**AREA ASSEMBLY**

**March 27, 2021**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Opening**

Dave B, Area Chair, opened the meeting at 10:11 AM. Susan L led the Serenity Prayer and Nancy B read the 12 Concepts of Service. The meeting had 51 total participants.

**Chairman’s Statement – Dave B**

Dave welcomed attendees to Assembly and thanked everyone for participating in a virtual meeting. The next Area Assembly on June 26th will also be held via Zoom; Area Assembly on October 9th is currently scheduled to be held in person at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Dave announced the main agenda item today is providing information about the selection process for Trustees. We will hear from two people about their experience going through the process.

**Delegate’s Statement – Bob C**

1. Board of Trustee Opportunity (deferred to later in Agenda)
2. SERDGT Report: Last weekend I attended the virtual SERDGT. We had about 55 attending, Delegates, Past Delegates, Alternate Delegates and Trustees, which included JP M., the current Southeast Regional Trustee and our recent WSO convention speaker, who gave an excellent presentation. Some of the topics he reported on were the WSO Strategic Plan (to be posted in Delegate’s Corner on Area Web Site), our 2021 WSC theme, Moving Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance, our 2020 Financials (see below), some of our 2021 budgeted projects, which include the new 2022-2025 Service Manual, the 2021 Membership Survey, the new Online Store Development and Launch, Mobile App Modifications, Translation and Interpretation for French and Spanish, a Compensation Study for Staff, New Hires, Zonal Meetings in Evolving Structures, Road Trip, You and your Board Connect (Cleveland, Oct 23, 2021), the Virtual WSC and 70th Anniversary.
3. Finance Report

**WSO FINANCES UPDATE (2020)***(BASED ON UNAUDITED FINANCIALS)*

**Contributions:**

Preliminary Budget  $2,000,000     Revised Budget   $2,445,000        Actual:        $3,295,720

**Literature Sales:**

Preliminary Budget  $2,890,000      Revised Budget   $2,200,000       Actual:        $1,846,493

**Total Revenue:**

              Preliminary Budget  $5,643,160      Revised Budget   $4,720,100        Actual:        $5,566,276

**Expenses:**

              Preliminary Budget  $5,664,866      Revised Budget   $5,142,460        Actual:        $5,057,086

* May: literature sales down **75%** and contributions down **34%** and projecting a **$1.6 million** operating deficit at the end of 2020.
* July: the WSO was on track to end 2020 with a projected **$420,000** operating deficit.
* October: contributions exceeded the revised budgeted by **$365,000** and literature sales exceeded the revised budgeted by **$45,900**.
* By year-end, because of the contributions, continued sales of literature and WSO’s ability to reduce expenses, WSO ended the year with a surplus of **$509,190** instead of projected budget shortfall of **$422,360**.

**Alternate Delegate/Group Records Coordinator – Nan M**

Hi everyone, seems as it has been forever since we have gotten together. It is great to see your faces and I am ever so grateful for my program and for the opportunity that this Zoom Platform affords us. We have now had more than a full year of facing this alternate universe and I did feel certain we would have been back together face to face but what is, is. Shawn our Website editor has maintained virtual platform information on the statewide website and I have added any location changes as well as other information that is requested by groups through WSO.

As time has passed, I am uncertain what our new normal will look like. I have come to the conclusion that the uncertainty of the future warrants us offering to all the groups the option of putting their Meeting ID and Password and all other necessary information about their virtual meetings on the WSO website. Please keep it very simple like Meeting ID and Password only. If your meetings have become hybrid meetings, in the location section of the change form note this change giving the address for face to face and the Meeting ID and Password for the virtual meeting.

When meetings go back to Face To Face only, it will be necessary for the GR to submit another change form for it to return to a non virtual or hybrid meeting. Remember there are three options: Virtual Only, Hybrid: Virtual and Face To Face, and Face To Face only. Making changes through WSO does not change keeping Shawn, our website editor up to date on the information that he puts on the state website. The WSO information will simply add to our present state information. Feel free to call or contact me with any questions you may have. GRs you can also use your District Reps as a resource for questions as well or contact your service sponsors. Contact directly with others is always a solution to any challenge we face.

To make any changes to Group Records go to:

Al-anon.org—go to Members—go to Group Records—

At the bottom of the Group Records page you can choose two of four options (the other two options are for pure electronic meetings or international meetings).

1. Temporary Al-Anon Electronic Meeting Change Form
2. Face to Face Meeting Al-Anon Group Change Form

Update the material on line and it will be sent to me to validate and make all changes official.

