**AWSC Area 50**

**August 28, 2021**

**Electronic Meeting via Zoom**

**Call to Order:**

Area Chair Dave B opened the meeting at 10:03 AM. Bob C led the Serenity Prayer and Janet L read the 12 Concepts of Service and General Warranties.

**Introductions:**

There were 26 participants--18 voting and 8 non-voting.

Bob Colborn, Delegate

Nan Moorer, Alt. Delegate and Group Records Coordinator

David Bryant, Chairman

Linda Flohr, Treasurer

Janet Lockhart, Secretary

Lis Bleasdale, Public Outreach Coordinator

Teresa Hinnant, Forum Coordinator and 2022 Convention Chair

Susan Lebhar, Archives and Past Delegate

Barbara O’Donnell, Literature Coordinator

Lindi Short, Area Alateen Coordinator

Shawn Short, Area Alateen Process Person and Temporary Webmaster

Pam Phillips, District 2 Representative

Chris Hall, District 3 Representative

Susan Outen, District 4 Representative

Carol Delgado, District 6 Representative

Robbie Marty, District 7 Representative

Suzanne Jankovsky, District 8 Representative and 2022 Convention Co-Chair

Lisa Ungefug, District 9 Representative

Linda Ruthven, Past Delegate and Trustee (non-voting)

Jeri Wesner, Member from District 3 and Trustee (non-voting)

Mary Ranzer, Member from District 3 (non-voting)

Margaret Lattimore, Member from District 4 (non-voting)

Joelyn Manfredi, Member from District 4 (non-voting)

Annette Taylor, Member from District 6 (non-voting)

Pat Cline, Alternate District 7 Representative (non-voting)

David Silverman, Member from District 8 (non-voting)

**Chairman’s Statement: Dave B**

Dave reported results of the Big Questions Survey done by e-mail to determine members’ willingness to attend October 9 Area Assembly virtually or in person. Of the nearly 50 respondents, the overwhelming majority said “no” to meeting in person even if masks and social distancing are required. Dave will cancel the event at Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center and schedule a Zoom meeting for October 9.

Dave announced the WSO Board of Trustees and Executive Committee Road Trip will be in Cleveland, Ohio, Saturday, October 23. It is open to all members; registration information is on the al-anon.org web site.

Dave noted the recent death of Mark S, a member from District 3 who was active in service.

**Delegate’s Report: Bob C**

The July 2021 COB letter has been posted to the website, al-anon-sc.org. Find it in the Delegates Corner of the Members Area. Password is scarea50.

* Our Core Purpose, Core Values, Mission Statement, Goals for 2022-2024, and our Envisioned Future are all outlined
* The 2022 WSC Theme, Enhancing our Recovery Through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding has been approved
* Finance Update: Revised 2021 budget shows a $233,753 deficit. Although YTD literature sales have recovered somewhat they are still below pre-pandemic number. YTD contributions are $111,557 below budgeted estimates, so Member’s contributions are still needed to meet our budget.
* The European Zonal Meeting will be held Sept. 3-5 on Zoom. Kerri K, our SC Al-anon/Alateen speaker next year, will attend. Plans are in the works for the 2022 IAGSM Oct. 13-15 in London, England
* Road Trip! You and your Board Connect to be held Oct. 23 in Cleveland, Ohio, where you can meet and interact with the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. Register at al-anon.org/roadtrip
* Other topics included Strategic Planning, Compensation Committee update, Alateen Certification and Board Development.

Other letters issued by the COB were a more complete Finance Update (also posted on our website), the Conference Leadership team update, and a Policy Committee Update.

Quarterly Appeal Letter To Individual Members in Your Group**:** Speaking of letters, I have also posted the August 2021 Appeal Letter in the Delegates Corner. Of particular note is page two, or the back of the letter, which outlines in details many of the services which are provided to us by our World Service Office.

2021 World Service Conference Summary**:** The 2021 WSC Summary is now available in PDF form at Al-Anon.org. Here is the link. <https://al-anon.org/pdf/P46-2021-web.pdf>

Service Opportunities at the World Service Office**:** Have you ever imagined having the opportunity to serve the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups? The World Service Office (WSO) has opportunities each year for members to serve as At-Large Committee members on select committees formed by the Board of Trustees. These members serve the fellowship by bringing ideas and sharing their experience, strength, and hope to provide recommendations on how to improve programs and services across the globe.

* Enjoy finances? Consider Audit
* Love reading *The Forum* magazine? Perhaps *Forum* Editorial Advisory might suit
* Want to contemplate ideas for new CAL? Literature could be your opportunity
* Love sharing about Al-Anon? Think about joining Public Outreach

Al-Anon members applying to serve on At-Large Committees must have five years of continuous Al--Anon/Alateen membership and can never have been a member of A.A. Alateen members, must be at least 13 years of age and have at least one year of Al-Anon/Alateen membership. Unique qualifications exist for past trusted servants at the world service level—these are listed on al-anon.org.

