AWSC Minutes September 9, 2023

Bob opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Lisa W. read the Twelve Concepts.

Bob, Area Chair, gave his report:

Hello everyone,

I am looking forward to seeing you on Zoom this coming Saturday, September 29th at 10AM. I will attach the Zoom invitation.

Now that our International Convention in Albuquerque is in the rear-view mirror, I am thinking more about what our priorities are in South Carolina. In my discussions with SCAFG members in the last couple of months, several items of interest have surfaced.

 Convention Guidelines. This is “Old Business” which needs to be addressed and resolved. Two task forces, one in 2020, and another in 2021, worked to update our convention guidelines considering the necessity of electronic events during the pandemic. Upon completion of all the work in September 2022, Panel 60 AWSC recommended that final acceptance of the Guideline be postponed until 2023 due to other pressing business. Please see the attached Appendix 10, Summary for more information.

Current business is as follows:

 The legality of the Raffle we hold every Convention. Barb and Robbie will have more information on this.

 Road Trip! 2024, You and Your Board Connect. WSO is inviting Areas to apply to host this special event in October 2024. Your executive committee has begun the footwork for this process by entering communication with the Columbia Visitors Bureau. Four hotels have responded to our Request for Information (RFI). I would ask this body for your support to submit the RFIs to WSO before the deadline date, which is September 23. If we choose to submit, WSO takes the lead and makes all the arrangements. The date for the Area wide portion of the event would be Saturday, October 30, 2024. I’m sure we won’t be the only Area to apply.

 Hybrid Assemblies. Do we want to continue having both in person and hybrid Assemblies?

 AA Liaison position on AWSC. Would this be a beneficial “Coordinator position” in cooperating with AA? Is there anyone willing to serve in this position? Should we not create a line item in the budget as a contingency, so if someone steps up, they will have funds to work with.

 Communication discussion. Is our current method of communication (Area to DRs, DRs to GRs) across the fellowship working? Are the groups getting the information they need. DRs, how is it working for you? We have been operating without an Area newsletter for a few years…do we need one? What form would it take? Is anyone willing to be the editor?

 Workshop for upcoming Assembly. Topics? Do we have time for one? What would it be?

 Budget. Keep in mind the September Assembly is when we have a budget discussion for 2024. More on this from Robbie.

Now let’s move on to acceptance of the minutes from.

Respectfully Submitted, Bob Colborn

SCAFG Chairperson

Jan W. went over the minutes from the last AWSC. Some items were incomplete. Bob motioned to table the minutes, Suzanne seconded and motion carried.

Roberta (Robby) shared her screen with her reports. She displayed the Group Contributions and Income Statement. She then presented the 2023 Budget update. She pointed out that the expected budget expenses are lower than the budget income. She stated that we need to look at income and expenses more realistically for the 2024 budget.

Her reports can be found on the Area website. She asked for a motion to accept the reports. Barbara O made a motion to accept, Kris K., seconded and motion carried.

Barbara O., delegate then gave her report.

Good morning!

Thank you, for being here today, for your dedication and leadership, for putting your heart into  carrying out the twelfth step, and for taking a leap of faith serving on this Panel! We are in the ninth of thirty-six months for Panel 63. With the rotation of service positions, most members have new duties! We are all learning the ins and outs of these service positions, and while there are personal and service challenges travelling on the road of Recovery, we come together with a single-minded purpose, to help families and friends of alcoholics. The SC 2024 Al-Anon Alateen Convention theme is “Seeing Clearly”.

The World Service Delegate role is to represent the Area groups to the WSC and is the primary communications link between groups and the WSO. The 2023 World Service Conference theme was ‘Love, Laugh, and Grow Together”! A suggestion in Many Voices One Journey, is to “presume good will.”

In the Service Manual Concept Nine section, there is a leadership essay by Bill W., on page 200: “a good leader originates plans and polices for the improvement of our fellowship”, on page 202, that “Vision…is “the ability to make good estimates, both for the immediate and for the more distant future”. The Area World Service Committee, page 140, consists of “officers of the Assembly, District Representatives, Coordinators, and liaison members who meet between Assemblies to discuss Area and District matters, plan the agenda for the Assembly, initiate projects, and make recommendations to the Assembly.”