Total Active Groups: 122

Total Non Active Groups: 32

Groups with No Mail Status: 2

Finally I ask all of us to to carry patience and love for each other as we create a new normal for Al Anon.

**Approval of Minutes – Janet L**

The Minutes for October 17, 2020 Area Assembly are posted on Area web site. Pamela G moved to approve the minutes; Robbie M seconded the motion. Group Representatives/Alternate Group Representatives were asked to vote by raising their hands or by voice if participating by dial-in phone.

**Vote to Approve:** 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Treasurer’s Report – Linda F**

The reports you received attached to the Agenda sent by David are for the period 9/1/20 – 12/31/20 and year-to-date numbers reflect the entire year 2020. These reports were approved by AWSC on January 30, 2021.

Income for the four month period was $3446 – Year end was $11,197.49 and included Group donations, District donations, convention seed, literature sales and Reflector subscriptions.

Expenses for the four month period totaled $1220.96 -- $7877.38 for the year.

Expenses were down more than 50% from last year mostly due to virtual vs. in-person meetings in Columbia.

The ending balance for Al-Anon on 12/31 was $15,601.76. Alateen funds are $4914.16.

Total combined Al-Anon and Alateen funds are $20,515.92 and agrees with the checkbook.

Thanks to all who donated during this unusual year when we met virtually most of the time. I appreciate your notes of thanks and encouragement. I’m looking forward to meeting in person again in October.

Thank you for updating your records with my address for your donations.

Lisa U moved to approve the Treasurer Reports; Suzanne J seconded the motion. Discussion: Why was insurance budget increased to $2,500 from $1,500 for 2020? Actual expense was $1877 in 2020. Dave B explained insurance budget was proposed and approved to allow for probable increase in insurance premiums in 2021.

**Vote to Approve:** 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Break**

Dave B called for a break at 10:25 and resumed the meeting at 10:35 AM.

**Southeastern Regional Trustee and Trustee At Large – Bob C**

The Al-anon Family Groups Board of Trustees is actively seeking diverse, dedicated and energetic Board members to help guide the organization as it continues to grow. In 2021, the Board will be seeking a Southeast Regional Trustee and a Trustee at Large for service beginning after the 2022 World Service Conference in April, and ending after the 2024 World Service Conference.

Resumes must be submitted to WSO by August 15, 2021. Here is the link to begin the process for all candidates.

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/wso-volunteers/board-of-trustees/>

Trustee at large candidates submit directly to WSO.

Regional Trustee candidates submit through the Area, so if someone would like to submit from South Carolina, one must begin the process soon, as they must be approved by the SCAFG assembly. Only one Regional Trustee candidate is permitted from each Area. I have posted more information on the qualifications on the Delegate’s Corner of our website. Here is that link. Just in case you have forgotten or don’t know our members area password, it is scarea50.

<https://www.al-anon-sc.org/uploads/6/8/2/7/68277449/afg_inc_-_board_of_trustee_opportunity.pdf>

**Current Trustee Perspectives – Jeri W and Linda R**

Dave B asked Jeri and Linda to share their experience and thoughts about the selection process. Jeri W became a Trustee at Large in 2020. She described how she arrived at the decision to apply—consultation with her Higher Power and then with her sponsor and other Al-Anon members. Linda R has been selected to serve as Southeast Regional Trustee for a one-year term that will begin April 15, 2021 following confirmation by the World Service Conference. Linda decided to apply because she is concerned about the changing direction of Al-Anon brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Potential Meeting Dates for Southeastern Regional Trustee Approval**

Applications for Southeastern Regional Trustee must be submitted to Bob C, Delegate, by June 1st. Dave B proposed holding special AWSC meeting via Zoom on July 3rd to review applications and recommend a candidate followed by an Area Assembly meeting via Zoom on July 10th to vote on the recommendation. Nancy B questioned the need for AWSC review of applications; only Area Assembly approval has been required. Dave B will research the process and announce any special meeting dates.

**2021 Convention Report – Joelyn M, Chair**

The Convention Committee had a recap meeting on March 14th. We are finalizing numbers and financials. Plan to submit the final report by May 1st. Draft summary follows:

Finance – these figures ARE NOT FINAL and representative of 3/14/21 Please don’t share

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | | | **Budget** | | **Actual** | **Variance** |
| Total income and other receipts | | | $4,580.00 | | $8,194.50 | $3,614.50 |
| Total expenses | | | $3,848.46 | | $5,719.71 | $1,871.25 |
|  | | |  | |  |  |
| **Net income (loss)** | | | **$ 731.54** | | **$2,474.79** | **$1,743.25** |
| Donations to WSO |  | 809.34 | |
| Donations to Alateen |  | 650.96 | |

Communications sent follow-up survey to registrants.