The link for more details and submitting a resume is in the letter on the website.

In the Loop:By now most Al-anon members receive In the Loop, but just in case you don’t and would like to, here is the link. <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1855605/1799701/>

**Alternate Delegate/Group Records Coordinator Report: Nan M**

How a group becomes Inactive:

I as your Area Group Records Coordinator can inactivate a group using the Online Group Records application only after I have verified that the group is no longer meeting.

The material in brackets below was paraphrased from a letter from Valerie Stump, AFG Records Coordinator, on AFG Connects:

[This verification can happen when:

1. The group notifies the Area directly that it is no longer meeting.

2. A District or Area trusted servant confirms that the group is no longer meeting; this usually occurs through visits or conversations with former group members.

As with any other change the trusted servant would submit a change form available on [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org) website under the Members tabs- Group Resources, Group Records (Face-to-Face Meetings - Al-Anon Group Change) ]

WSO will be in contact with me and I will make the final change on WSO Site. I then will submit the change to the District Representative of the respective district to verify its accuracy.

District Representatives may be getting periodic contact from me about groups that have been reported as not meeting. When a group has been reported to WSO as not meeting by a New Comer or visitor, WSO will first attempt to reach the GR or CMA by email. If they cannot be reached, the group will be removed temporarily from WSO website of meeting information. WSO will then contact me and then you will hear from me. I will ask you to verify in some way the group status and ask you to have a trusted servant contact WSO to inform them of the status of the group and WSO will make the proper adjustments to their site. The quicker we respond to these questions the sooner a meeting is available to a new comer. Reminders to your groups to change their locations on the WSO Website to clarify the temporary change to Zoom or other platform may lower the risk of this happening.

I will now also be reporting to the DRs when WSO has attempted to reach someone and the E-Mail has bounced back. I may ask you to clarify the E-Mail with the GR or CMA and submit a change as needed by the appropriate trusted servant.

Actual Group Numbers Include:

Active Groups: 111

Inactive Groups: 45

Reported Not Meeting: 2

District 8: Groups Reported Not Meeting

1. Serenity on Hwy 90 AFG located in North Myrtle Beach

2. Hope For Today AFG located in Pawleys Island

District 6: Bounced Email

1. In Step AFG in Hilton Head Island

Feel free to Email me at [nancmoorer@gmail.com](mailto:nancmoorer@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

**Approval of Minutes: Janet L**

Minutes for May 22, 2021 AWSC were distributed by e-mail and posted on Area web site. The vote for approval was: Yes – 14, No – 0, Abstain - 0.

**Approval of Treasurer’s Report: Linda F**

The Expense/Income Statement, the 2021 Budget report and the Group Contributions Report were distributed by e-mail.

The reports I’m submitting for AWSC approval today reflect activity from May 1 thru July 31, 2021 as well as year to date income and expenses and a proposed Budget for 2022.

In summary, total income for this period was **$4680.23.** Group contributions were $2356.23; District contributions $2300 and Alateen contributions $24.

Total expenses were **$322.34** which includes $37.95 Treasurer expenses for new checks; $160.39 Delegate expense which covers virtual meetings on Zoom from 6/14/21 thru 6/13/22. (Next year this will be a budgeted expense for Teleconferencing); and Amias Background Check $134.

The ending balance for Al-Anon is **$23,270.62**; Alateen is **$5626.82** which together equal our total checkbook balance of **$28,897.44.**

Thanks to all groups and districts for your generous contributions!

Regarding Group Contributions, please remember to include your group name and number, and your district number to assure accuracy of the breakdown detail on my group contributions report. Also, please remind Group Treasurers to send to my address: 1568 Culbertson Ave., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.

Our group contributions are running at the same rate as last year 2020, but down slightly from 2019, which may be attributed to virtual meetings rather than in person meetings in prior years. Thank you for your notes of encouragement and thanks which I receive on a regular basis from several groups.

The Treasurer’s Report was approved by vote: Yes – 14, No – 0, Abstain - 0.

**Convention Guidelines Thought Force: Joelyn M**

Topic: The subject is what to do with overages generated from a SC Convention? Does the convention committee have the autonomy to make a donation from the overages to a service area other than SC area as defined by the WSO G-20 Convention Guidelines?

Outcome of the process:

1. The convention chair is a committee member of the AWSC and has the right to make a recommendation or motion to the Area.
2. Consider updating the current “Guidelines”
   1. Clarify what are rules versus what are recommended best practices
   2. Content from the lessons learned of the electronic convention
3. Consider SC Area funding the delegate at the convention instead of the convention paying for the delegate when the delegate is not speaking.

[Full report from Convention Guidelines Thought Force included as addendum at end of minutes.]

Action: Dave B asked Joelyn to lead a task force to develop recommendations to clarify the convention guidelines to distinguish rules from best practices and to incorporate lessons learned from the 2021 virtual convention. Joelyn thanked the thought force participants (Lis B, Trish R, Lindi S, and Shawn S) and invited them to serve on the task force.

