

NCWSA Assembly Meeting Minutes

September 14-16, 2007

Sacramento, Red Lion Inn

Note: The meeting minutes for this meeting are not chronologically ordered. In an attempt to make the minutes more easily used as a reference, the minutes are ordered in a topical fashion.

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Meeting ran during the following times on each day
Friday September 14: DR Meeting and GR Orientation:
Saturday, September 15: 8:05 am - 12:30 pm
1:45 pm - 5:00 pm
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Sunday, September 16: 8:45 am - pm

Daily Business:

- Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties were read at the beginning of each day.
- On Saturday, the Assembly was welcomed by the Chairperson, Jackie B. She introduced the Assembly. Visitors from Southern California and the WSO were introduced and welcomed. The Assembly committee, which includes volunteers from Districts 6-10 were thanked.
- Knowledge-based decision making was introduced as our method for discussing business. There was a skit
- The Seventh Tradition was taken on Sunday morning.
- Roll call was taken each morning by the Secretary and the voting procedures were reviewed.
- Chairperson welcomed the assembly on Saturday and introduced the "Good Job" cheer for the weekend.
- On Saturday Morning the assembly was reminded to review the minutes for approval later in the day.

Voting Counts:

Saturday 8:45 am: 223
Saturday 2:50 pm: 258
Sunday 10:15 am: 230
Sunday 12:05 pm: 218
Sunday 2:00 pm: 120

Motions

Motion #0709.01 (Passed - Substantial Unanimity)

Move: Carl S.

Second: Suzanne B.
Motion Text: To approve the minutes as amended.

Motion #0709.02 (Passed – Substantial Unanimity):

Move: Debbie H.
Second: Susan S.
Motion Text: That the budget be accepted as amended.

Discussion:

- In 2007 we agreed to modify the budget for Assembly and convention to be balanced. Can we adopt that same format for 2008. The income line items 6z should become \$7000 and 7z should be \$14,000. This will balance their expense line items (55z and 56z respectively).
- What does the column titled “Actual 1/6” mean?
 - These are all the actuals we had for 2006. We will update them when we have them.
- Can you clarify for us? Are the Assembly and convention supposed to be balanced items, or are either of them income producing events. The actuals on the profit/loss statement reflect a loss.
 - We do not look for them to be income raising events. We always try to balance what is paid at the door with what the actual expenses are.
- Do we need to put the translation equipment in the budget?
 - In 2007 the chairperson spent funds that were not on the budget. In the future it will be added to the budget when the actuals appear.
- Why are the income figures for total income and total officers expenses missing?
 - They are hidden. I may have accidentally hidden them.
- Why is the officer budget so much higher for 2007 (and this year)?
 - We picked that figure, because it varies so much from year to year. Our budget is for mileage, paper, stamps, phones.
- For 2008, we are going to have an election assembly. Do we need to raise that line item for next year?
 - It will be combined with the October committee meeting. It will be a slightly larger room. Those numbers are rolled into the Committee total
- Is the budget year the same as the calendar year?
 - Yes.
- When I travel as a coordinator it comes out of my line. I want to verify that the Alateen Liaison event is still in the budget and was carried forward.
- I'd like to make a recommendation that we add a line item for professional interpreters. Could we budget for that accordingly.
 - If we can assume a reduced rate of \$40/hour.
 - My experience with AA would suggest it is about \$2000 for a weekend, and that would include the equipment. We don't need to add it to the budget here, but can discuss it at the NCWSC meeting and bring it for the 2009 budget.
- This is a diversity issue, could we put it under the diversity coordinator?
- Just to clarify, the interpreters are being reimbursed for their time.
- We are going to add 1800 of income on the top-side. Aren't we going to reflect a profit?
 - We dropped the donation income

Motion #0709.03 (Withdrawn):

Move: Mike M.
Second: Debbie H.
Motion Text: Prior to Assembly, the district reports are submitted one month ahead of Assembly, copied, and mailed to the NCWSA group reps. During Assembly, each district rep would be given a time limit to answer any questions regarding the district report and present information.

Discussion:

- We would like to hear more of what the best practices to the districts instead of their routine information.
- I think that is a good idea. But if it came through the 12-Stepper we would have to have our reports submitted by May. I'd be happy to meet that deadline.
- Thanks for the motion. I really enjoy the information that is given in the district reports as they are now.
- My district feels that DR reports should have their time limited.
- I am in support of this motion. We do have a deadline for the reports for the 12-Stepper.
- This is the only place for the district reports, and we don't hear them at the committee. There was only one person who wanted to change that format when we polled the committee. The DR meeting (at committee meetings) doesn't even have district reports. This is the only place that the DR reports are presented.
- I am in favor of this motion. I would offer the idea that each district report takes the flavor they want to. But I'd love to hear best practices and lessons learned.
- I would like to see a show of hands of all GRs who read those reports at assembly. (Not many). Some of us like to listen to reports.
- I have mixed feelings about this. I think hearing best practices would be very helpful. I also like to hear the ideas at the mike, too.
- I am a substitute. I was handed the Stepper on Monday. I think this morning was very fun. I thought the energy was fun. It really helped me get into the assembly.
- Maybe they could be incorporated into the folders instead.
- I like the intent of the motion. Perhaps our DRs can go back to their groups and get suggestions. Maybe smaller group discussion will help us discover a way to handle this.
- Didn't we used to break into groups at Assembly? Couldn't we do something like that, but related to district reports?
- Being here and getting the hands-on really helps me.
- This motion may have been interpreted incorrectly. We don't want to stop the DRs. Can we post this on the web site, and have it become a conduit of communications between the groups and districts.
- The DR reports appear in the October issue of the 12-Stepper. Submitting reports before assembly means that many of the items that happened won't be in the reports. Seeing the DRs helps us identify who we would like as an officer of delegate in the future. These DRs are our future officers and coordinators.
- The DR reports are already limited to three minutes. This is really one part of the motion.
- The second part of the motion is up to the prerogative of the Chair.
- The motion will be withdrawn and discussed by NCWSC.