Survey Monkey - cost would be $90; did not use

Google Forms - Free in the google forms section of the account

Limit of 100 how many you could send each day. Linda figured out a work around

190 responses

80% gave it 10 likely to recommend

Rate it 56% excellent, 34% very good

What did you like?

1. Speakers
2. Workshops
3. Zoom flexibility

Least engaging

1. Zoom environment
2. Glitch in 2nd workshop

Receive enough information 91%

Length 85%

Speaker 90% satisfaction

Workshops 70% satisfied

Zoom level 85% easy to use

Registration on line 93% easy on line

Donation - 50% donated (96% found it easy)

2022 - 69% hybrid, virtual 9%

 Voice - number of participants in general sessions

Friday night - 250

Wso - 184

AA - 235

Alateen - 201

Sat night - 210

Workshops – number of participants

75 in Room 1 - Many Voices in a Virtual World

69 in Room 2 - Many Voices in a Group Conscience

34 in Room 3 – A Journey Through the 12 Traditions (Open AA)

36 in Room 4 - The Magic in the Journey (Open Alateen)

26 in Room 1 - Recovery – One Voice at a Time

70 in Room 2 - Masks in Recovery: Real or Imagined

45 in Room 3 - The Journey and Many Voices of Sponsorship

59 in Room 4 - Together is Better – Who You Meet on the Yellow Brick Road to Serenity

Technical

Taking the time to practice, practice, practice

Separate dry run for the technical people

Spotlighting had a positive reception and liked it

Make sure the speakers have excellent internet

Registration was easy and ideal

Helped having the techs having the ppt for the workshop

Needed to have someone monitor the email account to handle support

Zoom does not offer the capability to report meeting usage, just registration

Use dedicated people for spotlighting

Speakers

Positive feedback. Really enjoyed themselves.

Registration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Approved Registrants | 582 |
| Registrant’s State |  |
| South Carolina | 275 |
| Other states including Puerto Rico/Territories | 281 from 37 other states |
| Other | 26 |
| Registrant’s Affiliation |  |
| Al-Anon | 536 |
| Alateen | 4 |
| AMIAS | 10 |
| AA | 27 |
| Other/Guest | 5 |

Audio -

Digital recordings on the website - End of this week to Shawn

CDs – send requests to Mike M

**2022 Convention Progress Report – Suzanne J, Co-Chair**

Theme: Serenity For You in 2022

Convention dates: February 3 -6, 2022

Location: scouting sites; convention will be in-person only or hybrid

Linda R will email survey on convention preferences this weekend

Committee will meet virtually on Saturday, April 3

Convention does not have a Treasurer or bank account yet

**Coordinator Reports**

**Public Outreach – Lis B**

Lis plans to focus on public outreach efforts now that 2021 Convention is over.

**Literature Coordinator - Barb O**

Raleigh Al-Anon/Alateen Service Office Literature Distribution Center has tapped into its ample reserve and is in need of support.

Online ordering coming soon! <https://alanonraleigh.com/order/>

Mail orders: 3509 Haworth Dr Suite 200 Raleigh, NC 27609

Phone: 919-787-1653.

Email: aso\_ldc@bellsouth.net

Office hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday -Thursday

[**www.al**](http://www.al)[**-anon.org**](http://www.al-anon.org/) **WSO CAL STORE LIMITED TIME ONLY! Reduced shipping rates of $5.00 (US) for individual Conference Approved Literature orders total $50.00 or less. (No Group orders).**

New in 2020**:** Electronic AFG meetings can provide URL [www.al-anon.org/welcome](http://www.al-anon.org/welcome) to newcomers to sign up to receive an email from WSO with newcomer information. The newcomer will be prompted to enter a personal email address to where the digital information will be immediately delivered.

New Electronic version of the *Al-Anon Newcomer Packet* (K-10)**:**  Staff has implemented the Literature Committee recommendation to eliminate duplicate Newcomer packet information. 2021 release date and price to be determined.

[**www.al**](http://www.al)[**-anon.org**](http://www.al-anon.org/) Translates website into ENGLISH, FRENCH & SPANISH**.**

Most books & pamphlets are available in 3 languages.

11 CAL books are featured on the website with samples of the books i.e., daily readers with Jan 1st readings, others on Alcoholism, Anger, Communication, Awareness, Grief &etc.