**Ample Reserve Thought Force: Lisa U**

Rationale for having an Ample Reserve is stated in Reserve Fund Guideline (G-41):

1. To assure continuation of essential services in the event of substantial decline in income
2. To cover cost of special projects, which could not be financed from normal sources of revenue

Issues considered:

* Amount of ample reserve—Thought force suggested amount equal to 6 months of expenses.
* How excess funds could be used—donation to WSO, special projects, other
* How ample reserve would be shown in budget—Thought force proposed separate line item.
* Approval needed to withdraw the funds from the reserve

Lisa U. thanked Bob C., Susan O., Susan M., and Linda F. for participating in this Thought Force.

[Full report from Ample Reserve Thought Force included as addendum at end of minutes. G-41 Reserve Fund Guideline posted on Area web site.]

Dave B asked Lisa to lead a task force to develop an ample reserve proposal to present to AWSC.

**Technology Thought Force: Bob C**

There has not been much forward movement on electronic meetings as our situation with virtual meetings is still pretty fluid. The electronic area will not be formed until after World Service Conference in April 2022. Bob proposed the Thought Force continue meeting for next six months. It will also consider whether the Area needs a coordinator for technology. The Thought Force will meet on Zoom at 1:30 pm today following AWSC. Bob invited those interested to participate.

**Rest Break:** The meeting broke at 11:25 and resumed at 11:35.

**2022 Budget Proposal: Linda F**

The 2022 Budget Proposal was distributed by email prior to meeting.

Discussion:

Delegate line item includes travel to Southeast Delegates Get-together in Puerto Rico. Bob C will research costs. Also, Bob is considering purchase and distribution of hard copies of Conference Proceedings to all groups.

Alternate Delegate line item was increased to cover travel to Southeast Delegates Get-together in Puerto Rico.

Alateen Literature line item is no longer needed. Literature is bought from Alateen funds.

Alateen Conference Advance is paid from Al-Anon funds; not Alateen funds.

Virtual Meetings AWSC line item was changed to Technology/Communications to cover virtual meeting platform subscription for AWSC, Area Assembly, and Area committee meetings.

Rent for AWSC and for Area Assembly were left in budget to allow for return to face-to-face meetings.

Delegate Equalized Expense was increased by anticipated cost of conducting WSC in three languages.

Team Expense line item is no longer needed.

Convention Advance was included for both 2023 and 2024 to allow for advance preparation costs including early deposits that may be required by conference sites.

Revised proposed budget total is $29,850. Nan M moved to present the revised budget to Area Assembly. Chris H seconded the motion. Vote to approve: Yes – 13, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Linda F will send revised budget to Area Officers for review and then to AWSC.

**2022 Convention Committee: Teresa H**

The 2022 SCAFG Convention will be held in Myrtle Beach on Thursday, February 3rd through Sunday, February 6th. The theme will be *Serenity for You in 2022*. The convention will be held at the *Beach Cove Resort* in North Myrtle Beach. All the units have a full kitchen. There are 1, 2, and 3-bedroom accommodations. The rooms range in price from $93-$198.00 (3 bedroom) per night. Rooms may be reserved through January 3, using the code “SCAFG”.

We will have a 2-bedroom unit to use for the hospitality suite. We will be able to bring in whatever food we want and will have use of crockpots and coffee pots.

At this time the convention will be a hybrid presentation. We will have general sessions and workshop face to face but will also offer the general sessions on Zoom. We’re hoping that by not zooming the entire program, more people will be encouraged to attend in person.

Registration can be done by mail or on-line on Area web site. The web site can also accept t-shirt and sweatshirt orders and receive payments. Since Area Assembly will be virtual, Teresa will e-mail registration information to Secretary to forward to groups.

**Coordinator Reports:**

Due to length of meeting, Dave B asked Coordinators to share only most essential items.

**Literature Coordinator: Barb O**

Barb shared two literature updates from WSO. [Full report is included as addendum at end of minutes.]

Temporary electronic meetings can share excerpts from Al-Anon literature on-line for use during a meeting. Copyright protection requirements are explained in the full report.

Some recovery apps are displaying Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature without permission. WSO has notified the violators and encourages Al-Anon members to be aware of copyright protections when using apps not supported by Al-Anon.

**Area Alateen Coordinator: Lindi S**

[Full report is included as addenda at end of minutes.]

Lindi shared an idea from a public outreach workshop put on by Louisiana. Place a QR scan code on the back of Alanon business cards. The code when scanned will take the person directly to Area web site.

Lindi announced she will be doing a public outreach event for Alateen for the Kinship program state conference in Charleston in October.

[Remaining Coordinator Reports included as addenda at end of minutes.]

**District Reports:**

Dave B invited District Representatives to report any critical items. All declined. [Written reports received are included as addenda at end of minutes.]

