those Officers who can view the accounts.
- m. Finance Committee update
 - 1. See Statement of Income & Expenses on scws-al-anon.org for exact figures.
 - 2. The largest source of our contributions is from our individual Groups.
- n. Observe 7th Tradition – "Contributions" link on SCWS website
- o. Contribution to WSO – not recommending a contribution at this time.

7. New Business

A. Area Insurance for Groups – new information and challenges. Insurance Coordinator, **Elaine A.**

a. Presentation

- Prior to the Area covering liability insurance for Area Groups, individual groups paid for their insurance.
- Insurance premiums are going up across the board in every sector covered by insurance..
- Our Area policy was originally written for 800 meetings a year. The reality is that there are 800 meetings a week, not a year. There are actually 416,000+/- members attending those meetings a year.
- Currently issue about 200 certificates out of the 800 in-person meetings
- Our insurance is also covering District meetings and other Al-Anon special events.
- Our previous rate was just under \$4,000.
- Our existing broker's new price was \$25,000 (not including the umbrella policy or the Directors and Officers insurance we typically purchase).
- Our program and meeting situation is unique, which made it difficult for brokers to assess.
- Our Insurance Coordinator found a unique way to accomplish covering our insurance needs.
 - One is for general liability for bodily injury and property damage
 - The second is for acts committed by our members in meetings including abuse against Alateen members
- The cost for the above is \$10,196.
- We currently have an Umbrella Policy but may not need it.
- Currently, about 25% of all 800 in-person meetings will receive Certificates.

- b. Questions:
- Cost-wise, if the 200 groups which are currently getting the certificates joined together to get the certificates, it wouldn't work financially.
 - How would electronic meetings be affected? They are not covered. Only in-person meetings are covered.
 - The \$10,000 payment has been factored into the budget.
 - Alateen meetings are covered.
 - Our current Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance is around \$700 a month. We currently pay \$1200 for D&O and our umbrella policy.
 - This would cover a District's Alathon.
 - Would lawsuits be covered? Mediation? It would depend on the specific circumstance.
 - If someone brought a non-AI-Anon member to a meeting, would they be covered? Whoever is there in the meeting would be covered.

NOTE: These items from today's Agenda were not addressed at today's meeting, and will be added to the May, 2025 Assembly Agenda:

- Delegate's Report
- SCWS Bylaws – differentiating legal rights and traditional rights as they apply to SCWS and the SCWS Assembly, and the fiduciary responsibility of the SCWS legal entity.
- The Future Assembly Task Force report and vote on the financial feasibility of possible future hybrid Assemblies, as approved by the August 19, 2023 AWSC.

8. **VOTES** -- Proceeded to taking all of the following votes in order:

Voting members: **204 (as of 2:50pm)**

A. Vote on the updated 2023 SCWS Bylaws:

Motion: Do you approve the proposed Bylaws Modifications?

Motion made by: Rob L.M., GR 40 Seconded by: Newt G, 12 DR.

VOTE: Total votes = 193

Yea	Nay	Abstentions	Adjusted Percentage (w/o Abstentions)
151 78.2%	35 18.1%	7 3.6%	Yea: 81.2% Nay: 18.8%

B. Approve of 2025 budget:

Motion: Approve the SCWS 2025 financial budget as presented?

Motion made by: Mark B, #57 Seconded by: Char O. D42

VOTE: Total votes: 189

Yea	Nay	Abstentions	Adjusted Percentage (w/o Abstentions)
173 91.5%	11 5.8%	5 2.6%	Yea: 94% Nay: 6%

C. Motion: Approve the purchase of a new liability Insurance policy at a cost of approximately \$11,000 for the next year in order to continue providing insurance for all in-person group meetings in our Area.

Motion made by: Theresa W. D#54 Seconded by: Cathy W. Group Records Coordinator

VOTE: Total votes: 191

Yea	Nay	Abstentions	Adjusted Percentage (w/o Abstentions)
187 97.9%	3 1.6%	1 .05%	Yea: 98.4% Nay: 1.6%

Area Elections: (30 minutes) Interim Area Chairperson, Tim P. (12:30-1:00pm)

Procedures for mid-term (Panel) elections: Candidate(s) will speak for 2 minutes as to why they would be an asset as an Area Officer. **If only 1 candidate, the vote is “YES”, “NO”, or “ABSTAIN.”** The elected member would begin after the Assembly through December 31, 2026.

D. Motion: Agree to use the SCWS previously approved Election Procedures for today's election of a new Area Chairperson.

Motion made by: Linda L. #45D Seconded Sandy W., D66

VOTE: Total votes: 195

Yea	Nay	Abstentions	Adjusted Percentage (w/o Abstentions)
156 80%	28 14.4%	11 5.6%	Yea: 84.8% Nay: 15.2%

Discussion:

- There was a lot of “back and forth” about the election; a number of people expressed concern about the election taking place today.
- One member complained about the lack of “rotation of leadership”
- One member stated that we have an obligation to move forward and trust the Board.

E. Chairperson Election—Requires majority vote per Election Procedures revised November, 2017.

Majority is 50% plus 1 vote.

Motion: Elect Irene C. to be the Chairperson? Motion made by: Newt, D12 Seconded by: Maria N. D42

VOTE: Total Number of Votes: 194

Yea	Nay	Abstentions	Adjusted Percentage (w/o Abstentions)
140 72.2%	39 20.1%	15 7.7%	Yea: 78.2% Nay: 21.8%

Ended the meeting at 4:01pm with the AI-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna E.
Area Secretary