Motion #0709.04 (Withdrawn):

Move: Julie T.

Second: Denise B.

Motion Text: That we add a one day leadership assembly to the NCWSA and remove one area committee meeting on a three year trial basis.

Motion #0709.05 (Passed - Yea:131, Nay:101, Abst: 26):

Move: Rosalie R.

Second: Kelly M.

Motion Text: That the NCWSA begins holding a second Assembly annually with the new assembly meeting for one day.

Discussion:

- See the discussion on two Assemblies found in Other Business.

Motion #0709.06 (Not Passed):

Move: Kip N.

Second: Marilyn R.

Motion Text: To table second Assembly for GRs to take back to groups for input.

Discussion:

- See the discussion on two Assemblies found in Other Business.

Motion #0709.07 (Not Passed - Yes:97, No:129, Abs:4):

Move: Motion 0509.07 Carried forward from 2005 and 2006 Assemblies

Second:

Motion Text: That our Delegate ask WSC to change our guidelines so that AI-Anons who are also AA members may be in service beyond the group level.

Note:

- Original motion form containing original mover and seconder cannot be located. However there is no stipulation in guidelines requiring minutes to contain motion originators.

Motion #0709.08 (Tabled)

Move: Cathy F.

Second: Judith P.

Motion Text: That the NCWSA change our guideline so that AI-Anon/Alateen member who are also AA members may be in service beyond the group level *including Group Representative to Assembly* except for positions that “could lead to membership in the World Service Conference (WSC)” *such as a District Representative.*

Discussion:

- Review of past Area actions was given and the originator. The originator declined to withdraw her motion.
- The originator will accept the motion to be placed on the agenda for next year's Assembly.
- GR's were told to record this motion and discuss it with their groups.
- Originator amended the motion with the amended text of the motion appearing in italics.

Motion #0709.09 (Passed Yes:185 No:17 Abstain:16)

Move: Alateen Safety Committee by Art B.

Second: John S.

Motion Text: That the Assembly approve the NCWSA requirement for Alateen member safety as presented.

Discussion:

- The updated safety requirement was reviewed and presented to the Assembly
- This is making it very difficult for Alateens to get rides. Are you making my parent become an AI-Anon member?
 - No. If your parent is not an AI-Anon member, the requirement doesn't apply. If your parent is an AI-Anon member, then the requirement applies.
- If four Alateens drive to an event together, they don't have to have a background check?
 - The guideline is for Alateen sponsorship, and suggests Alateen behavior. We would expect them to follow the guideline for Alateen behavior. They should also plan to have a signed release form.
- When I was 18, I committed a felony. I now have an ex-step-daughter. Because she is no longer part of my family and I can't qualify for a background check, I would no longer be able to take her to meetings.
- Is the area willing to pay for every parent who may transport a teen?
 - Yes.
- As a sponsor, I have no mechanism to enforce who drives who.

- Also, it is very difficult to get one male and female. I don't know if even have a male sponsor. This can never become a requirement, otherwise we will not be able to function as Alateen.
- As a parent, I've been able to transport people who are part of my teen's school with only a travel form.
- I look at the restrictions and I get worried about the restrictions, but as a parent, I'm so glad to know that I'm putting my child in the hands of someone I know is safe.
- As a person who has worked with the background checks, I strongly feel that we adopt and use this system. My experience tells me that we need this change to the requirement.
- I'm concerned with the guidelines on one-on-one interactions and meetings that can only find one sponsor.
 - This is a very difficult issue. What we're saying is that to be careful. This also makes a distinction between over and under 18, where both people are adults.
- How complicated is it to get a background check, how long does it take, and how much of a burden is it?
 - It was a 10 minute process at the local Sheriff's office. There is a form you need to have filled out. You have to make sure you have our ATI number. The result is emailed to the safety administrator, who records it in our database. It takes about two weeks under normal circumstances. Sometimes there is a problem, in which case it has to be repeated. If one agency passes and the other fails, you will be approved pending the result of the other. There is an appeal process to go through whereby the EC will review the circumstances.

Motion #0709.10 (Passed Yes:188 No:6 Abstain:10)

Move: Cathy F.

Second: Judith P.

Motion Text: That further updates of the NCWSA requirement for Alateen Member Safety require approval only from the Northern California World Service Committee.

Discussion:

- I would like to have the safety committee continue to address this issue.
 - The committee was created by the chair and serves at the discretion of the chair. All that this motion does is give the ability to change the requirement to NCWSC. It doesn't address the Alateen Safety Committee, nor does this motion make recommendations one way or another
- The EC has made the recommendation to have an Alateen safety committee ongoing and will advise NCWSC of this.
- This motion simply states that we have a good process at NCWSC, we know how to reach out, let us be your trusted servants and continue this work.

Motion #0709.11 (Passed Unanimous)

Move: Jackie B.

Second: Sandi C.

Motion Text: That NCWSA create a new officer position to serve as the Area Process Person for Alateen Safety.

Discussion:

- This motion was brought forward from NCWSC for vote by NCWSA.
- I'm representing a person who would be willing to stand for this.
- What would this entail? Could they create a new committee to ensure that these will be followed?
 - Any officer can create a committee. I would advise that the person who may take this position create a committee to help them.
- Page 73, section B.4.c of the requirement. In order to use the Alateen name in the geographic area...Doesn't this mean we need to send any flyers that come for Alateen events to this person to get confirmation that the flyers can be posted?
- The outgoing EC both recommend that we have an ongoing Alateen Safety committee.
- Could you clarify why this is an officer, and not a coordinator and what is the difference.

- Officers must have been a past DR and are elected by Assemblies. Coordinators write their own job description. We want the extra check that is entailed in the officer position.
- This is position that cannot be shared with the Alt-Delegate position.
- This is a very work-intensive position. Between now and May, while renewals are happening you are talking about 6 hours of work per week. We have someone willing to stand for it. The Alt Delegate didn't want to let go of this until he know he could do it. Now that he does, he is very much ready to pass this off. It is time this becomes its own job.

Motion #0709.12 (Passed Yes:69 No:11 Abstain:20)

Move: Kim H.

Second: Johanna M-M.

Motion Text: Whereas a trip to the Southwest Regional Service Seminar (SWRSS) is both a reward for service, and a stimulant to further service, and whereas there will be no SWRSS during the current panel, it is moved that NCWSC ask the Assembly to authorize the expenditure of up to the budgeted amount to send the Chairperson, Alternate Delegate, and Delegate to another RSS or to the 2008 International convention, at their choice.

Discussion

- Didn't we vote for this on the NCWSC meeting.
 - The vote was to pass the request to the Assembly.
- Our area has traditionally sent the Chairperson, Alternate Delegate, and Delegate to a service meeting, this is not a service meeting.
 - At the International, there is a mini RSS happening.
- NCWSC voted on this. This money is in the budget. This will be money that is already allocated.
- What is an RSS.
 - It is a seminar that is a weekend dedicated to service. The WSO comes to a local area and does some workshops.
- Are there other regional service seminars in the panel?
 - They are done.
- For clarification. The money was allocated for a service seminar, and this is a reallocation for a non-service purpose.
 - There is a service component to the Assembly.

Motion #0709.13 (Passed Yes: 66 No: 0 Abstain: 10)

Move: Paul S.

Second: Julie T.

Motion Text: That sufficient funds be made available by NCWSA to hire professional interpreters for future assemblies.

Discussion

- I want to avoid the language problems that have arisen in the future. Let's allocate funds so that this does not happen again. Just because you speak a language doesn't mean that you can act as an interpreter. People often study for up to eight years to become certified as an interpreter.
- Just because they are professionals, doesn't mean translation will be word-for-word.
- What about the motions from 2006. Will this supersede previous motions?
 - This is a new motion separate from the others.
- The emphasis of this motion was that there be professionals made available. If there is a member of AI-Anon who would like to do it on a voluntary basis, more power to them, but you need two interpreters, and they should be trained in conference interpretation.
- Are we duplicating costs by having purchased equipment?

- No. If we only hire translators by the hour, we won't be duplicating costs. Many interpreters have their own equipment, but you can hire them by the hour without the cost of equipment.
- The person who made the motion authorized striking from the motion lines specifying the rental or purchase of equipment, as equipment has already been purchased, and this should preclude future expenditures on equipment.
- We need professionals. They may not know the language of Al-Anon, but they can learn it.
- My concern about paying for translators, if we're paying for one language, should we be paying for other languages in the future?
- I am bilingual, and I could not do what they do. We need professionals.
- The easier it is for Spanish-speaking members to understand, the better participation we will have.

Motion #0709.14 (Passed Unanimous)

Move: Jay R.

Second: Carl S.

Motion Text: That the Assembly affirm the Executive Committee's recommendation that NCWSA continues to have an Alateen Safety Committee.

Discussion

- I want to make sure that this committee continues.

Elections

Election

Area Process Person for Alateen Safety – Lori K. was voted as the new Area Process Person.

- Lori K. stands for the position and is represented by Elaine S. in absence. Former DR, D-16, past member of EC.
- Joe G. stands for the position. Current DR of D17. Former Westminster Woods Chairperson.

Committee Reports

Alateen Safety Committee (Art)

- In 2004, we approved the Safety Requirement for Alateen Sponsors, which was mandated by WSO on a three-year trial basis.
- In 2005, we changed our process for approving sponsors from using the Megan's Law database to using State Background checks. As such, we see the state as the “Special Worker” that we've hired to perform background checks for us.
- In 2006 we brought the new guidelines to Assembly, and since then, we've sent a draft to the WSO and received approval.
- Art reviewed major changes in the wording, but some small changes in wording were not included.

Executive Committee Report (Joan W. and Chris A.-C.)

Outgoing E.C.

- The outgoing EC Chair presented the wrap-up to the last term. They met at the NCWSC meetings and interviewed all officers.
- The EC dealt with a violation of the Alateen Safety Requirement during Westminster Woods. Several recommendations are suggested relating to this:
 - That complaint resolution guidelines be used at all times before contacting the EC.

- That members of the Alateen safety committee, the Alateen Safety administrator, Alateen Coordinator, Alateen Liaison, and past Westminster Woods chairs meet to review and update the NoCAC guidelines to incorporate the Alateen safety guidelines where possible.
- That all Alateen sponsors and NCWSC members support the area Alateen safety guidelines.
- That all coordinators attend meetings as outlined in their guidelines.
- That Northern California Alateen conduct a group inventory
- That NCWSC conduct an area inventory at the October or February committee meeting lead by our Western Regional Trustee.
- The changeover to the new members has taken place.

Incoming E.C.

- I'm sorry that the report was not able to be given when the teens were there.
- We had a conference-call first meeting. The new EC is comprised of Chris A.C., Erik N., Patti M., Claudia M, and Harlan H.
- Meetings will take place by phone a few weeks before each meeting.
- Please contact us if you have any questions.

Discussion

- The E.C. looked at some difficult circumstances. In my opinion Alateen is running wild right now. I believe that the WCAC chair is blatantly disregarding the requirement. That person is now the NoCAC chair. I believe this should be looked at. I don't think the Alateen program is healthy right now. I don't know what we do to fix that, but we should hold people accountable. If NoCAC goes away for a year or few years until the teens can get it together again (like it happened 25 years ago). The teens are not following our guidelines. I'm not the only one with this opinion, I'd like to hear what other people feel about this.
- This should not be addressed right now. The teens are not here to address this.
- The incoming EC have talked about this. It seems like the WCAC and NoCAC and NCWSA are all following different guidelines. The EC will look into making sure that all guidelines are adhered to uniformly.
- I was hoping this would not come up this weekend, since this is not resolved. I attended the WCAC conference. It was a good conference. I am having a hard time with the gossip and criticism that has arisen from this situation. I agree there is a lot of room for improvement, but we shouldn't condemn people for a single mistake.
- We will address this at the NCWSC meeting.
- I would request that we realize that we're talking about 50 years of Alateen and 112 countries where it is working. If we have one or two incidents in that time we should keep that in perspective.
- I want to thank the EC for recommending we use the conflict resolution steps. I am troubled by the language used that there was illegal behavior. I saw no illegal behavior at WCAC.
- Thanks to the committee for addressing this. This body has never been advised as to what went on. This could be encouraging gossip.
- Remember we are talking about kids coming from dysfunctional families. We cannot expect them to behave any other way than we all do. However, the best examples come from teens who have followed the guidelines we set out for them. We have to lead by example. We need to ask the kids to follow guidelines and hold them to that. But I agree that this discussion should wait until all parties are present and can have a discussion in an adult manner.

Budget Committee Report (John S.)

- The proposed 2008 NCWSA budget was presented to the Assembly.
- The budget is always a summary budget. Many individual line-items are obscured as summary items. For example, coordinator budgets are rolled into one line item for all Coordinators. This is so the Assembly-at-large can approve broad spending goals instead of micromanaging individual coordinator and officer plans.

- Further discussion is located next to the motion to approve the budget 0709.02

Committee Report

- The budget committee is comprised of: a past Treasurer, the current Treasurer, the current Alternate Delegate (as chairperson of the committee), and three DRs
- The audit was done. The audits were completed for 2005 and 2006. Both audits were successful, complete, and found no errors. The 2006 audit had two checks with only a single signature, but with permission of another officer (as a check and balance, it is requested that every check be signed by two officers, but under extenuating circumstances, the treasurer may obtain verbal permission from another officer).
- The committee believes that our trusted servants are performing their jobs very well.
- In October, we will begin to look at the 2009 budget.

NoCAC Committee (Savanna for Jenae)

- She could not attend herself because of work commitments.
- Brian had to step down, by a decision of the entire committee. This has caused some difficulty, but if there are any concerns about this decision, you can discuss it with me.
- NoCAC will be at the Holiday Inn in San Jose in November.

Web Committee (Jim S.)

- This service costs \$600 per year. Nine districts maintain their own sites, and the rest are maintained by the committee. One district is looking to move into maintaining their own. Meeting request changes are all processed, and we post event information in the calendar. Please be descriptive in your email subject line to help us tell spam from real email. We will reply in confirmation for all changes and requests. If you do not hear back from us, send to us again in a few weeks. Our process will have to change for any flyers for functions involved with Alateen due to the amended and newly accepted Alateen Requirement. The number of hits is above 2 million per year, but actual visits [individuals making a single visit to the site] is 156,000, and pages viewed were 394,000. This is double the WSO web site. The web site was presented for the Assembly.

Convention Committee (Kim H.)

- Convention this year will be the first weekend in April at the Monterey Beach resort. Theme: On the Wings of Recovery. Get your reservations early. Forms are in the DR bins and are on the table. The website will be updated immediately after the Assemblies.
- We would like artwork and photographs for decoration of the convention.
- The Alateens will have their fundraiser in Vacaville. This goes toward rooms for them to stay in and helps them participate better in convention.
- We would like more committee volunteers.
- The Alateens need scholarships for the convention. They rely on them for attendance. A basket will be passed for members to contribute.

Ad Hoc Committee on Two Assemblies

- We hold one Assembly per year every September. We hold 3 AWSC meetings.
- Most delegates return after WSC in April and give their reports two weeks to one month after. We don't share our information until Assembly five months later.
- Sandi presented information about this idea as her report from last year's
- Proposed new schedule would be:
 - NCWSC – First week of March
 - Spring Assembly – Spring (One day last Saturday of May or first Saturday in June)
 - August – NCWSC
 - Fall Assembly - 2nd weekend of September.

Discussion:

- I like the proposal. The first Assembly weekend seems like it might be memorial weekend.
- It seems like the new schedule has more meetings falling in peak season.
- Your proposed meeting for the first Assembly looks close to memorial day weekend, and we might not see good attendance that weekend.
 - We definitely would not have it on a holiday weekend
- I have a concern about the election Assembly. It seems in the past like most of the attendance is comprised of the local people. That doesn't seem fair to people who are standing for office.
 - If we plan well, there is no reason we couldn't have elections at the normal Sept assembly.
- The May/June date might cause problems with school let out, graduations, weddings, etc.
- I struggle with time management. If we meet the first weekend in August, for NCWSC, does that give the committee enough time to prepare for Assembly?
 - It may be. I think the biggest concern would be the 12-Stepper being released. We might need to look into a later fall assembly.
- We have all of our meetings on first weekends. This might always conflict with certain districts who also use the first weekend to meet monthly.
- For the 12-Stepper, we would need to get all submissions in by the committee meeting in the future. We would need to sort out the timing.
- We are discussing the schedule, but not the issue of two assemblies. Do we want two assemblies? Can we discuss this issue?
- I like the idea of two assemblies, because if a GR misses one year, that's it, they've missed a good portion of their participation.
- Time between Sept and March is too much time.
- My concern is, do we have enough money to accommodate two assemblies?
- Before we can work out budget details, we have to decide to have a second Assembly?
- The whole Assembly body should meet more than once per year. I like this idea. I think financial support for groups is important for this.
- As past chairperson, I always felt we were pushing to finish the corporate work so that we had time to do the business of AI-Anon (meeting outreach, and public outreach). Two Assemblies would let us have the time to do the AI-Anon business, and finish the corporate business more easily.
- What about people from small groups who have trouble attracting GRs. Our income is too small to support two trips to Assembly. This might further discourage those groups from participating.
- What would the content of two assemblies be comprised of? How would we split that up? would some GRs come to one more than another?
- This makes me think me of the Alateen safety requirement discussions of a few years ago. With that complicated issue, having two Assemblies to discuss it would have been helpful to work through the concerns of the members.
- The motion seems to have two topics. I have a problem with cutting out a committee meeting. The time to do committee work is limited as it is.
- I'm concerned about where these two Assemblies will be held. Can we clarify
- We would probably rotate the Assemblies just like we do the one, now. We would need the bids to make that happen. But that's the way it works now.
- If there are two Assemblies, I'd be concerned if topics were not able to be finished between Assemblies.
- I think our Delegate's report is very important. She spends six days and no sleep at WSC. Our Delegate's report doesn't really get a chance to share what she gets from the WSC. What about an Assembly dedicated to the Delegate's report.
- Realistically, even a one-day Assembly, will force GRs to stay in a hotel and this will be a burden on the groups.
- The more meetings we have, the easier it is for us to get to know our jobs.
- My group only recently joined Northern California. We had been attending Nevada Area meetings. At Nevada, the second day assembly saw low participation due to the amount of time it takes to drive from our area.

- If we were to have a second Assembly in a large metro area, I'd be happy to host GRs. This adds to fellowship.
- I spent my first ten years in Al-Anon in Southern California. We had more than one Assembly, and it was great. We had a great connection with the Delegate. We had more opportunity to meet with the Delegate. We had one day Assemblies, and it worked well.
- A year since the last Assembly really means that I forget what I learn the year before.
- I think two assemblies might be difficult. But the offer for the Area for support might help.
- Before we do this: Are we available, are we willing, and are we able? I think we have addressed the issue of expense by the scholarships.
- The time involved in two assemblies, would make it difficult. But there is more flexibility. If I can't make one assembly that year, I might be able to attend the second.
- If we have two, more work would get done. But not everyone would make every Assembly.
- With my area, it is really a challenge to get here once per year. I would like to take this back to my group.

Ad Hoc Committee for Spanish Translation

- The original chairperson apologized for not following through.
- The chairperson looked for bids to purchase translation equipment. The lowest bid was accepted, and the equipment was purchased. Volunteer translators were found and used for the weekend.

Coordinator Reports

12-Stepper Editor (Bruce H.)

- The editor requests your sharing about what has made service worthwhile for you. He would like to publish these in the Convention issue of the 12-Stepper. He would really like an alternate to whom he could show the ropes before the new three-year term begins.

Alateen Coordinator (Chris M.) second recording

- The Alateens and sponsors were recognized.
- Work and personal affairs have kept her very busy. She has been active in participating in Alateen events. She has also attended and spoke at several events around the Area. I mistook the term for the Alateen liaison, and began to look for new people to serve, only to find that her term is two years and not 18 months and had to make amends to her. This program works.

Archives Coordinator

- No report given.

Bylaws and Insurance Coordinator

- If you would like to be covered by the NCWSA insurance policy, I need you to fill out a form and return it to me.
- There are forms available for both group and event insurance. They are available on the web site. Please contact me by phone or email if you have any questions. I expect a lot of upcoming Bylaws activity due to the recent changes and new positions.
- The Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance has been renewed recently.

Diversity

- No report given.

Facilities Coordinator

- The Assembly committee was thanked.
- Arrangements are communicated to the DRs, who are responsible for communicating that information to the group representatives.
- Upcoming meetings:
 - October NCWSC: Burlingame.
 - February NCWSC: Los Gatos Presentation Center
 - Convention is at Monterey Beach Resort. The entire hotel is reserved.
 - May NCWSC: several bids are in progress. Please get those to me as soon as possible.
 - Assembly 2008: Please bring your bids.
 - October 2008 NCWSC: District 1 is putting together a bid.
- If you are going to submit a bid, please get the RFP form from the website: <http://www.ncwsa.org/forms.html>.
- I've recommended that we begin a 2-year planning cycle for getting hotels booked. It is becoming more difficult to book hotels. Not many new hotels are being built, but the demand has risen.
- Please see DRs for information about upcoming events.

Group Records

- My computer issues are resolved, so it is nice to be caught up.
- The database is updated as of September 9, 2007.
- Her phone number is not up-to-date in the 12-Stepper or on the roster.
- Please give me addresses for all meeting places and full names makes it a lot easier for the rest of Al-Anon to get in touch with you.

Institutions

- H&I Conference in Petaluma was a great success. Thank you to the local committee.
- April 2008 H&I Conference will be at the Sheraton Gateway hotel in Burlingame.
- My mileage has been very high, which has contributed to high actuals for coordinators.
- I've conducted a survey of some of the District Institutions coordinators. There are only 3. This work is lacking. Please consider having an institutions meeting in your area. If you don't have an institutions coordinator in your district, consider having one, or being one.
- If you have any trouble getting into correctional facilities, please contact me. I should be able to help.
- Even if we can't get into a correctional facility, we should at least be able to reach out to the families.

Discussions

- The Area has supported Institutions to the tune of \$4500 for literature to use statewide.
- Several districts shared their institutions efforts.
- We're having trouble getting certified sponsors to step up for an Alateen institutions meeting. Can we just call it an Al-Anon meeting to get around the Alateen safety requirement?

Literature and Forum Coordinator

- I took the job because people said it was really easy to do, but it has evolved.
- She participated in a conference call with WSO, which shared about literature news.
- A chapter will be added on the concepts of service in *How Al-Anon Works*. The traditions and concepts will include ideas on how they can be personally applied. Should be due next year.
- CTC is available on 12 CD's. This will be in addition to the CD-ROM version. They are expensive, so they are interested to know how interested the membership is.
- A new section of the forum is called "Need a Meeting Topic?" This section is meant to be a way to help meetings who are at a loss for meeting topics with ideas.