**New Business**

Nan M reported two groups from District 10 (now part of District 4) have been listed as ‘Inactive” by WSO for several years. Because District 10 no longer exists, the usual procedure for closing a group does not work. Nan asked permission to delete the group records. There is also an Alateen group in District 1 (now part of District 9) which has been inactive a long time. AWSC concurred that all three groups can be deleted from group records.

**Adjournment:** Dave B closed the meeting at 1:17 PM with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Minutes prepared by Janet Lockhart, Area Secretary

**Attachments:**

(posted on Area web site)

AWSC Minutes, 5-22-2021 (Member’s Area/Archives/Minutes)

Treasurer Reports (Member’s Area/Archives/Budgets)

Income Statement 8.28.21

2022 Budget 8.28.21 (includes 2021 Budget Report)

Group Contributions 8.28.21

**Addenda:**

1. Convention Guidelines Thought Force
2. Ample Reserve Thought Force
3. Area Alateen Coordinator
4. Area Alateen Process Person
5. Archives Coordinator
6. Forum Coordinator
7. Literature Coordinator
8. Public Outreach Coordinator
9. Web Master
10. District 3
11. District 4
12. District 6
13. District 9

**A. Convention Guidelines Thought Force: Joelyn M**

Six KBDM Questions.

Topic: The subject is what to do with overages generated from a SC Convention? Does the convention committee have the autonomy to make a donation from the overages to a service area other than SC area as defined by the WSO G-20 Convention Guidelines?

Outcome of the process:

Note: The gift is in the giving

1. The convention chair is a committee member of the AWSC and has the right to make a recommendation or motion to the Area.
2. Consider updating the current “Guidelines”
   1. Clarify what are rules verses what are recommended best practices
   2. Content from the lessons learned of the electronic convention
3. Consider SC Area funding the delegate at the convention instead of the convention paying for the delegate when the delegate is not speaking.

Framing: There were a number of Al-Anon service areas that were severely financially impacted by Covid-19. By asking for donations verses charging a registration, we had the opportunity to allow members to help these areas through their donations. There were additional service areas like the Raleigh Distribution Center that could have also really been helped which was why the chair and co-chair made a recommendation in the final report.

Abundance: “We learn to change our thinking from what we don't have to an awareness of gratitude for what we do have. As that idea expands, we continue to give of our time and money, realizing we can never give back all we have been given. Thinking abundantly allows us to accomplish our primary purpose of reaching out to families and friends of alcoholics.” (2018-2021 Service Manual p. 101)

Relevance: COVID-19 resulted in a major financial loss for many of the Al-Anon service areas. Whereas the SC Area was in a financially strong position.

History: Normally the convention has realized a profit. Only in the past five to six years has it seen losses. The profit seems to roll into the general fund without any specific earmarks for distribution. Covid-19 made us aware of how important financial stability of the Al-Anon structure is.

1. What do we know about our members' needs, wants, and preferences relating to this discussion?
2. The 2021 SC Convention offered people the option to donate to three groups: the SC Convention, WSO, SC Alateen as follows. They gave willingly and abundantly. At the time, we didn't consider the Raleigh Distribution Center as an option.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SC Convention** | **Alateen** | **WSO** |
| **$3,632.52** | **$650.96** | **$809.34** |
| 71% | 13% | 16% |