Delegate participation, virtual, email or phone summer 2023

• **Al-Anon International Convention** June 30 -July2 2023 Fri-Sun morn. • **WSC Thought Force** “Eliminating Regional Trustees” Jan-mid Aug Thurs eves 1-4 x month virtual meetings.

• **Board of Trustees** July Chairperson of the Board Letter and Board updates August 12th. o Virtual meeting with Trustee Debbie P., after the Board of Trustees reports. • **SC Convention 2024 Committee** meetings, submitted request for WSO Speaker to WSO.  • Area Officers, AWSC Representatives and member discussions ad hoc and monthly.

Updates

• **District 5 Representative** Diane, resigned via phone call w/ Delegate effect. June 1, 2023. • Gave SC Area Approval for 2 electronic group requests to transfer from GEA to SC Area. • WSO approval given to SC Convention 2024, for the Director of Communications & Community Awareness to speak at the event.

• **Transforming Electronic Groups.** In Assembly, the Delegate reported the 3–6-month timeline for registered Al-Anon Family Geographic Groups which are meeting

“temporally” in electronic meetings, to decide if they want to meet in person or electronically. The Pandemic situation workaround allowed these geographic groups to list and hold temporary electronic meetings. The WSO has always registered groups with one geographic location. The registered electronic groups are held in a different “location”. Meetings held in different geographic and/or electronic locations need to register as different groups. The geographic Al-Anon Family Group that is still meeting “temporally” electronically, needs update its group records with the result of its group conscience. Those records are updated with the WSO. The geographic group registration does not include meeting some days electronically and on other days, at a geographic location, because that is considered two separate meeting locations. To clarify, a group that meets at the geographic location can hold a viewing in, aka hybrid electronic component only when members are in person at the geographic location, otherwise this is considered an electronic group and would need to register as such.  Groups update or register officially via the WSO. Lindi will have the group records report.

• No applications were received in the SC Area or Southeastern Area Region for the Regional Trustee opening on the Board of Trustees, so there is a vacancy.

• We will email, and post on the SC Area website, the July Chairperson of the Board letter and Finance, Conference Leadership Team, and Policy updates; with more information at Assembly.

• For a more detailed account of the 2023 World Service Conference, see the 2023 *World Service Conference Summary* (P-46). Delay now due in September, electronic and print.

• Join local and visiting members on Saturday, October 28, 2023 in Los Angeles for a day you won’t forget! Meet the Board of Trustees and At-Large members of the Executive Committee in southern California for a day filled with fun, fellowship, and inspiration.

• The SC Chair and Delegate will submit a 2024 Road Trip Application.

The Delegate and Chairperson asked Margaret L. to serve as liaison to SC Department of Revenue to investigate legal matters surrounding fundraising raffles. Margaret’s report was provided to the Treasurer Robbie. Thanks, Shawn, for website maintenance and improvements.

The suggested meeting closing applies to business meetings too… “talk to each other, reason things out with someone else but let there be no gossip or criticism of one another. Instead, let the understanding, love and peace of the program grown in you one day at a time.”

Yours faithfully,

Barbara O.

Lindi S., Alternate Delegate gave her report

We have had a busy month with record changes. I spent this week updating and verifying information with WSO. We had 2 groups with bounced emails which was a result in a misspelled email and one with a page not being updated on the WSO website. I had 2 groups being reported as not having meetings. Someone reported this to WSO. I was able to make contact with one group. They had changed their group to Zoom only but did not notify WSO. They had made the change with our SC website. I corrected that on the WSO group records after being contacted by the group. The other group has not contacted me back so far so I will reach out to the district Representative if I don’t hear back soon. It’s very important when making changes to meetings to let WSO know. People use their website when traveling to find meetings. We had 1 meeting with no CMA but I was able to correct that. If there are questions on how to make changes, please feel free to call me for help.

We have one new in person group in district 8 as of this past month, Little River AFG.

 We currently have 9 active electronic meetings in our area, 1 in district 2. 8in district 7 and 1 in district 9. We have 1 meeting that has not been assigned a district as of yet. Group records shows 106 groups in our area with a total of 127 meeting available listed as in person meetings.

Thank You,.Lindi Short

Area 50 alt delegate

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Ginger gave her reports for the Forum and Literature.

Thank you for letting me serve as the Forum Coordinator it is a very interesting service position! I attended a zoom meeting in February with new and past coordinators in which various ideas were shared. I now have access to monthly information about which locations have articles and pictures and how many subscriptions we have in South Carolina. Our April 2023 subscriptions are at 278 and up by 10 subscriptions from April 2022 – 9 individual and 1 group. May numbers were slightly lower at 274. Please consider doing a group subscription if you don’t have one – we currently have 14 group subscriptions in the state – and I learned that group subscriptions are only mailed to the CMA (current mailing address). Groups may use a personal subscription for their group copy if they want a different person to receive the copy.

A member from SC, Lisa W., had a picture in the May Forum. Consider writing an article or submitting a picture – if selected, you get a complimentary copy! Sharing’s are needed on Concepts and Traditions.

 If you have issues with receiving your copy late, you may contact your local post office, explaining that the magazine is time-sensitive, and asking that their mail from 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454 be given the same priority as regular first-class mail. WSO usually gets the magazines to the mail vendor by the middle of the month prior and they are then sent by "standard rate, nonprofit," which is supposed to be handled the same as first-class mail.

Three subscriptions were given away at the Convention and I am doing one at each Assembly, this one’s winner is Gloria Sloan. At only $11, the Forum is a great source of not only recovery, but also updates from WSO, meeting topics, and Alateen sharing’s! Read it front to back each month so you don’t miss an article! - Ginger S

Shawn S., Website Coordinator, gave his report:

The website Calendar is constantly being updated with the latest information provided by all Districts, Area Officers and Coordinators. If you have an All Days, District meeting or any other function you want posted just email it to me and I will put it on the Calendar and the Save the Date page of the Website

I have added a section at the top of the “Members Area” “For Review Prior To Assembly “and post all the pertinent information to be reviewed prior to the next Assembly meetings that have been sent to me. If you are getting your reports in early to the Secretary, please send them to me as well at webscpanel60@gmail.com and I will post them in that spot for all to review prior to the meeting.

The 47th Alateen Conference Draft Schedule and Al-Anon/AA Registration are posted on the Website under the “Members Area” “For Review Prior to Assembly 3 June 2023”, & on the “Conference/Convention 2023-2024” page.

The 49th Annual 2024 Al-Anon/Alateen Convention information is also posted on the “Conference/Convention 2023 – 2024” page as well, with the information we have to date.

Do not forget we also have the “Contact Service Member” page under the “Contact” Tab that lists all the Panel 63 members’ emails for quick access to email any position in Area 50, including all DR’s & Coordinators. All the person needs do is click on the envelope icon for that position and it opens up an email with that persons email address in it as “To”, in whatever email service you have on your device. You must be signed into your email service on the device you are using for it to work.

After the last Conventions we have had multiple complaints about the online Survey/Registration being too hard to complete. The Weebly website does not have a Registration page feature and requires you to use Third Party Apps to do Registrations properly.

I have created a Registration page for the next Convention that will use Third Party Apps “Google Forms” & “Payable Forms” as apps attached to our Website to complete the; Registration, Registration sales and T-Shirt sales all in one easy transaction, that records all the transaction in one cvs file, for both the treasurer and registration persons. The cost for each form is $.25 cents for each registration under $75.00. The 2024 Convention Committee with need to vote on whether to use this service or not for the next convention.

Since we no longer have a Reflector for the State, I have added the “Reflections” page under the “Members” Tab that has all the old State Reports & any District Reports sent to me for the last three years on it along with a spot for updated Al-Anon, AMIAS & Alateen Forms and Documents. The Archives page still has all the old AWSC, Assembly and Budget reports from the current year back to 2010.

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

**Page Views**: 3,852 **Unique Visits:** 2,005 **Avg. Pages Per Unique Visit:** 1.8905

The Weebly website no longer holds on to our “Individual Page View Status” for the previous month? So, I regretfully can no longer give that information in my report.

Lots of Love, Hugs, & Blessings, Shawn Short

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Robbie asked regarding fees for processing – maybe add a convenience charge to cover fees – maybe we could look at this in the future. Bob asked if the website was starting to be used more and more – Shawn said it fluctuated during different times of the year.

Bob asked that we announce area coordinator vacancies at group and district meetings.

Suzanne J., AAPP made her report:

Currently have 33 AMIAS in SC. See Shawn S.’s report – the report is the same

Kris K., gave her 2024 convention report:

Kris asked that she be added to the email distribution list for information. The convention planning is going along well. There is a meeting this afternoon at 2 pm.

T-shirts are being sold at $20. Registration is available on the website. You can register online or by paper registration. Currently have $1257 in the treasurer’s account. All speakers have accepted the invitation to speak. She has contacted 2 of the tapers – not able to tape our convention, so reaching out to another. She will have registration forms and flyer ready for Assembly. The hotel has been checked out for filling our needs, have added an additional room for baskets. Ginger sent info regarding other tapers. Packets have been made for DR’s. Will distribute at Assembly.

Archives, Susan L.,

We are still requesting group history and long- time member forms to be sent in. There is a conference call of other state archive coordinators in October. Archives would like to have group information on how group meetings changed/reacted during the Pandemic. How long did it take group to change or not – did they do alternative meetings? What was attendance like then and now?

Tech Coordinator, Linda R.

DR’s, if you don’t have a district tech coordinator, you need to think about getting one. Please contact Linda R, with contact info if you have one.

Bob pointed out that we need a Public Outreach Coordinator.

We paused to say the Serenity Prayer again.

Bob discussed the convention guidelines – he has turned them over to Joelyn for quick recap. The focus was on adding information about hybrid and electronic meetings, clean up the table of contents and job descriptions of committee members, as well as add a tech coordinator person.

Ginger suggested having convention checking account under the area account. Pointed out that current guidelines don’t provide room paid for Alateen Coordinator.

Barbara O., suggested we look at area procedures.

Robby suggested that the convention coordinate with Area Treasurer to set up account to utilize 501C4 information.

Ginger suggested that the wording of the 3rd bullet point needs to be simplified.

Linda R. pointed out that prior conventions had separate bank accounts from area account.

Jeri W., asked which version has been presented to AWSC to be voted on and did the next assembly approve if they weren’t taken to the fellowship? Do we need to make changes before approving?

Bob let us know that in September 2022 assembly, Joelyn submitted them for approval, per the minutes, Dave, Area chair, deferred them to Panel 63 to handle. He suggested they be read and reviewed prior to next AWSC.

Discussion continued regarding conventions:

Jan suggested a sub bullet point “if using in separate account’ Ginger agreed.

Barbara – maybe discuss accounts as a separate thing – not have accounts outside AFG umbrella.

Robbie – suggested we postpone to January AWSC – Robbie would reintroduce the motion that guideline be modified w/discussion we had today. Lisa W, motioned, Joelyn seconded.

Sue wants to see the newest version

Shawn – all reports are on area website

Kris pointed out we motioned to move to January Assembly and it passed.

Barbara suggested we review all the old motions and Robbie suggested we look at historic motions regarding 501C4

Jan motioned to accept budget with changes discussed at AWSC – Lisa seconded

Rationale: To continue the business of SCAFG in SC

Motion carried.

Communications: having things posted a week before AWSC system is not working -- need to send info to secretary and website earlier than that – also need to receive agenda’s 7 days before meeting.

It was pointed out that there are meetings on website without registering info with WSO. Jan suggested not putting on website without group #.

She also suggested that everyone send their report to Shawn for the website.

Barbara – big picture – what issue do groups have getting info?

Bob – I am perfectly capable of sending out info a week before

Susan – teach GRs to use website to find info – give a clear direction – look for “review prior to Assembly (date)”

Barbara – maybe we should consider two assemblies rather than three – may need more planning meetings.

Ginger would like to have motions that are going to Assembly at least 2 weeks prior to get info to GR’s/groups

Bob – we could use having more time between AWSC and Assembly

Jan would like to only have to report motions and discussions

Kathy – suggested a task force to include Assembly hybrid at 10 a.m., with registration at 9:30 a.m. Also suggested that the Agenda, zoom info, treasurer/secretary reports/minutes all be put on website. She refers GR’s to website.

Shawn – can put everything on website.

Meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan R, Area secretary