16 slogans of Al-Anon

Free Downloads

Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manuals, Groups at Work

35 Guidelines

14 pamphlets

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism Magazine public outreach

Alateen Talks excerpts

CAL Catalog and order forms English, Spanish and French.

AL‐ANON/ALATEEN ELECTRONIC LITERATURE. Electronic Media Providers: Amazon,

Apple Books see “AV/Audio” or “Electronic Literature” categories at [www.**al*-*anon.org/onlinestore**,](http://www.al-anon.org/onlinestore) Google Play, Barnes & Noble and Kobo. (Provider info is not an endorsement).

One Day at a Time in Al‐Anon Audio book (eA‐6) / 7 hours 48 min

Courage to Change Audiobook (eA‐16) / 9 hours 15 min

How Al‐Anon Works Audiobook (eA‐22)/ 16 hours 19 min

Courage to Change E‐book (eB‐16)

How Al‐Anon Works E‐book (eB‐22)

Having Had a Spiritual Awakening E‐book (eB‐25)

Alateen—Hope for Children of Alcoholics E‐book (eB‐3)

The Forum magazine: individual E-issues Amazon or E-subscription (Barnes & Noble) Public Outreach CD / 75 min.

NEW DAILY READER (working title)**:** The goal is to have the book ready for the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention in New Mexico. The Literature Committee is reviewing the final draft, which then goes for the Policy review followed by a final review by the Executive Director. Work to be done includes selection of a title by the Titling Committee, developing an index, designing the look of the book, and translation, a year-and-a-half project, is into French and Spanish so that three editions can be released at the same time.

Writing for Members Blog**:**  Check blog out at [**al-anon.org/member-blog**.](http://www.al-anon.org/member-blog)

Sharing needed for The Forum "CAL Corner": Need member writings for upcoming FORUM issues. Send writing directly via email to Tom C. at Tom@al-anon.org. Deadline: April 7, 2021.

Al-Anon's Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions (B-8), celebrating its 40th year in print.

Living Today in Alateen (B-26), celebrating its 20th year in print.

Discovering Choices--Recovery in Relationships (B-30).

**Area Alateen Process Person – Shawn S**

We currently have 34 AMIAS and 8 active groups & 7 inactive groups still listed for the state with WSO.

Once again WSO has opened up our Recertification early this year starting on 15 January 2021 and ending on the 31st of May 2021.

We have started the background checks and recertification. To date we have 11 AMIAS recertified and 21 with background checks complete out of the 34 AMIAS.

We also have 6 prospective AMIAS taking the Background check and waiting training.

It came to my attention last year in January when I needed to change our forms due to the new Federal Smoking Law, & Background Checks, that we have not updated these SC Area 50 Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements “SC Area 50 SABR” with WSO since 2004 (our original submission). We are required by WSO to go through this process every time we change our forms or requirements for Alateen.

Last year I worked with a panel of previous AAPP’s and AAC’s to complete our new SC Area 50 Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. We have completed, had a SC lawyer review and have submitted our current SC Area 50 SABR to WSO for their review and approval, 4 Dec 2020. Once back from WSO they will be submitted to the SC Area 50 AWSC and then to the Area Assembly for vote of approval or rejection.

**Webmaster: Shawn S**

In the month of March we have had the following traffic on our website:

6,041 Page views up +46% from last 30 days ,

2,749 Unique visits up +26% from last 30 days,

Online call in meetings meeting closure list 1,219

Find a meeting 756

The family disease of alcoholism 327

Just for today 312

District 7 169

Conference/Conventions 2020-2021 165

District 8 101

District 9 96

District 4 82

District 2 74

District 6 71

Alateen meeting list 62

Literature 50

Contact 45

Is al-anon for you 43

What is al-anon 41

District 5 37

Tools for recovery 36

What is alateen 35

District 3 32

Frequently asked questions 32

About al-anon 31

Members area 28

Detachment 18

Contact web admin 14

**Area Alateen Coordinator: Lindi S**

We have 4 active Alateen groups meeting in our area. We have 3 groups meeting face to face with 2 of these groups also providing an internet link and one group just using a zoom format. Our Anderson group is on hold for now.

I am in the process of training 6 new AMIAS in our area with the hopes that this will lead to 2 more active Alateen groups in our Area, one in the Greenwood area and one in the Myrtle Beach area.

Our Alateen groups are active in service work even though we only have a few groups. We had 3 different Alateen groups participating in this year’s convention. Moncks Corner Alateen provided a workshop with the help of the Alateen fairy. Jaylen M was the Alateen speaker with an assist from Erica. As the result of an AMIAS from Canada hearing Jaylen speak, she was asked to speak via zoom at a public outreach event in Canada. Jaylen is also standing for our Area Alateen representative. Moncks Corner Alateen is working on an outreach project of providing literature packets for a resource officer in the school system. He will share what we give him with social workers and guidance counselors he works with.