1. What do we know about our resources relative to this issue?
   1. SC Al-Anon Convention Guidelines
      1. After all bills are accounted for, closes banking account and returns any balance to the Area Treasurer (Note: If all seed money cannot be returned, account closure may happen sooner).
   2. WSO Al-Anon G20 Guideline for Al-Anon/Alateen Area Conventions
      1. Excess funds are often used to establish the next convention’s “seed” fund. Since accumulating large sums of money is discouraged in keeping with Al-Anon’s Traditions, excess funds over and above a seed fund for the next event can be donated to the District, Al-Anon Information Service, Area, or the WSO.
   3. The Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021 v2
   4. The convention chair is a committee member of the AWSC and has the right to make a recommendation or motion to the Area.
   5. The Area does not have a designated ample reserve in place.
   6. Leaning on past committee members for their experience, strength and hope for knowledge and guidance.
2. What do we know about our “culture” or “environment” that relates to this issue?
   1. The SC Convention is a committee operating for the Assembly and not a separate financial operating group with its own insurance and accountable for any convention losses.
   2. Due to Covid-19, SC Al-Anon, WSO and SC Alateen were unable to do any fundraising and were impacted financially. WSO laid off staff and took other cost saving measures. Other areas such as the Raleigh Distribution Center had to access their prudent reserve to meet their budget.
   3. SC 2021 Convention opted to do the convention online because of Covid-19 in-person restrictions and as a result at a much-reduced expense base which contributed to the overage balance.
   4. The Area realized a financial overage in 2021 because of the reduction in travel, event related (Convention Center) expenses due to Covid-19.
   5. The overage balance was returned to the SC Area Treasurer to the general fund.
   6. SC Area currently does not have a structure in place to address overages as well as donation or funding opportunities above the general budget e.g., a list of areas that we would fund to or increase financial support if the funds were available.
   7. SC Area currently does not have a defined ample reserve in place and has created a thought group to consider this issue as of June 26, 2021.
3. What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)?
   1. The SC 2021 Convention returned the balance to the SC Area Treasurer with a recommendation from the chair and co-chair at the AWSC, to donate a portion to the Raleigh Distribution Center because of the financial impact they suffered due to Covid-19. The Raleigh Distribution Center is an important service to the Al-Anon program on the east coast.
      1. Pro: The convention chair is a committee member of the AWSC and has the right to make a recommendation or motion to the Area.
      2. Pro: We are supporting an important link in the chain of service.
      3. Pro: The SC convention has a responsibility to SC Area and follow the links of service to the Area. It therefore has the obligation to make recommendations to the SC Area.
      4. Pro: As trusted servants we have to manage the finances prudently as good stewards from start to finish.
      5. Pro: The conventions guidelines must be a living document that meet the needs of our ever-changing social environment.
      6. Pro: The SC convention is a social event that promotes fellowship in a diverse environment.
      7. Con: Any decision that is in conflict with the Area could have negative impacts on future conventions or events.
4. What do we wish we knew, but didn’t?
   1. The convention chair is a committee member of the AWSC and has the right to make a recommendation or motion to the Area.
   2. The ability, reach and financial return on investment (ROI) of an electronic venue at a convention level and its possibility.
   3. The ability to reach out electronically in the face of uncertainty like 2020/2021.
5. How do our legacies apply to this issue?
   1. Tradition 1. “Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity.” *Our goal was to make a united decision that helps the greatest number to celebrate recovery.*
   2. Tradition 2. “For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants—they do not govern.” *The Convention Committee is a standing committee of the SC AFG Area Assembly. As such, it seeks and follows direction from the Assembly. The guidelines are based on past experiences and should be adaptable to changing times and circumstances.*
   3. Tradition 7. “Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” *In light of the financial distress experienced by Al-Anon Areas of Service, it seemed best to make an attempt to share the convention excess to those areas in need.*
   4. Tradition 9. “Our groups, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.” *As stated previously, the Convention Committee is a standing committee of the Assembly. As such, it recognizes the need to provide information to, and seek direction from, the Assembly.*
   5. Tradition 12. "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities." *Just because we've always done something one way, doesn't mean that is the only way.*
   6. Concept 1. "The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services belongs to the Al-Anon groups." *Our leaders are trusted with delegated responsibilities. The SC groups have the responsibility and authority to consider recommendations.*
   7. Concept 2. The Al-Anon Family Groups have delegated complete administrative and operational authority to their Conference and its service arms. " *The SC Area group gives the Convention Committee administrative and operational authority over the convention.*
   8. Concept 3. 'The right of decision makes effective leadership possible." *This is the reason why the family group delegates complete administrative and operational authority, so that the Convention can run smoothly."*
   9. Concept 4. "Participation is the key to harmony." *Everyone has the opportunity to participate and help in the decision making. It helps to minimize dominance within the group.*
   10. Concept 5. "The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and ensure that they be heard." *This gives members and committees the right to question decisions and be continually open-minded.*
   11. Concept 10. "Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority and double-headed management is avoided." *Clearly defined roles allow for smooth operations and avoids conflict caused by overlapping boundaries.*
   12. Concept 12. The spiritual foundation for Al-Anon’s world services is contained in the General Warranties of the Conference, Article 12 of the Charter.
       1. One: that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; *The Convention is not a fund-raising operation, it is an opportunity for education, spiritual growth and service to the fellowship.*
       2. Two: that no Conference member shall be placed in unqualified authority over other members; *We in Al-Anon do not want or need absolute human authority in any form p. 216. We are all equal.*
       3. Three: that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible by unanimity; *The Convention committee has the autonomy to make a recommendation to the SC Area 50 members on distribution of overage funds.*
       4. Four: that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; *The intent of this Thought Group is not to be punitive or incite to public controversy but to raise options and be open to opportunities for growth and improvement… The gift is in the giving.*
6. Further research of other States/Areas
   1. Louisiana: Maintains a separate Convention account. All monies are retained in that account for subsequent conventions.
   2. North Carolina: Maintains a separate Convention account. All monies are retained in that account for subsequent conventions.

**B. Ample Reserve Thought Force: Lisa U**

Rationale for having an Ample Reserve:

To follow Al-Anon Guidelines, Reserve Fund Guideline (G-41) which is attached which states:

1. To assure continuation of essential services in the event of substantial decline in income
2. To cover cost of special projects, which could not be financed from normal sources of revenue

In the G-41 under Area Reserve Fund it gives suggestion as to how come up with and handle the reserve. Below are the suggestions along with what we discussed and information thought needed to make a decision to have an Ample Reserve.