- The term Al-Anon Family Groups is now the preferred term for referring to our program. This is to clarify to non-members that we are not AA, which can be a perception when
- Carol shared a slide show that introduced the member web site for Al-Anon.

PI/CPC (Alternate, Kim H.)

- Linda was injured in a fall in April. Please keep her in your thoughts. Please read in the 12-Stepper about how the H&I Conference went, which Linda chaired. Remember you can share the message of Al-Anon with a professional by looking at the member web site. Please submit your stories about professionals, WSO wants them. As members, we can contact local media outlets in your area, and ask them to play the Al-Anon PSA. A call will produce results. Ask us if your area is covered and if it isn't, ask us and we will get WSO will help. Youtube.com now has one of our historic PSAs available. There is currently a WSO project that is very simple. Please take a news release to the places where our meetings are held, and ask them to take them to post a statement to the newsletter at that location. The text of the news release is available from the coordinator, if you would like to do this. The area public outreach coordinators are all invited to a regular conference call with WSO. Please ask your DR to submit topics to the PI/CPC coordinator. The PSA was shared with the Assembly. We really need your help with outreach efforts. Please step up and volunteer.

District Reports

Due to time limitations, the following districts did not deliver reports at this year's assembly: District 2, 21, 22, 25, and 26.

District 1

- Is Located in the far north coastal counties and is a vast area. At times this makes it challenging to participate in other Area events. We had a Day In Al-Anon in April. There have been many changes in district positions, but we now have all positions filled. In August, they participated with AA in the Redwood Coast Round-Up. We will have another event in cooperation with AA in late September. Because of the nature of our Area, we received the 12-Stepper too late for early Assembly registration and would like to receive it in a more timely manner.

District 4

- Located from Anderson to Oregon border, without the coast. We have a small meetings but good Alateen participation. We have two events coming up, one in January (Shastafest), and a September Afternoon in Al-Anon.

District 5

- Located in Napa and Sonoma Counties. Art B. came to Intergroup to discuss what an Intergroup is and as a result we decided to keep our structure. The Delegate came and gave her WSC report to us. We co-hosted the H&I conference. We sponsor GRs to attend the Assembly which helps us with good participation. We have a holiday event in December including dinner silent auction and dancing. We had a BBQ in August. We host our own web site which is linked through nwsa.org and we have a tape library.

District 6

- There was a recent district fund raiser in September which was very successful and had very good participation.

District 7

- Located in Sacramento, North Highlands. They have a quarterly speaker meetings with Alateens regularly speaking at those. The teens also help with fund raising events. There was also an Alateen

workshop in the district this year that was well attended. A dual-membership discussion was hosted in June by Sandi. We participated in an event called "Recovery Happens" at the state capital.

District 8

- Their fall speaker meeting will be in October in Sacramento. There will be a soup event in January. They used the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2008 as part of a service project, and the Delegate will speak at the Spring Fling.

District 9

- There are seven meetings and seven GRs present at this Assembly. We started a monthly speaker meeting. They had a successful July fund raiser. They have a couple of institutions meeting. A third has been temporarily discontinued because the center burned down. They will resume when it is rebuilt. They are planning to start their first Alateen meeting in 20 years and have four registered sponsors.

District 10 (DR - Claudia M.)

- They participate in the District 6-10 intergroup events, including a monthly speaker meeting. Groups sign up to host this meeting. They have some new meetings, including an Alateen meeting. There was a 56th anniversary meeting for their oldest meeting. March was their annual fund raiser. We have provided literature to Folsom prison, and are looking into taking a meeting there. They are reviewing their approach to district Alateen service.

District 11 (DR - Colleen R.)

- We have had a lot of challenges. Rent has made it difficult for some meetings and some of the coastal meetings have had small attendance. We have done a lot of outreach, in spite of not having a coordinator, using grass-roots efforts by members. Some of their outreach has been to schools and to the significant others of state emergency workers. They have an event coming up. We had volunteers out at an AA event happening this weekend. Thanks to the hosts.

District 12 (DR - Patti M.)

- Located in San Francisco. We are incorporated district and as such carry insurance for all of our officers. We had a changeover from our old Treasurer. We are looking to bring Alateen back to San Francisco. We are working to get our web site back up and running. Our web site is going to become our newsletter. We are also looking to get more organized with our business.

District 13 (DR - Patrick B.)

- Located in most of San Mateo County and Palo Alto. We have several events including a speaker meeting and a bake sales. We will be hosting the upcoming H&I conference and have done several outreach projects. We've been able to shorten our business meetings thanks to some suggestions from the other DRs.

District 14 (DR - Johanna M.)

- We've been doing outreach by getting visibility of Al-Anon into the local press. We have a very active district. We have an October Day in Al-Anon. Our monthly meeting alternates between district business and local AIS meetings. We are hoping to give away a scholarship to go to the international, since there is no RSS in our region this year.

District 15 (DR - Arlene O.)

- Located in the East San Francisco bay area. Recently we added an institutions meeting which has brought a lot of outreach to the community with an average of 50 parents each week. The October Day In Al-Anon is coming up. We share our office with District 17.

District 16 (DR - Elaine S.)

- Located in Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton. Some of the events this year were Winterfest, and a Dance. There were several service events as well. There has been a focus on Alateen this year, which has lead to more participation by the teens. We have an event coming up in November. Our Day In Al-Anon will be in April next year.

District 17 (DR - Joe G.)

- Located in Fremont, Union City and Newark. They have a monthly birthday speaker meeting and potluck. They purchased 500 copies of Al-Anon faces Alcoholism and distributed them to local service agencies as a project. Their Day In Al-Anon will be October.

District 18 (DR - Bonnie M.)

- Located in Mariposa, Merced and Stanislaus Counties. We have a meeting in Yosemite Valley. If you're ever in the park, come to the meeting. They are working on updating district guidelines, and are researching opening an LDC. We have a Spring workshop every year in March and most years we have a October Day In Al-Anon, but this year, we will be cooperating with NCCAA and their convention. We also have the Serenity in Yosemite web site.

District 19 (DR - Linda W.)

- Located in Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kings. They have moved out of their district office and are renting space from a church. This has helped our bottom line. They have followed the model of Santa Clara Valley Intergroup of having 30 minute action committee meetings within each district meeting. They have a fall Octoberfest event. We will be participating in the NCCAA Fresno convention thanks to the invitation from that organization.

District 20 (DR - Annette W.)

- Located in Northern Santa Clara County, except for Palo Alto. Vicki H. came out and discussed the Dual Membership issue that was very well attended. Our bimonthly speaker meetings have not been well supported this year, but picked up at our last one.

District 21 (DR - Jennifer H.)

- Not given at Assembly.

District 22 (DR - Jeff D.)

- Not given at Assembly.

District 23 (DR - Harlan H.)

- Our web coordinator was lost, so we've been working to replace him. We had our craft fair which was successful. We have successful district speaker meetings run by one of our DRs. We'll have our annual craft fair again in December in Scotts Valley.

District 24 (Kim H.)

- Is alive and well.

District 27 (DR - Leora)

- The DR of district 27 is currently working alone and has taken over from the past DR. I will need a lot of help to get people involved in service. I've used the web site to count between 20 and 30 meetings. Currently I'm the sole GR.

Delegate's Report

Delegate's Report

- It's been a busy year.
- We have the Southern California representatives visiting us.
- We will discuss the idea of two assemblies later in this Assembly.
- I've shared a bookmark about sponsorship with you in all your packets. Please pass them out.
- Regional trustees will be discussed and described for us, since several people asked that question at the last committee meeting.
- There are some forms called "hot topic" forms in your packets. These are for you to take notes and bring them back to the groups.
- The 2008 International Convention will be in Pittsburgh next year. The member web site does not have the registration forms yet.
- The 2008-2009 service manual will be shipped soon. Make sure your group mailing address is up to date.
- The new PSA has been delivered. It will be shared later.
- In the spirit of cooperation and carrying the message, WSO has been helping to create a screenplay about Lois W. which will show on the Hallmark Hall of Fame. I will keep you posted.
- Art B. and Bill H. talked about how to reach young people who do not read. This led to the idea of putting the PSA on YouTube. It has been posted (www.youtube.com and search on Al-Anon).
- We need RSS bids for the 2009 RSS. Contact her if your interested district would like to bid to host it.
- Our bylaws state that the Assembly would affirm our trustee before we send the nomination to the WSO. Because the date has changed, we have discussed changing the process. There will be a motion to change this process this weekend.
- The conference summary is in the bins.
- All DRs received a guideline for how to make love gifts for the WSC.

Officer Reports

Treasurer's Report

- Please be sure to put your district number and WSO group number on the check. Please also make sure you send it to the donation address in the 12-Stepper, not to me directly. This helps us process the checks more efficiently.
- The balance sheet and profit and loss reports in the packets. There are errors on the print out, but not on the books. The EC has consulted our CPA to clarify that our books are balanced.
- There was a correction made to the postage account, and this will be reallocated. Several other corrections were made as far as the accounts credited for certain line items.
- The current balance for the checking account was reported to the Assembly which balances through July.

Chairperson Report

- I'm happy to chair my first Assembly.
- Service since last
 - SWRDM in Ogden
 - Compiled suggestions for Assembly at 2006 NCWSC and distributed at the February meeting.
 - Prepared the agendas and chaired NCWSC.

Secretary Report

- In the interest of time, the secretary did not read his report, but thanked the members of the Area. He also thanked District 23 and Vicki for the opportunity to bring the dual membership conversation to that district.

Alternate Delegate Report

Alternate Delegate and Budget Committee Chair

- The Alternate Delegate did not deliver a report to the Assembly but participated in several conversations relating to the newly created position of Area Process Person for Alateen Safety.

Liaisons

AIS District 6-10 (Sacramento area)

- We cover Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Solano, and Yolo counties. Due to a family loss, I considered stepping down, but am glad that I have continued, and feel that I have grown as a result of the experience. Meetings are monthly and have a newsletter that helps us communicate with groups. We will be electing new intergroup officers in November. We recently became a self-managed web site on newsa.org. Our Spring Fling is coming up in February 2008. In September (which is recovery month) we participated in an event called "Recovery Happens" at the State Capital. This was the first time there was an Al-Anon table at this event. We will have a fundraiser in October.

Santa Clara Valley AFG Intergroup

- We cover districts 20-22. We had a special event which was a great success. Our event this year is held next week, September 22. We participated in Unity Day with the AA's. We participated and had our own meeting rooms. We did outreach at a church which had been greatly affected by their pastor who had a drinking problem. We are making some updates to our web site. We will be updating our bylaws, since the last time was in the 1980's and we have had many changes. We are planning to record the How Al-Anon works book for a local member who has a learning disorder. Our action committees continue to be well received and we plan to incorporate them into our bylaws.

Alateen Liaison (read by Carl S.)

- Ari was planning to attend, but became sick at the last minute.
- She has spoken and been on panels at several events, both for AA and Al-Anon events. She has attended the Alateen Safety Committee meetings when possible. She reminded the Assembly of the upcoming NoCAC convention.

Hispanic Intergroups

South San Francisco

- They have weekday hours, for phone. They have an ongoing ad in local T.V., and are getting ready to incorporate. They have many events, and outreach project which take place each year, as well as committees which handle Al-Anon service and business for the Intergroup.

North and East Bay Intergroup

- They have recently opened and have filled all committees. They are looking forward to their work.

Other Business

Maryann R. from CT about Outreach

- Maryanne R., a trustee from WSO shared with the Assembly about outreach happening on the international level.
- Spiritual growth is only enhanced when we do outreach.
- Outreach overseas is usually structured as a paid worker from the office and a Trustee. The paid worker helps with business, and the Trustee is the volunteer. Trustees also helped with legal business.
- Every trip has specific defined goals. After, they evaluate the results of the trips.
- The trip which she went on recently was the 25th anniversary of AI-Anon in Poland.
- She shared extensively about an outreach trip to China that took place this year.

Discussion:

- Has WSO been invited to Muslim countries?
 - India.
- How have doctors been understanding of the spiritual message of AI-Anon in a communist country.
 - We didn't tend to address it directly. We couldn't use "Higher Power". They seemed to understand if we said "God" we meant something spiritual.

Winners of Scholarships to the 2008 International Convention

- Michael M. from Roseville.
- Callie-Ann L.
- Joe G. from D-17

Bids:

- Assembly 2008 - **Rejected**
 - D-05 - Santa Rosa Flamingo Resort and Conference Center. Sept 12, 13, 14.
 - Lunch is a buffet on Saturday. Breakfast is a minibuffet.
 - Will there be room for all the people? There are 310 or 320 classroom style.
 - Can you clarify the rates.
 - 209 for single, 249 for double, 379 for triple, 509 for quad per night.
- The Bylaws coordinator read the Bylaws to reiterate what

Discussion: (first recording on Sunday)

- The room cost of this particular bid would be exhorbatent. The amount of money per person is close to an additional \$150 per person for the weekend.
- It makes me sad when a
- My first assembly, I was out of my home, financially in debt. I was taught to trust in a higher power. I didn't have the money to be there. When I trusted, I was able to go to assembly in spite of this.
- How much did you spend on lunch, dinner, and breakfast. This would save me fifty dollars. My group gave me \$50. But my district can't help me. I'm here because I'm want to be here.
- We do give support to people to Assembly, and talk it up all along.
- It feels like we're paying for amenities
- I do not have any money. This is the district asking for you guys to come and support us. I don't get to serve on these committees on. Sonoma county is very expensive.

Alateen Recognition

- The Alateens in attendance were recognized to the Assembly.

Alateen Celebration

- Alateen is 50 years old this day. The Assembly sang 'Happy Birthday' to them, and cake was shared with the membership.

Open Positions

- Institutions Co-coordinator

Announcements

- T Shirts for NCWSA Convention 2008 are on sale this weekend. The convention will be in Monterey the first weekend of April.
- If the smokers could not position themselves directly next to the doors it would be appreciated by the non-smokers
- The literature table will take orders until 5:00 p.m. They will then go to the LDC and bring the orders back to be filled later.
- Please give copies of your reports to the translators. This will help them in their translations.
- We have a drawing for a scholarship to attend the International in 2008 in Pittsburgh. If you're an alternate, you're eligible to win. If you did not enter yet, then please do so out at the registration table. DRs also have a entry ticket that is yellow. Not all are signed up. Please do so now.
- Westminster Woods is having a fun activity in this room after the speaker.
- All literature orders are in. Please pick them up.
- There is an Alateen sponsor growing together weekend event. Today is the last day to register. Alissa T. won a free registration.
- The Westminster Woods fund raiser this weekend raised \$340 dollars for scholarships. Look for more fund raisers between now and the event in May.
- Income for this Assembly has been estimated at \$9932, and we budgeted for \$7000. Congratulations on the fantastic turn-out for Assembly 2007.
- The Chairperson thanked the Spanish-speaking membership for attending.

Ask-It-Basket Questions

- When will NCWSA begin having a second assembly. Could it be as early as May 2008?
 - We hope to have it at May 2008, but it will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- What is the difference between Assembly and convention?
 - Assembly is a business meeting for the group representatives and the delegate to conduct business of the area. Conventions are purely for fun and spiritual meetings.
- Why must we distribute candy to everyone at the meeting and have bowls of it everywhere? Sugar is a drug, not unlike alcohol, it simply has slower acting and less obvious effects. I'm especially concerned for the Alateen members but also for all of us, including myself. It makes me reluctant to serve Al-Anon in this capacity.
 - This is something the host groups do, and not sponsored by the Area in any way. Due to reading this the Assembly will be made aware of this concern and will hopefully take this into consideration.

Old Business

WCAC

- WCAC was a great success. It was smaller than NoCAC, which gave them the ability to have more workshops. They would like leftover money to go to the Alateen Coordinator.
- I would like to thank NCWSA for helping us put together the convention and the freedom to do it in the way we wanted to do.

Dual Membership Motion

- Vicki re-read the motion regarding dual-membership: “That our delegate ask WSC to change our guidelines so that Al-Anons who are also AA members may be in service beyond the group level.”
- The clarification was made that our motion is only for Sandi to take the motion to WSC and start the conversation.
- A consensus vote was to see if we are ready to vote, or if we need some discussion at the Assembly floor at this business meeting. All but ten people stated that they were ready to vote. The ten remaining people were requested to discuss with those around them what they have learned about the discussions that took place around the Area. No further floor time will be taken on the group. I will ask Jackie to put this on the floor as a vote.
- The Assembly was asked to approach this with the spirit of an informed group conscience.
- The Chair gave a reminder of the resources available in the 12-Stepper.

New Business

No new business.

Next Committee Meeting

The spring committee meeting May 4 and 5, 2006: The location is The Pines at Bass Lake at 5321 Date Avenue 95841. To make reservations call 1-800-338-2810 or 916-338-5800. Our reservation code is NCWSA for the rooms at \$84 per day plus tax.