I was contacted by next year’s AA convention committee about Alateen participation in the convention. District 8 Alateen coordinator Rachel S’s outreach made this happen.

April is Alateen Awareness month in our area. We are asking the groups to have an Alateen or AMIAS as a speaker at one of the meetings in April in order to promote awareness of the Alateen program in our area. Speakers will share their experience in Alateen. We are hoping that the groups will support our effort in this. I will post more information on our website. If anyone is interested in having a speaker please contact me and we will see what we can arrange.

We are hoping to have a face to face conference for the Alateens this year. We will be meeting to start this process in the next months. Alateens on the committee will be planning the activities along with speakers and workshops. We are planning to have the Saturday open for Al-non participation. Hopefully we will be able to have this but will be ready to plan an on-line event if need be.

**Archives: Susan L**

Request for District information:

copies of District meeting minutes

information about special functions including flyers and program agendas

Group HIstory forms AR-6 and Longtime Members forms AR-1

Request for missing Reflector issues

#6 - November/December 1982

#4 - July/August 1983

Suggestion of a project for SCAFG Area, District, and Groups:

to compile and maintain a folder of information regarding how you handled unexpected issues resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, how and when the decision was made on using alternate platforms for meetings, financial issues, Public Outreach efforts, welcoming newcomers, and membership retention.

Is there a need for information from WSO Archives?

Answer: AR-9 Request for Research form from WSO. Simply go to the WSO website al-anon.org home page, click on Members, click on WSO, and click on Research/Surveys. There is also a link on our SCAFG Area website to WSO to access this form AR-9 along with the other forms. You’ll find the link under Archives by scrolling to the bottom of the page.

Information may be forwarded to either myself Susan Lebhar at sueleb7@gmail.com or Nancy Bommer at [scflutter@aol.com](mailto:scflutter@aol.com). Looking forward to your submissions and always available to help answer your questions.

**District Representatives Reports**

**District 2: No Report**

**District 3: Chris H**

District meeting was in February. Three Aiken area groups are holding meetings. Status of Orangeburg area groups is unknown.

**District 4: Susan O**

District meetings were held in February and March via Zoom. District plans to resume Holiday Dinner in December. Susan raised concern that over half of groups in District do not have GR’s. She and Lis B will visit some groups to make connections.

**District 5: No Report**

**District 6: Linda R**

District meeting was March 13th. District purchased a Zoom license to be made available to groups for their regular meetings and special events. Linda R will step down as DR on April 15th. The District elected Carol D as new DR.

**District 7: Robbie M**

District meeting was last week. Pat C conducts a workshop at each District meeting. GR participation in District meetings has been good.

**District 8: Sue J**

District is working to form a new Alateen group. District has one Alateen group that is meeting in person. District meeting was in February; next meeting will be in April or May.

**District 9: Lisa U**

District meeting was March 16th. District has a Zoom account for groups to use and for its monthly speaker meeting. District will hold its All Day event, Seeking Serenity, on September 18th.

**General Questions/Discussion:**

Tricia from Serenity in Easley requested an email with written instructions for updating Group Records. Nan M will respond and will also include the instructions in her written report.

Kathy M from Georgetown recommended holding a hybrid Assembly meeting in October. Having the option to attend virtually is more convenient for those who are distant from Columbia. Dave B will put this on agenda for discussion at AWSC meeting in May.

Pamela G from Sunday Serenity in Columbia asked about the source of 2021 Convention seed money. Joelyn M clarified that seed money comes from Area budget rather than WSO.

Nan M noted that WSO does not provide funds to Areas or Groups, but it does provide support in the form of services costing about $300 per group.

Bob C reported that 74% of groups in South Carolina contributed to AFG Inc in 2020, the third highest contribution rate among Areas.

**Next Meetings:**

AWSC: May 22 and August 28 (via Zoom)

Area Assembly: June 26 (via Zoom) and October 9 (to be determined)

**Adjournment**

Susan L led the Al-Anon Declaration. The meeting adjourned at 12:53 PM.

Minutes submitted by Janet L, Area Secretary

**Meeting Documents**

Agenda (posted on Area web site)

Minutes, Area Assembly, October 17, 2020 (posted on Area web site)

Treasurer Report Spreadsheets: (posted on Area web site)

2020 Income Statement 12.31.20

2020 Budget Report 12.31.20

2020 Group Contributions 12.31.20