* Set a goal of six months’ to one year’s operation expenses.
  + With the abundance in the operating funds currently now will be a good time to have an Ample Reserve.
  + With there being such a large amount unused for 2020 it was discussed that the amount of $7,000 to $8,500, which is the average of 2018 and 2019 six months’ worth of expenses, would be good for an ample reserve to start.
* Reserve Funds are reviewed each year and adjusted, if necessary until the goal established by World Service G-41 is met.
* Some Areas use reserve funds to save money to fund future obligations (such as Delegate’s equalized expenses to the WSC or to send representatives to other service events)
  + With the area paying the Delegate’s equalized expense it is in fact donating to WSO in that way.
  + The Area is currently not donating to WSO on a regular basis. Is this something the Area would like to do?
* Excess funds from the reserve may be used to fund special projects such as a Public Outreach project that will carry the message to those suffering from the effects of living with a problem drinker.
* Some form of official approval is needed to withdraw the funds from the reserve (Area Assembly, Area World Service Committee)
  + Have the Ample reserve as a line item on the budget.
  + For emergency use AWSC approval is sufficient. Large projects seek Area Assembly approval.

Lisa U. thanked Bob C., Susan O., Susan M., and Linda F. for participating in this Thought Force.

**C. Area Alateen Coordinator: Lindi S**

I made the decision in July to cancel Alateen conference due the upward swing of Covid and the lack of interest of the groups in participation in the planning process. Camp Kinard allowed us again to transfer our deposit to next year and gave us a better date for the conference, the first weekend in August. Hopefully next year we will be able to have our conference. I am willing to do another online Alateen event if the groups are willing to participate in the fall.

There has been interest in trying to reopen a few groups that have been closed in the Bluffton and the Irmo area of our state. The new group in district 8 in Pawleys Island is set to try starting in September. The AMIAS in the Greenwood group was working on trying to get an Al-anon group started in Abbeyville as there was no group there and then trying to get an Alateen group started.

Shawn and I worked on getting the wording on the Area 50 Safety and behavior guidelines in compliance with WSO and Shawn sent the final draft back to WSO for their approval.

I attended a public outreach workshop for Alateen and Al-anon that was put on by Louisiana. It had some interesting ideas. The one I want to do for Alateen is getting Alanon business cards and placing a QR scan code on the back to hand out. The code when scanned will take the person directly to our area website page. Having the business cards available for public outreach for Police or caseworkers to hand out makes it easier for them to carry with them and not have to worry about carrying literature with them. It seemed to work in some areas.

I have an opportunity to do a public outreach event for Alateen for the Kinship program state conference being held in Charleston in October. The Kinship program is a sub group of the foster parents group. A lot of children going to foster care are a direct result of drinking and addiction. I have been trying for years for a chance to get information in to them. I will have a table to display Alateen information during the conference. I will order some literature to take to this event. I am very excited to participate in this. I will also put out Al-anon literature as it is family members that take these children into their care.

**D. Area Alateen Process Person: Shawn S**

We have 35 AMIAS in the State and 7 Active Alateen groups registered with WSO

Of the 35 AMIAS, we have 1 in District 3, 2 in District 4, 1 in District 5, 9 in District 6, 9 in District 7, 7 in District 8 and 6 in District 9.

Of the 7 active groups, we have 1 in District 4, 1 in District 6, 2 in District 7, 1 in District 8 and 2 in District 9.

We have two more people interested in becoming AMIAS in District 8 but only one has completed the Background check so far.

WSO has again re-reviewed our SC Area 50 Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements “SC Area 50 SABR” and returned them for approval of suggested corrections on the 13th of August. I made the approval of the corrections and re-submitted them back to WSO for another review on the 14th of August. Once back from WSO accepted they will be submitted to the SC Area 50 AWSC and then to the Area Assembly for vote of approval or rejection.

**E. Archives: Susan L**

1. Continue to request submissions of Group Histories AR-6 and Longtime Member form AR-1 from Districts and individual members.

2. Research Request form AR-9 available on WSO website

3. Valuable Member Resource: Archives page on WSO website

How to find: Al-Anon.org.>>Members Page>>WSO>>Archives

What you’ll find: Historic Overview - Interviews, speeches, and video of of Lois W. and the Pioneers. Historical Timelines ( as seen at the 70th Anniversary Celebration) - Al-Anon History, FAQ about Al-Anon, WSO Property - The story of the move from NYC to VB, 2011 motion to authorize purchase of property, Motion To create ECRPM.

Downloadable Resource: Al-Anon: Then & Now AR-2

**F. Forum Coordinator: Teresa H**

SC had 16 new subscriptions to the *Forum* in the month of August.

The Forum Coordinators’ group is planning a Zoom meeting in September to share ideas with coordinators across the nation. This should be a very interesting meeting and I plan to attend.

**G. Literature Coordinator: Barb O**

Updates from - Tom C., WSO Associate Director—Literature, via AFG Connects.

