

## **Minutes of South Carolina Area Assembly**

**SC State Museum, 301 Gervais (Corner of Gervais and Huger Streets),  
Columbia, SC**

Saturday, – June 8, 2013    10:00 A.M.      Chairman – Jeri W

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**Welcome** – Opened with the Serenity Prayer - The Concepts and General Warranties were read?.

**Welcome to Newcomers – Jeri W.** – Five (5) newcomers where identified and welcomed to their first ever assembly. An appreciative round of applause was given to them. There was an announcement of Dale C.'s death and service work. A moment of silence was given to honor our lost Al-Anon servant.

**Approval of Area Assembly Minutes** – Minutes from February 2, 2013, were presented for vote by Jeri W. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jeri W. and seconded by Mary Ellen R. and unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report –Fran B.** - Beginning Balance is **\$9,421.43**. Income for the period was **\$6,374.00** and total expenses were **\$3,503.43** with an ending balance of **\$12,292.00**. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as submitted was made by Eileen R. and seconded by Mary M. and unanimously approved.

**Chairman - Jeri W.** – Some announcements:

- The Alateen workshop will be led by our Alateen Alternate State Representative, AnnaLise B., along with her home group (Paths to Serenity Alateen from Mt. Pleasant).
- In the back of the room is a clear notebook with various service position duties, responsibilities, and general information. Please feel free to look at them at any time.
- The tri-fold for Group Representatives in the back of the room as well.
- **Your group and district elections need to be completed before our next Assembly on September 28<sup>th</sup>. All outgoing trusted servants can plead, beg, command, or simply ask for the newly elected people to attend that Assembly in order to have some continuity in knowledge and experience.**

I would like to give a few thoughts about our afternoon workshop topic "**US VS. THEM**". When Jan and I were trying to come up with an open-mike discussion, we wanted a topic that anyone could share on or ask questions – a newcomer, a trusted servant, or an old-timer in the program. It's so easy to critique what "them" is doing or not doing instead of looking at the "we" and the "I" in my home group, other groups I attend, at work, or in my home life. Recovery can be a slow-go, but there is a purpose in that progress.

I am offering you a challenge – to read a little bit at a time 2 pieces of our conference approved literature and then share your thoughts or questions with someone else in the program. The 2 books I am referring to are, for me, the most

spiritual in our library. They are Many Voices, One Journey and the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. How do they have anything to do with our workshop topic? From my point of view, if it wasn't for combining each of our strengths with one another, Al-Anon/Alateen would not be where we are today. These books give me an acceptance about the multitude of thoughts people shared and discussed before making changes in our fellowship. They were trying to be forward thinking and trying not to harm Al-Anon/Alateen. I have been made more aware how the Board of Trustees works better with the World Service Conference than in previous times. With the mentality of "US" in all our affairs, how could we not "PRESUME GOOD WILL"? I think it's necessary that we look around the room and look at "US" instead of "THEM". Or, maybe see a "THEM" and use the principles of the program and change it to an "US". Maybe another way to look at "US" is to see our "HP" in all we do and say while working for our fellowship.

In regards to our state, our task force for a convention chairperson and the thought force for redistricting will present reports at our August Area World Service Committee. In May, the AWSC members had open discussions on combining or deleting some coordinator positions, having backup persons in place in some positions, what positions are historically difficult to fill, and how to we use dual members more effectively in service work. There were no conclusions, but a lively discussion.

And in case you have forgotten, we will be having Panel elections during our next Assembly. The more Group Representatives or alternates that are here, the stronger our statewide group conscience will be. The GRs will be voting for a new Delegate, Secretary, Alternate Delegate/Group Records Coordinator, Delegate and Chair. I would like all of you that are eligible for these positions to take some time to consider, pray, and ask your service sponsor about the possibility of continuing your service work on the Area level.

**Alternate Delegate - Joyce H.** – Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 4, 2013 - We are getting close to the end of this term in service. Having the opportunity to share with others on this panel has been a wonderful experience. I hope that many of you are considering service work within your group or State level in October. It is truly a journey that you don't want to miss.

**Delegate's Report – Jan R.** – Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 4, 2013 - This year's conference began with reuniting with old friends and sharing a meal on Saturday night. The theme this year was: Our Legacies: The Spiritual Journey of Changing "Me" to "We." This year they put me on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor with a gorgeous view of the ocean. It was great seeing the Southeastern Regional Delegates that I met at our Delegate's get-togethers over the last three years. It was also good to see the delegates from panels 51 and 52 that I have gotten to know well. I knew going in that this year would be bittersweet to some extent because I would be saying good-bye's to so many people.

Sunday, we began early in the morning on our Thought Force and Task Force assignments. I was on a Thought Force that practiced our "skit" and presentation in the morning. After lunch I met with the Task Force I am chairing and we began the process of working on our assignment. We will be working throughout the summer on getting it ready to turn in to the World Service Office. The panel 52 and 53 delegates serving on this Task Force will present it at next year's conference.

Monday morning we began the panel 51 3-minute talks and went over conference goals:

- 1) That the spiritual tone of the conference will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct as members presume goodwill;
- 2) Conference members will understand the purpose of the conference and the relationships within the structure;
- 3) Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience – conference members will be able to support and communicate conference decisions.

Then we had an overview of the Knowledge-Based-Decision-Making process to reach an informed group conscience. This process allows communication between leadership and membership; dialog before deliberation; common access to full information for all decision makers and exists in a culture of trust, with confidence in the competency of our partners.

We then had policy discussions on Memorial Contributions and Anonymity, and Task Force presentations. One of which was from a Task Force to create a piece of service material to identify service opportunities for dual members. I have a flowchart for each of you to help determine service opportunities in your districts and groups. We were reminded that dual members are Al-Anon members and that service is an important part of recovery.

After lunch we had more 3-minute talks (mine included) and an update on the International Convention this summer in Vancouver.

We also discussed the following Chosen Agenda Item: Improving the retention of newcomers and experienced Al-Anon members. This discussion included suggestions such as: get newcomers' phone numbers and contact them; find jobs for newcomers. There is more info on the WSO website blog about "How does your group welcome newcomers?

We listened to the framing of a motion to change the names of 4 areas. These areas will be called: New Mexico/El Paso, Alabama/Northwest Florida, Wisconsin/Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and Manitoba/NW Ontario.

We received information on the expanded Conflict Resolution: Using the 12 Traditions and were each given the Conflict Resolution cards (S72) We learned about the various pieces of literature that are being translated into several other languages to include: A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic; Purpose and Suggestions; This is Al-Anon, and One Day At A Time Tuesday we heard the Public Relations policy discussion. We are reminded to always look for the spiritual element to avoid dissension. We also heard more policy discussion on Anonymity and Memorial Contributions. I have the text of these changes that were put forth.

We went over the Regional Trustee Plan process. At this time, Paula Burleson was affirmed as the Southeast Regional Trustee for another term.

After lunch we had the auditor's report and proposed budget. The audit report told us that there are 15,664 total Al-Anon groups; 9,413 are contributing to WSO. 60% of groups contribute; the average contribution per group was \$109 last year and \$111 per group this year. The WSO spends an average of \$252.88 per group for services they provide. There is a pie chart on the members website that shows where your \$10 contribution goes. In the budget there is a loss of \$305,000 last year, mostly due to lack of contributions and some lack of literature sales. WSO has decided not to reduce services to groups but will cut costs other ways: Delaying printing of the Service Manual; Limiting pay raises; cutting travel costs; only doing 2 PSA's instead of 3; raising the prices of literature. The last time contributions

exceeded literature sales was in 1954. 40% of our groups do not contribute to WSO. \$12 more per group in 2013 would be \$75,000 in revenue. It is important that each group feel connected to WSO. We are encouraged to celebrate the gratitude as others did in the past. Quarterly appeal letters are ways for individual members to express this gratitude. It is more important to get 100% participation than the amount of money you collect. Ric B. will send a personal letter of thanks to your group if you have 100% participation in the quarterly appeal.

We then listened to more Panel 51 3-minute talks. Ric gave the staff update. How Al-Anon Works has been extended as a trial for an additional 3 years at \$6 per copy. They are doing a marketing campaign regarding the "pay the gratitude forward" and surveys to document that in about 3 months. Sometime this summer, How Al-Anon works will be available as an e-book for a cost of \$11. It will probably come out around International. They will be offering an audio version in digital format (English Only) for \$24.99 sometime between now and the end of the summer. They are still working on getting the Forum available. It is a vendor issue, not WSO. E-books have not impacted literature sales of hard cover books when people use the material on a daily basis. Since they are no longer printing the posters of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts, each area has the permission to create their own posters.

In a report on Alateen, Mary Lou talked about online group records for Alateen. They are now online in a PDF writable format. There is an online AMIAS re-certification available to be done electronically by the AAPP. Al-Anon group records are now online and can be viewed by the DR's and the Delegates. Groups Records can view group info and editable versions will be available later this year.

We voted on motions every evening after dinner. Several motions were made to the policies section of the service manual, which will be reflected when the new service manual comes out next year.

Wednesday, we heard from more Panel 51 delegates and saw a Finance Committee presentation by Penny R. The first contribution received was in 1951. The first appeal letter went out in March of 1952. Groups were asked to send \$1 per member, 2 times a year. Today that would be about \$17 per person. Groups currently average about \$111 per year in contributions.

Among the many services provided by WSO is the following:

- Fellowship Communications (requests regarding literature and the Forum; CAL, copyrights, requests where to find; suggestions for new literature; handles production process; handles e-community and conference calls for Literature Coordinators, Produces Forum, manages style and format for presentations.);
- Public Outreach (Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism to counselors, emergency and x-ray waiting rooms, produces AFA, develops radio and TV PSA's in English, Spanish and French, handles the social media, puts out 2 press releases a month, manages e-communities and other communication with area PO Coordinators, Newsletter editors and Website Coordinators, produced Best of Public Outreach booklet, handles podcasts, blogs, UTube, Facebook, and Twitter; collaborates with researchers);
- Group Services (handles first contact from new groups, inmate services, LDC/AIS communication; Alateen and Group Records, guidelines and groups at work, registers groups and electronic meetings, sends service manual and Groups at Work to every new group, assists in resolving issues, sends a Forum to each group, keeps records current; certifies AMIAS, manages a toll-free line, produces Alateen Talk, supports lone member meetings and e-meetings);

- Membership Outreach (supports average member and group without governing, functions to support structures at district, area and WSO, supports group conscience, trips and outreach activities around the world, facilitating the 2013 International Convention in Vancouver).

These are just some of the things that WSO provides to the Areas, Districts and Groups. The question was asked: What do we need to communicate to members so they realize that their giving is as much an expression of their gratitude and spiritual connection to the program as any other service opportunity? Part of recovery is supporting Al-Anon, insuring Al-Anon is available to those who need it, not just afford it. To broaden my Al-Anon experience, I needed to serve at the Area level. The first paragraph about service in How Al-Anon works sets the tone with unconditional love. Tradition 7 states that to be fully self-supporting, we have to have people fill all positions. Suggestions were made like doing an inventory of current positions holders with the following questions: What was your greatest fear when you took the position? What personal growth did you receive from holding this position?

After our morning break, Karen Rimmell, Chairman of the Board, presented the July Event Task Force results. We have the opportunity to bid to get the Board of Trustees July 2014 meeting held in our state. I have the invitation and will have it available at Assembly.

We had a presentation from the Literature Committee. The new piece of literature: **Reaching for Recovery: Working the Legacies (P92)** will be unveiled at the International Convention in Vancouver. It has text, personal examples, and thought-provoking questions. It will be released simultaneously in English, Spanish and French and will sell for \$15.

They have made CAL quotes available again this year for 2014 calendars. They are available on the Area Chairperson e-community. It was a big hit last year with those areas that make calendars. They are still looking for sharing's on the Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships piece – have about 775 and need about 1500 more.

After lunch we got to see the new Public Service presentation. I have a copy of the videos for our Public Outreach Coordinator. We watched the new PSA 60-second spots in French, Spanish and English. It was announced that soon WSO will offer 24-hour meeting information availability.

We listened to Task Force and Thought Force presentations, heard about the IAGSM (International Al-Anon General Services Meeting). IAGSM Summary is available on the members' part of the Al-Anon website under Publications. We then moved to Shared Leadership Sessions. Wednesday night we heard from the International Representative from Mexico.

Thursday began with the Panel 51 delegates continuing the 3-minute talks. We then discussed the second Chosen Agenda Item: How can we get districts, without DR's and few GR's to become re-involved in participating in Assemblies and AWSC? How do we reach out to registered groups who do not attend Area events? Discussion included: Participation is the key to harmony, Concept 4, Al-Anon is spiritually and financially impacted when groups do not participate in the district and area levels, have ownership in carrying the message; links of service and communication are broken, use conference goals at Assemblies and communicate with all groups whether they participate or not, Isolation didn't help when you were trying to recover, why would your group grow in isolation. What does a healthy group look like? Keep in contact with each other between meetings.

We learned that of the 14,467 English speaking email addresses for CMA, 7,791 are valid. We also learned that the member website hopes to have upgrades made by July 1<sup>st</sup> to make it more user-friendly. Each category will have its own webpage and separate pages for subcategories. Some things like the Service Manual will be available in multiple categories.

After lunch, we heard from the last of the Panel 51 delegates. We then heard about the trips to Colombia and Mexico by WSO. After more shared leadership sessions, we found out where the 2014 WSC will be held – again in Virginia Beach, VA. WSO is considering other options than holding the conference in Connecticut to allow delegates to visit Stepping Stones, but not hold conference due to expense. The Chair of the Board, Karen R., summed up the week as follows: “Laughing, crying and sharing we listened with an open mind and open heart as we shared ideas for a better Al-Anon. We considered the spiritual principles of Honesty, Respect, Unity, Anonymity and Autonomy. This will keep us on our spiritual journey of offering comfort to families of alcoholics.”

We passed the basket among the attendees and collected a little over \$7000 in contributions.

We had out closing banquet with two spiritual speakers from Panel 51. Each of the outgoing panel 51 delegates received a certificate of their participation as delegates. Panel 51 then setup and performed our skit. Laughter was shared by all and your delegate actually danced at the end! We even got Ric to dance on a table! While it was sad to be saying good-bye, I will get to see a lot of my conference friends in Vancouver at the International. That seemed to be the slogan on Thursday night – “See you in Vancouver!”

International 2018 will be held in Baltimore, MD. It's never too late to start saving for the next International.

Friday, we were able to attend an open meeting of the Board of Trustees where all the motions and affirmations were affirmed by the legal entity of Al-Anon.

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve our Area and Al-Anon.

#### **Alateen - Jan H. –**

- 1) Extensive report on our Alateen fellowship participation at 2013 Al-Anon/Alateen Convention in Myrtle Beach in Reflector. Record turnout and fun with Alateen fellowship. Excellent speaker ...workshop and fun times in the batcave --- and OMG the snow. We hope you enjoyed our Best Seat in the House...fundraiser. Raising more fun than funds...but a good start ...hoping the 2014 committee will invite us back loose at the podium.
- 2) All hands are on deck planning for our upcoming 2013 SC Alateen Conference...(camp) --- meeting after lunch today.
- 3) Soft deadline TODAY to Register. We are set up in the back to receive today...that is PART A ---anyone wishing to attend. Forms are available online ...have some with me today. Saturday...is open to all members (9=5) and is a Partial fundraiser for SC Alateen. And, definitely fun-raising for those of you willing & able to make the drive to Camp Kinard ---speakers, workshops, pool, walking paths and lunch ---all for \$15.

- 4) THANK YOU already to AFGs and individuals contributing to our Alateen scholarship fund for camp. You know who you are...and so do we. For those of you who might also be interested in contributing....
- 5) I have printed off for each DR today (pick up in the back) ...information about our camp to share with all your GRs...and you can see, call or e-mail anytime.
- 6) Danny ...our State Rep is not here today because he is guest speaking at the Annual GA Alateen Conference. He & Brandon with Bluffton Alateens are going to support Danny where they will be scouting for possible speaker & workshop leader at our camp. This worked well with Gene last summer.

**Area Alateen Process Person - Susan O.** – Thanks to all AMIAS who recertified! 42 recertified, 12 did not, 5 new sponsors for a total of 47.

**Alateen – Danny B.** –

**Group Records – Joyce H.** – Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 4, 2013 - This seems to have been quit a busy few last months. I have received several additional meeting to add in Chesterfield District 5, and also District 8 for Conway. I have also received changes with already established groups . It is getting about time for elections and more changes to be sent in. Please remind your Group Representatives to give changes to you , the District Representatives and you in turn send them to me. There was quite a few problems in District 8 and District 5 as the new GR's of these groups were sending their information directly to WSO . Therefore 2 weeks later they were still not listed and called me to find out why . I had never received change forms to administrate registering them. That is why it is essential that all change forms come to Group Records Coordinators. If any of you need more change forms , please let me know. Thanks , Joyce H. Group Records Coordinator

**Archives – Linda R.** –

**Literature – Nan M.** Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 4, 2013 - Many Voices, One Journey will be featured several times in the “Cal Corner” of The Forum please encourage your groups be aware and encourage membership to see the value to be found in these materials.

1. Continue to encourage membership to submit sharings for Intimacy In Alcoholic Relationships(working title). There is no deadline for submitting sharings. The WSO is looking for all forms of intimacy, not just physical intimacy, but also emotional intimacy, and intimacy between family members and friends.
2. Remember to share with others the Service Manual, and all Conference Summaries from 1961 on and many other service tools are in down loadable format on the members' site.
3. WSO reminds us that we may purchase literature anywhere we may wish but that it helps WSO for us to purchase through our local Raleigh LDC. It is far less time consuming and economical for the WSO to ship large orders to the LDC's than it is to ship small orders to groups and individuals.
- 4.

**To Know:**

1. Al Anon's first e-book, Having Had A Spiritual Awakening is now available for \$9.99 through electronic book service providers. The Forum is on a waiting list with the service providers and will eventually happen but is delayed because it is a subscription.
2. The title of the Legacies workbook is Reaching for Personal Freedom—Living the Legacies(P-92) it will be spiral bound and have about 170-180. Still planning to be released at the 2013 International Convention.
3. The next Service Manual is expected to be posted in late 2013 on the Member's Web site. The printed version will be mailed out to all registered groups in early 2014.

**To Consider:**

1. Can I photocopy a single page from CAL for a one time use at a meeting? Answer: Members may copy CAL and The Forum for use in Al-Anon/Alateen meetings or workshops without written permission, provided it is for a one-time use, the photocopy is limited to what can be reasonable discussed within one meeting, and the material is not for sale or being distributed beyond the group. The WSO does ask that you include the following credit line, "From \_\_\_\_\_, copyright 20\_\_, by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc."
2. It is my understanding that Al-Anon has no promises, but some members insist that we do. What can I do when someone refers to the "Al-Anon Promises" and how can I do it gently, with love and understanding? Answer: Most members who refer to "Al-Anon promises" do so without malice or awareness of the larger representative group conscience. WSO often shares that Al-Anon does not have promises, but we do our best to help the member understand how and why that determination came about. The Literature Committee as early as 1977 has turned down suggestions to adopt material from AA by some (but not recognized by their own General Service Office) as "The Promises." The Committee also has turned down requests that Al-Anon create its own set of "Promises". The Committee's reason from the start is that in Al-Anon we offer our experience, strength, and hope. We don't make promises because each individual's needs and situations are different. In the World Service Conference discussions have been held and the Literature Committee's recommendations were upheld.
3. Does the WSO have a stance on Al-Anon speakers discussing their use of the AA "big book" or other outside literature in their open talks? Answer: Page 101 of the Manual also applies when Al-Anon speakers speak at an Al-Anon event. Additionally, the Al-Anon Guideline for Members Interested in Speaking(G-1) states it is confusing both to potential Al-Anon or Alateen members and professionals to hear our message diluted by referring to other programs."(The Guidelines are available on the Members' Web site)' Some convention committees send all speakers a copy of the Guideline, often with additional wording of their own.
4. What are our top five selling books? Answer: 1. Courage to Change (B-16), 2. Paths to Recovery (B-24), 3. How Al-Anon Works (B-22, B-32), 4. One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (B-6), 5. Hope for Today (B-27).

**Public Outreach –** Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 4, 2013 - A telephone conference call was held for the area Public Outreach Coordinators and we were asked where and

what was our area using/putting/doing with the 2013 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism Form magazines. Some of the answers were: television stations, community colleges, college clergy, social services office, schools, hospitals, courts, car dealership, high schools, women's resource centers, jails, bail bond office, pediatric offices, mental health fairs, AA conventions...they placed stickers/labels on Forums with groups name, date and address. Take Spanish Forum's to Spanish speaking churches.

Al-Anon faces Alcoholism 2013's second printing was in April, put your orders in for the next printing. April was Alcohol Awareness month, did your district have any contact with that community? health fairs, Alcohol awareness days?

Remember that television Public Service Announcements are available. Since December (3 months old) there have been 210 Million viewing so far, last year's air play was 502 Million for the whole year, so we are way ahead...larger cities and more television stations make up the most of that, but little cities and fewer stations still will air our announcements. Then send them "Thank You" cards from your district.

Continue to do your service work by using pamphlets to accidentally leave different places – how about when you return that library book, put a pamphlet in it as a book mark, it may be received by just the right person.

**Web Page – Mike M.** – Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 4, 2013 - Last meeting, I spoke about how this website belongs to the members....those holding positions on this panel, the DRs and GRs. I look to these people for inputs and updates. I said I was hoping for a little more interaction from you, the owners of the website.

So far this year, I have had some folks giving me updates to district meetings, and a few group meeting updates. I thank those who contributed to this.

Most of the data on our website has been static now for the last two years. Very few inputs from committee members, or others for improvements to the web. I would like to take this moment to make a call to all of those, to take a few moments, or get with me to make updates to our site. We all commented on how good the WSO site looked after they did a makeover, but that was not the work of just one person. That took a team of folks, dedicated to making a difference. We can do the same, but I cannot do it alone.

I have several meeting updates I need to try to get completed. I have been busy with some jobs in March, another convention in April, and then my main computer was worked on and crashed. I just got back Friday, so I hope to be able to get busy on some of these updates.

One thing I was attempting to do was to get access to the WSO database with read only access, just like the DRs have. Apparently, WSO thinks this information is already available to me through the Group Records Coordinator. Supposedly, there is a way for the Group Records person to download our data and provide it to me, but I have not had time to coordinate this as of yet. Hopefully, more to come.

With all this said, after some discussions with a couple of folks from WSO, and various people within our Area, I think it is time for us to consider combining the Group Records Coordinator and the Webmaster positions. Most of the updates to our web come from the Group Records Coordinator, and if both positions were held by the same person, it would allow for information to be updated easier. Over the last four years I have been Webmaster, getting accurate up-to-date information for the web has been the biggest challenge. GRs and DRs will send the webmaster updates, but not the Group Records coordinator, and vice versa. If all these updates went to the same person, it would all the data to be updated more accurately.

So, it is my intent, to make a motion, for this panel to consider combining the Group Records Coordinator and the Webmaster positions effective next election. Both positions require someone to be technology savvy, and both depend on similar data.

In case you have forgotten, the link for the website is [www.al-anon.sc.org](http://www.al-anon.sc.org) and to get to the members only area, you click on the Al-Anon emblem in the top right corner. The password is "scarea50" (all lower case.)

**2013 Convention Chair – Mike M. –** It appears our 2013 Convention themed Keys to Success, was quite the success. We are currently working on the final report and hope to have it by Assembly next month. But here are some numbers for everyone to see where we stand.

First of all, I had a great team, who worked very hard on their respective functional areas, and made each subcommittee a success. We got off to a rocky start, with a changing of the Chairperson position, which also had a ripple effect, but we pulled together. I think some of the folks were resistant to my intent preplanning process, but we got through it.

**Attendance:**

Attendance numbers were as follows:

Preregistered – 226

Thursday Onsite Registrations – 32

Friday Onsite Registrations – 45

Saturday Onsite Registrations – 47

Sunday Onsite Registrations – 1

We had a total of 350 attendees to this year's convention. Based on information disclosed, they are as follows:

Al-Anon -225

AA – 23

Alateen – 42

Unknown – 31

We had approximately 15 no shows of people who preregistered who could not make it. Some of these people donated their registration to the cause.

**Funds:**

We started the cycle with the \$2,500 seed money, and that has already been returned. This was important to be able to cover startup expenses and to allow us to put a deposit on the resort. Although the resort worked with us very well, and only required a very small deposit.

Total Hotel cost was \$1,157.40. This included the speaker rooms, convention center, workshop rooms, staff rooms, and coffee provided during the meetings.

We purchased new lanyards (144) and new name tag holders (250), so the convention committee has an ample supply of those now. Since our budget appeared to be doing so well, it seemed like the right thing to do for the future health of the committees. These have already been passed along to next year's committee.

We also purchased a new Hospitality Banner and signs which were passed on to next year's banner. The banner is of size so it can be used indoors or out.

Fund raisers varied in the amount of money they attracted. A breakdown is as follows:

Baskets - \$2,591

Quilt - \$1,260.48 (after expenses)

Country Store - \$298 (took a loss on the shirts/sweatshirts)

Best seat in the house Alateen - \$245.00

After paying back the seed money, and after paying all expenses this year, it appears our balance will be over \$5,000.00, and once we verify all expenses have been cleared, will be turning this money over to AWSC.

### **Workshops:**

Our workshops appear to have been very well received. Here is a breakdown of attendance:

	Day	Time/Attended	Day	Time/Attended
Honest, Open and Willing –Key to Step Work	Thurs	4PM / 20	Fri	11AM / 40
Step 8 & 9 – Key to Leaving the Past Behind	Thurs	4 PM / 11	Fri	11AM / 48
Humility – Key to Spiritual Growth	Fri	9:30 AM / 52	Fri	1:30 PM / 20
Feel, Deal, Heal – Key to Emotional Truth	Fri	9:30 AM / 31	Fri	3:00 PM / 43
Self-Care – Key to A New Perspective	Fri	9:30 AM / 13	Fri	3:00 PM / 57
Inventory – Key to Yesterday and Beyond	Fri	1:30 PM / 25	Sat	3:00 PM / 51
Al-Anon Wisdom – Key to Conflict Resolution	Fri	9:30 AM / 20	Fri	1:30 PM / 41
Sponsorship – Key to Trust	Fri	11:00 AM / 28	Sat	3:00 PM / 13
The 12 Trad – key to Group Health	Fri	1:30 PM / 12		
Service – Key to Carrying the Message	Fri	11:00 AM / 24	Fri	3:00 PM / 18

WSO Speaker Workshop	Saturday	1:30 PM / 66
Alateen Open Workshop	Saturday	3:00 PM / 74
Archives Workshop	Sunday	8:45 AM / 88

Workshop attendance totals in order of highest to lowest:

1. #6 Inventory...76
2. #4 Feel Heal Deal...74
3. Alateen...74
3. #3 Humility...72
4. WSO Workshop...66
5. #5 Self-Care...56
6. #7 Al-Anon Wisdom...61
7. #1 Honest, Open...60
8. #2 Steps 8&9...59
9. #10 Service...42
10. #8 Sponsorship...41
11. #9 The 12 Trads...12

### **Speaker Meetings:**

All of our speakers were well received. The only complaint we were made aware of was on Thursday night, because of an AC unity running in the back of the room, which made it difficult for people to hear. Some adjustments were made to the AC & sound system, and things were much better after these adjustments.

Speaker Meeting attendance was as follows:

Thursday 2/14	Wes B.	107
Friday 2/15	Paula B-WSO	221
Saturday 2/16 (9:30AM)	Crocket H.	223
Saturday 2/16 (10:45AM)	Alateen	200
Saturday 2/16 (8:00PM)	Don F.	264
Sunday 2/17 (9:00AM)	Trusted Servants	88
Sunday 2/17 (10:30 AM)	Pat C.	180

The tapers, Master Copy Tapes, were very professional and were able to provide a copy of each of the speakers, to include the Sunday Morning Trusted Servants

panel, which we had not expected them to record. The sound was very good, and I heard no complaints concerning them.

All meetings seemed to be attended well, except for the early Sunday morning Trusted Servants panel. I don't know if that was because of the time or subject but there was a wealth of historical information provided during this session. SC should be proud of those who have brought Al-Anon where it is in Area 50 (SC) today.

All speakers were presented a gift. This year, our gift was a donation to WSO on their behalf, in the sum of \$10.00. Because we did so well with our budget, we voted after the convention, and I'm proud to announce the gift was increased to \$25.00 for each speaker. That raised our total donation to WSO to \$225.00

### **Hospitality:**

First recommendation from the hospitality folks is to reduce the hours of hospitality. We were open from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (closed for speaker meetings), but they did not seem to have much early traffic, and by the time they got cleaned up after closing, it was late. They recommend the hours be reduced to 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Second recommendation from Hospitality was the success of the donation cans on the tables. This was the second year this was done, and the previous year commented on how successful it was. We can affirm this and people were very liberal with their donations.

Third recommendation is if you intend to have donation cans in hospitality, than have a hospitality treasurer to handle all the money and keep track of expenditures. This person should work with the Convention Treasurer, and keep accountability of all the funds, and work together on funds needed to run this great function.

Having hot foods and the ability to make sandwiches and serve soups was a big plus for some. Many people raved over the variety we were able to have, and the hotel staff worked very well with us providing extra refrigerators, moving furniture, and even building the handicap access ramp. We just hope they fix the issue of actually getting in the door.

### **Summary:**

We had a couple of folks, who had room availability issues, but to my knowledge, we were able to make arrangements for everyone who wanted to stay in the resort. Everyone seems to enjoy the resort, speakers, and workshops, and there were a lot of things to do close by.

**2014 Convention Chair – Barbara Anne M..** – Mary McKeen, Meeting Coordinator, has resigned this position due to other obligations. We can all be looking (if I haven't already found one by lunch time). At this time, much of this coordinator's duties are planned, i.e. selecting groups to chair/read at the speaker meetings. Bessie and I worked on this last Saturday afternoon, along with discussing hosts for each speaker. Here is the schedule if you'd like to write it down:

Thursday night (new delegate, speaker)                    Ellen H. & Fort Mill Group  
Ellen will introduce speaker since she will be one of the GRs voting for our new delegate

Friday night (WSO speaker)                    New delegate and his/her choice of readers  
New delegate will introduce but will have assistance from Jan, this panel's delegate

Saturday morning (AA speaker) AA's from Greenville and Myrtle Beach

Saturday morning (Alateen speaker) Alateen's will chair and introduce

Saturday night (Al-Anon speaker) Easley Does It/Greenville group to chair and Bessie to introduce

Sunday morning (spiritual speaker) Judy Reyes and readers to chair Judy Reyes to introduce

As for the hosts, Bessie has decided on these except for the new delegate who is person to host WSO speaker. Since Jan R., our current delegate, secured JP to speak and knows him it is up to her the new delegate to work together.

After each speaker meeting we will plan to say the Lord's Prayer and the Declaration.

Please note that the actual way of saying the Declaration is by starting with "Let it begin with me....."

**2015 Convention** – Will be meeting at Assembly in June. They are spreading the word to their district meetings to meet if they want to participate.

**Reflector Editor – Diane F.** –

**Forum Coordinator – Susan E.** – At the present, South Carolina's subscriptions to The Forum remain virtually the same as last years.

In the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual's section on Group Service Positions (P 45) under the heading of Group Representative it is suggested that Group Representatives "serve as local representative of ....The Forum"

I would like each Group Representative to go back to their groups and come up with some ways that they can fulfill this part of their position.

I would then like you to send me a report on how you have done this. I will pick two groups who send me their report and give those group each a subscription to The Forum that they can choose to keep as an extra group copy or donate to one of their members.

My e-mail address is [RANDOMFARM@AOL.COM](mailto:RANDOMFARM@AOL.COM)

My snail-mail address is 928 State Park Road, Windsor, SC 29856

**Public Outreach – Nancy G.** – A telephone conference call was held for the area Public Outreach Coordinators and we were asked where and what was our area using/putting/doing with the 2013 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism Form magazines. Some of the answers were: television stations, community colleges, college clergy, social services office, schools, hospitals, courts, car dealership, high schools, women's resource centers, jails, bail bond office, pediatric offices, mental health fairs, AA conventions...they placed stickers/labels on Forums with groups name, date and address. Take Spanish Forum's to Spanish speaking churches.

Al-Anon faces Alcoholism 2013's second printing was in April, put your orders in for the next printing. April was Alcohol Awareness month, did your district have any contact with that community? health fairs, Alcohol awareness days?

Remember that television Public Service Announcements are available. Since December (3 months old) there have been 210 Million viewing so far, last year's air play was 502 Million for

the whole year, so we are way ahead...larger cities and more television stations make up the most of that, but little cities and fewer stations still will air our announcements. Then send them "Thank You" cards from your district.

Continue to do your service work by using pamphlets to accidentally leave different places how about when you return that library book, put a pamphlet in it as a book mark, it may be received by just the right person.

### **Business:**

**Alateen Workshop:** Lead by our Alateen Alternate State Representative, AnnaLise B., along with her home group (Paths to Serenity Alateen from Mt. Pleasant).

**Speaker:** Bobby S.

**Open Discussion: US vs. THEM (those in service positions and those not in "official" service positions)** in regards to: unity, being self-supporting, participation is the key to harmony, service positions to be filled at each level, responsibility and accountability, and links of service.

Close with Lord's Prayer and Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration - "LET IT BEGIN WITH ME" When Anyone Anywhere Reaches Out For Help, Let The Hand of Al-Anon and Alateen Always Be There and Let It Begin With Me

Respectfully Submitted,

Melanie M.  
Area Secretary/Area 50/Panel 51

### **DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

#### **DISTRICT 1 -**

**DISTRICT 2 – Gene E.** - It's exciting to be gearing-up for our 2014 Al-Anon/Alateen Conference. Barbara Mc. is leading and cheering us on! Joan H., District 2 Public Outreach Co-coordinator, encouraged our groups to celebrate Lois's birthday leave hope March 4<sup>th</sup> by leaving Conference Approved Materials with our meeting days and times stapled inside at doctor's offices, beauty shops, garages, and any places that would let us distribute the materials including our local libraries. Our most recent District 2 meeting was held on March 24, 2013, with Chester AFG hosting. Our next District 2 meeting will be May 19, 2013, with Lancaster Co-Ed hosting. We regret to announce that New Life AFG has disbanded. As our panel completes its last year of service, we are getting ready for elections in September at our September 22, 2013, District 2 meeting hosted by Hope for Tomorrow and Mid-Day Serenity.

#### **DISTRICT 3 -**

**DISTRICT 4 – Margaret L.** - District 4 wishes a Happy Spring to all! On Sunday, May 19, our Area Delegate, Jan R, delivered her report at our District 4 meeting. We learned

new things and reviewed others. One of our relative newcomers told me how interesting it was to learn how it works. It is so important to see that Al-Anon works because members are willing to serve. There was Jan R, an equal member to us all, telling us about work she is doing which will affect us all. We appreciated her coming to our meeting.

We do not know if we will have teens or sponsors to attend the Alateen Conference in July because of scheduling conflicts, but we will be able to contribute to the event and we will pay for a teen and sponsor if they are able to go. We are also encouraging the entire membership to attend on the open Saturday of the Conference. We have settled on a date for our annual Holiday Dinner this year: Saturday, December 7, 2013, at Ashland United Methodist Church on Ashland Rd in Columbia beginning at 6 PM. All our welcome. We are planning activities for the Al-Anon room at the AA Regional Convention to be held at the Doubletree Inn in Columbia August 8 - 11, 2013. AA has generously provided a room for us to use any way we want. Janet L is coordinating the activities for that room and would be glad for any who would like to serve.

From our District 4 Public Outreach Coordinator, Maris B, comes the following report:

We ordered an additional 200 copies of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2013* and have been busy distributing copies at area hospitals, treatment centers, laundromats, waiting rooms and libraries. Additionally thanks to our tireless service members, we have three institutional meetings a month - Morris Village, Palmetto Adolescence and Family services, and Richland Springs. LRADAC and Three Rivers also encourage all the family members to attend Al-Anon and have been great at distributing our schedules and booklets. I am in discussion with the treatment facilities to place their own orders directly, thus generating more income for WSO and increasing our reach.

Upcoming events where we will have a table and literature are the May 25th Faces and Voices of Recovery concert (FAVOR) featuring Randall Bramblett (has played with the Allman Brothers and Sea Level), and the FAVOR Conference on June 7th. Our members report that many people request extra copies of the meeting schedules and the *Al-Anon Faces* booklet to share with friends and family. Keep up the good work!!

Yours in service,

Maris B

As we head toward summer and hotter weather, we remember that we are all on this trip together. There are so many people in the world affected by the disease of alcoholism; we hope to reach as many as we can and give away this wonderful program so that we can get it.

## **DISTRICT 5 -**

## **DISTRICT 6 -**

## **DISTRICT 7 -**

## **DISTRICT 8 -**

## **DISTRICT 9 -**

**DISTRICT 10 –**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

September 28, 2013 – Area Assembly  
January 4, 2014 – AWSC  
January 25, 2014 – Area Assembly  
May 3, 2014 – AWSC  
June 14, 2014 – Area Assembly

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer followed by the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie M.  
Area Secretary