1. ***R*elease dates** for *Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work*(P-24), *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*(p-24/27) *2022-2025:*  Spring 2022. There are no plans to create a Conference Approved Literature Catalog (S-15) for 2022, since the current Catalog is not dated, and no new printed material is planned for the coming year.
2. **Writing CAL Corner department of *The Forum***magazine needs members' sharings about how Conference Approved Literature has helped them with their recovery. Please help by writing 200-400 words each about how any of this Literature helped you. **Submission deadline is September 13th.** Email sharing directly to:  [**Tom@al-anon.org**](mailto:Tom@al-anon.org).

* *A Guide to the Family of the Alcoholic* (P-7), celebrating its 60th year in print
* *From Survival to Recovery*(B-21)
* *Lois Remembers*(B-7)
* *Hope & Understanding for Parents & Grandparents* (P-94)

1. **Temporary Electronic Meetings**, can share excerpts from all *Forum* articles, excerpts from the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*(including the Suggested Al-Anon/Alateen Welcome, Preamble, Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service)*,*Al-Anon Guidelines, and Conference Approved Literature. Can share excerpts from CAL on the screen without violating copyright, provided that they take the following steps:

* Photocopy, scan, or copy-and-paste the image without alteration, but do not type it. (Typing allows too easily for errors or unauthorized changes.)
* Only photocopy or scan what can realistically be discussed during one workshop or meeting.
* Add the copyright/attribution line, including the title of the piece, page number, copyright date, name of our organization, and that permission is only for use in that specific workshop/meeting (e.g., "From page 170 of *Reaching for Personal Freedom*, copyright 2013, Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Reprinted with permission of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. for one-time use only by the [insert name of Al-Anon workshop or group].")
* Share the image only during that discussion and do not save, post, or share on any website or email.
* Request members not take screen shots of the image or post elsewhere. The image is not to be distributed outside of that one meeting occurring on one date/time.

1. Non Al-Anon/Alateen Recovery APPS displaying, AL-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature. WSO Legal Assistant confirmed that we have tried and been unsuccessful in getting this app, Today’s Hope (not an endorsement) to follow the Traditions and Concepts. We are continuing to pursue legal options that are consistent with our Legacies. We encourage members to consider this information when deciding whether to participate and support this app.

Each month The Forumposts three of its articles on [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org), as well as in the magazine, with a credit line that states it can be reprinted in Al-Anon service arm newsletters and on Al-Anon service arm websites.

The slogans themselves are in the public domain, but descriptions of the slogans found in Al-Anon literature are copyrighted.

1. **The Electronic *Welcome, Newcomer!*(eK-10) Is Here,** wherever you buy your eBooks. *Welcome, Newcomer!*has been reformatted and streamlined to reflect its new life as an electronic recovery tool. The new eBooklet guides newcomers in understanding Al-Anon and how it can help, learning about alcoholism, finding meetings, and discovering program tools and Conference Approved Literature. *Welcome, Newcomer!*is available from the listed eBook vendors at [**ecomm.al-anon.org/EN/ItemDetail?iProductCode=EK10**](https://ecomm.al-anon.org/EN/ItemDetail?iProductCode=EK10) and most are $1.40 per copy. Due to Apple's pricing policy, the booklet is $1.99 per copy on Apple Books. Check your eBook vendors' websites for instructions on how to send an eBook as a gift. When gifting, note that newcomers likely have a preferred eBook vendor. Gifting is currently not available on Kobo.
2. **Members Blog:**Have you read or written a sharing for the Member Blog? Have you encouraged other members to do so? Please check it out at [**al-anon.org/member-blog**](http://www.al-anon.org/member-blog). Each month there are new topics added, including the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service. The new topic for August is "How have you used technology to aid your Al‑Anon recovery?" September's new topic is "How do I stay motivated in my recovery journey?"
3. **Total 2020 literature sales** were $2,317,008. Of that, $2,128,192 were hard copy sales and $188,816 were electronic. “One of the WSO's goals is to eventually provide all of our literature in electronic format. The Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the Digital Strategy team are continuously and actively reviewing services to our fellowship. They are responsible for the prudent and strategic prioritization of our resources so that they are used wisely and in keeping with Tradition One and Warranty One, in the best interest of the fellowship as a whole. The books we currently have in electronic format were selected from among our best-selling print books, and yet at this point sales of our electronic literature have remained minimal, even throughout the pandemic. We appreciate your patience as we work towards a solution that will satisfactorily bring the greatest good to the greatest number.”
4. "All Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature copyright by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Reprinted with permission for one-time use by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters Inc.. When sharing at a meeting in our own words, we are all free to understand and describe "a Power greater than ourselves" in our own way. However, when reading the Steps, or any of the Legacies, we hope to prevent the confusion and lack of unity of our fellowship's earliest days. “In addition to copyright protection, the Legacies are further protected by the World Service Conference Charter on pages 224-5 of the Service Manual, where it states that no changes are to be made to the Legacies without written agreement of three-quarters of the Al-Anon groups. In a 1962 letter to all groups, our cofounder, Lois W. urged the fellowship to use the original wording of the Steps for the sake of unity. She said, "…We old-timers had witnessed many miracles of transformation in the lives of non-alcoholics brought about by the practice of A.A.'s Twelve Steps; the less change the better for us of Al-Anon. We realized if the Steps were altered once, they could be altered again and again. Their meaning and power might be lost …."

**H. Public Outreach Coordinator: Lis B**

* We were trying to secure a vendor table at LRADAC’s Concert Event at the end of September. Unfortunately, they have decided to not have any vendors, and so we will now not have a presence there.
* Request to the Districts for PO Coordinators (we only have Districts 3, 4 & 7 represented)
* I am joining a Nationwide PO Coordinators Conference Call on August 29. The Agenda includes: a new process for securing PSA slots on local radio & TV stations; WSO assistance with PO; Understanding current policy; How to encourage members to participate in PO.
* Starting to find ways to get literature back out into the local communities
* Report on airplays of PSA spots on South Carolina stations for past year is posted on web site.

**I. Webmaster: Shawn S**

I have added a Registration section on our Conference/Convention 2021-2022 page with a survey & payment buttons for registrations and T-Shirt/Sweatshirt sales on the site. Along with a Checkout basket.

To facilitate this I registered our Website and Square account as both 501c4’s.

In the month of August we have had the following traffic on our website.

Page Views 5,117 +1% from last 30 days

Unique Visits 2,679 +13% from last 30 days

| **Page Views** |
| --- |
| /what-is-alateen.html | 72 |
| /what-is-al-anon.html | 71 |
| /twelve-traditions.html | 24 |
| /twelve-steps.html | 27 |
| /tools-for-recovery.html | 65 |
| /the-family-disease-of-alcoholism.html | 358 |
| /onlinecall-in-meetings--meeting-closure-list.html | 1,050 |
| /literature.html | 65 |
| /just-for-today.html | 416 |
| /is-al-anon-for-you.html | 84 |
| /frequently-asked-questions.html | 82 |
| /find-a-meeting.html | 743 |
| /district-9.html | 95 |
| /district-8.html | 88 |
| /district-7.html | 159 |
| /district-6.html | 104 |
| /district-4.html | 84 |
| /district-3.html | 40 |
| /district-2.html | 46 |
| /detachment.html | 37 |
| /contact.html | 48 |
| /contact-web-admin.html | 29 |
| /conferenceconventions-2021-2022.html | 161 |
| /alateen-meeting-list.html | 51 |
| /about-al-anon.html | 46 |
| / | 509 |

**J. District 3 Report: Chris H**

I think most know that Mark S. passed a couple of weeks ago. It's a big loss for many of us.

 Attitude of Gratitude - District 3 has always done this spiritual event in the fall. We will be working on plans and send out word as more info comes along.

September is Recovery month!!

Next District Meeting: September 25, 10 AM

Entirely Ready:

ER has recently started testing to hold meetings as a hybrid. We're still testing. We'll begin to ask people about service positions for the upcoming elections.

Awesome Aiken:

No, we haven't replaced Mark. We've been trying to see if one of the new gals has been coming is willing to do it but we have not.  For the time being, we told the group that we would keep them informed about everything from AWSC, District, Area, and WSO. We did take a vote that when any votes come up Wes can vote for the group.  We average 9 to 12 people and I have had newcomers who are returning and the ad about our meetings is in the Aiken Standard​.

Nowhere But Up:

Still doing hybrid meetings.

**K. District 4 Report: Susan O**

Plans for our December Dinner and Speaker meeting are being made.  The current increase in Covid may change this offering. We will begin discussions at September meeting.

GR Task Force continues to meet.

Meeting status has been updated and I believe sent for the website.

**L. District 6 Report: Carol D**

The District is working on a plan to best utilize its Zoom account for the benefit of all our groups and members.

There have been many changes in group dynamics as Covid restrictions have relaxed. The Summerville area has several hybrid meetings and in the Beaufort area a few groups have combined and/or gone inactive and most are back meeting inside. The Beaufort County Intergroup will be sponsoring an October Fest at its next meeting on 10/3/21.

Our next meeting as a District will be 9/11/21.

**M. District 9 Report: Lisa U**

District 9 is continuing to have a monthly speaker meeting on Zoom. In October depending on Covid, we will be looking at having a hybrid speaker meeting.

The October speaker will be Bessie. She will be celebrating 50 years in Al-Anon. If you would like to attend, the meeting is October 10 at 2:00 PM. Zoom information follows:

Meeting ID: 244 024 6698

Passcode: 926402

Greenwood Serenity, Wednesday 7 PM, is back on Zoom due to covid in facility.

Meeting ID: 996 978 4605

Passcode: 270165

Our next District meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM.