
Idaho AWSC 2004 Fall

Al-Anon AWSC Meeting Minutes

The AWSC of Idaho meeting was held in Boise on August 21, 2004.

Attendance

Pam A.	Chair	Traci E.	Literature Center Liaison
Ruth B.	Delegate	Cecilia S.	District 1 Representative
Eilene S.	Alternate Delegate	Danielle E.	District 2 Representative
Linda E.	Treasurer; District 7 Rep	Mark A.	District 3 Representative
Toni R	Secretary	Joan B.	District 4 Representative
LaDora B.	Archives	Myrna C.	District 5 Representative
Beverly P.	Literature Center Manager	Phil	District 3 Alateen
Loni T.	Literature Coordinator	Randy	Visitor
Bob T.	Website Update Coordinator		

Reports

Secretary's Report

Toni passed around the AWSC membership and asked for corrections. Minutes were read from the Spring AWSC meeting. Everyone had previously received minutes from the Spring Assembly.

Treasurer's Report

Linda E reported the financials through July 31. See Attachment. Have not received the Fall Assembly split or the Al-Anon days proceeds. The report reflects the amounts donated back by the AWSC. Internet expense – have not paid anything.

January through July 31 expenses was \$2,137.23 and income was \$3446.01. Total cash on hand is \$10,143.69

Delegate's Report

See Attachment.

Alateen Motion

The attachment lists the goals by year-end. Cannot register or re-register any Alateen group before the minimum requirements are met. Tasks to be done are listed on the attachment. The Ad Hoc Committee has not taken action since the Assembly. Danielle has volunteered to Chair this Committee. Still hope to get the information to DRs prior to the Assembly so we can vote on it at the Assembly. There will be an Alateen program at the Fall Assembly but need signed releases.

Website Update

The domain name exists but cannot find where it is registered. The other expense is the hosting of site. If it is not on a personal site it costs more (about \$25 per month). Jan has been paying the monthly expenses. WSO has taken us off their Website because our site in down.

Elections

Encourage people to run for officers and coordinators. Suggest the new and current GRs attend the Fall Assembly.

Miscellaneous

Ruth will show the PSA's at the Assembly. New WSO theme for 2005: Energize Al-Anon – Expand, Explore, Experience!

Elections

Encourage others to be involved in service by attraction. DRs please inform the GRs attending the Assembly that they will be on one side of the business meeting in order to vote.

Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary are voted in at the Assembly. Those people look at the other positions and who has applied. They then select the Coordinators.

We received the attached resumes for positions. People provided verbal information about themselves.

Delegate	Cecilia S.
Alternate Delegate	Myrna C. (no resume attached)
Area Chair	Ruth B.
Treasurer	Joan B. (no resume attached)
Web Coordinator	Danielle E.
Public Outreach Coordinator	Ruth B.
Area Literature Coordinator	Loni T.
Archives Coordinator	LaDora B. (no resume attached)

Alateen

Phil shared thoughts and concerns regarding Alateen and others shared their experience, strength, and hope. It does not work well to bring Alateens to Assemblies and expect the Sponsors to track them. Suggest Alateens not be brought to the Assemblies as a group. Alateens don't get a lot out of coming to Assembly. Some Alateens said they prefer not to go to Assemblies; they prefer to have their own event. Suggestion to have Al-Anon day beefed up to include an Alateen program. The Alateens are welcome to attend any Al-Anon meetings at the Assembly.

<u>Motion</u>	Is there a better way to handle Alateens at the Assembly? Have it on the Spring 2005 Assembly agenda. Mention it on the Fall 2004 Assembly.
<u>Vote</u>	Passed unanimously.
<u>Discussion</u>	Discuss Alateen at Assemblies at the Fall Assembly in order to take the subject back to groups. A vote will occur at the Spring 2005 Assembly.

Fall 2004 Assembly

Pam will not be able to attend; Linda E will chair the business meeting. Remind people to bring questions for ask-it-basket.

The final agenda is being set for the Spring Assembly. What direction can the organizing committee be given? We voted at the last Assembly to have an Alateen program at the Fall Assembly but we don't know yet if we will have a Spring Alateen program. This needs to be voted on at the Fall Assembly.

See Attachment from Pam L regarding the update on the Assembly Planning. It is important to register for the Al-Anon luncheon because we cannot add anyone else.

Area Coordinator Reports

Alateen	No report
Archives	See the attached report presented by LaDora. "Inside Al-Anon" is now part of the Forum.
Group Records	No report
Public Outreach	No report
CPC	No report
Institutions	No report
Forum	No report
Literature	Loni reported. Works with Beverly on ideas of what books to push; "Lois Remembers" is the current suggestion.
Literature Center	Traci reported for Will. Past few months have been very smooth. New Blueprint book has sold well. How is it working having the District responsible to sell the books at their event? Seems to be working well. Does anyone have recommendations to take back to the Trustees? If so bring it to the Assembly and Traci will take it back to the Board.
Newsletter	Ruth had a message that the latest issue is going out. The Editor continues to get people to send information for the Newsletter. What are the deadlines for sending information; generally after the AWSC meeting. 5 groups subscribe and 20 individuals. Should we even continue the Newsletter? Should it be on-line?
Web Site Update Coordinator	Bob suggests the update coordinator and the Web coordinator are the same person. There is not a Website so has done nothing for this position.

District Rep Reports

District 1 – Cecilia presented. They are going to have resumes for District positions. They have a new meeting that meets outdoors on a Friday night. Three new groups started. See attachment of meetings for this District.

District 2 – Danielle presented. Biggest goal is for everyone to show up at the District meeting with their Service Manual to promote service and look up answers.

District 3 – Mark reported. Groups are getting ready for elections. The Spiritual Breakfast on Sept 11 is at All Saints Episcopal Church in Boise. We meet in the Literature Center. People have shown interest in District positions.

District 4 – Joan reported. Quiet since the last Assembly. Closed two meetings for lack of attendance. They are in suspension; not closed through WSO yet. Alateen is well attended. Kids set goal if they attend so many meetings they get an Alateen daily reader. District had a raffle to pay for the books. No one is standing for a DR at this time. Many GRs were new since a year or year and a half so most will continue to the next term.

District 5 – Myrna reported. See attached report. They are holding District elections in September.

District 6 – Pam L sent a report prior to the meeting. See the attachment.

District 7 – Linda E provided a report. See the attachment. It can be discouraging getting people involved.

AI-Anon Days

2004 –Cecilia presented a check for \$821.33 from AI-Anon days. Four t-shirts left for \$10 each; these were created as a District fundraiser. Cecilia handed over the AI-Anon notebook to District 2. The event was a success. The raffle had a profit of about \$150 (the profits were co-mingled).

2005 – District 2 will host this. Picked a date for AI-Anon Day for 2005; June 4 in Kamiah (see attached). They may consider moving the date since the Assembly is so late in May. They have the room reserved for 3 days so they can expand the time. They cannot cook in the facility. The room rents for \$100. Will be playing a board game with the AI-Anon logo. They don't have rates yet for the motel; they don't plan to make reservations for people. They will have a Friday night meeting and a Sunday meeting as well as all day Saturday. There are many camping and RV sites in the area.

Spring 2005 Assembly

Mark reported on the progress. The Assembly will be in Boise on April 29, 30, and May 1 at the DoubleTree Riverside. The theme is the importance of the home group. Trying to get a speaker from California, Jack C., but have not gotten hold of him yet. The AA members are saddened that Alateen may not be at the Assembly. They are negotiating prices for the meals and registration. No agenda yet for the Assembly. It is normally approved by Area prior to the Fall Assembly. The agenda should be approved before it is printed. There will be flyers at the Fall Assembly.

Area Inventory

What are we doing well?

- Appreciate the bond that forms with the Committee. We learn it is safe and can work together. We take the principles learned back home.
- Improved on the ability to agree to disagree. People dare to have a different opinion. The process works even when we disagree.

- Appreciate that very few things fall between the cracks. Gone back to previous minutes to see what we have done and what needs to be done. Good organization and leadership.
- Appreciate Area Committee talking to the District who recently joined.
- Impressive for the ability of the group to communicate even for problematic issues. Practicing principles above personalities.
- Learning to respect others opinions even if they are not your own.
- Feel safe here.
- Everyone can speak out to help with the meeting so no one is alone in their position.
- Feel very welcomed and part of.
- Problems are handled well.
- We can continue the business even when someone is not here.
- Started the Area Challenges.
- Reunited the state.
- Started GR Orientation at the Assemblies.
- Created a history of motions from past minutes.
- Brought back the Ask-it-Basket to Assemblies.
- Listening to the GRs rather than preaching to them.
- Brought skits back from WSO and had fun with them.
- Approved the minimum Alateen guidelines.
- Moved the Al-Anon Days and changed to more than one day.
- Emailed Committee members between meetings to take care of business between meetings.
- Strived to not break traditions or concepts in the meetings.
- Received so many resumes for service positions. The more groups are involved the stronger we are. Taking resumes to groups reinforces the importance of the groups.

What could we have done better?

- Use our Service Manual more; quote it more. Tout it more in Assemblies.
- Many positions are not filled. Those who have a position do show up to the meetings. The same people seem to be missing.
- Fallen down with the newsletter by not sending in information. Groups don't seem to push individual subscriptions. Maybe the GR could tout the newsletter along with the Forum. We could all share more on a personal level.
- Hold committee members accountable. We have guidelines of how any meetings can be missed but we don't do anything with it when members misses. It needs to be made clearer to those standing for positions.
- Could do better on our Website. Could have followed up more before it became such a problem (no Website at this time).
- Do better getting the Alateen Committee going.
- Can better support our Alateen sponsors to attend Assemblies.
- Lacking public outreach at the Area level.

- Consider a policy manual for our Area. It is based on the history of motions passed and is updated yearly.
- Outreach to ethnic groups is lacking.

How can we help the next panel succeed?

- Remember we are not perfect. Encourage people who are reliable to do service. Encourage people to send substitutes to the meeting if they cannot make it.
- Rotation of leadership is important and worked well this year. Having new faces on the Committee is very important. Step down but not away in order to mentor those who follow. DRs or officers need to train their replacement.
- Officers need to be available to the next officers coming in.
- Pass down any information we have to the next person in our position both electronically and on paper.
- Suggest we change to only miss two consecutive meetings in a row before being replaced. Suggestion of only missing one meeting if the person does not provide a report or a substitute.
- Create the suggested policy manual.
- The Website is key; take full advantage of technology for communication since the area is now so big.
- Create an agenda prior to the meeting with the name of the person responsible for the report.
- Getting packets of information prior to the meeting is helpful.
- Have the Chairperson as an ex-officio member for the next Committee. Helps relieve some of the fear of taking over a position.
- Commitment starts at the group level and our example shows the group how it works. From the group level it will trickle up to the Area level.
- What are the positions and what do they entail? Provide information about the positions (this can be found in the Service Manual).
- Choosing the right person for the right position; people who can make it happen. Spot those dependable people.
- Service sponsorship of the new people taking our position would be helpful. Takes effort when the person is not in the same District, but can be done.
- Answer these same three questions for our position to hand down to the next person. Share with the next person.
- Share experience, strength, and hope in the newsletter.
- The person who follows may not know what to ask. Be tactful and share our experiences to help them understand what they need to do.
- The communication from the Delegate was great. Wonderful that she showed up in meetings and communicated from WSO.
- DRs might remind others what the positions entail. Just because it is in the Service Manual does not mean people read it.

New Business

Addicts in Al-Anon Meetings

The Walker Center sent a family member to an Al-Anon meeting. When the new person shared that her daughter was on drugs, she was asked to leave the meeting. The person called the Walker Center and said why was I sent to that meeting? Groups are autonomous so the District is asking what to tell the Walker Center.

Discussion

The only requirement for membership is that a family or friend has a problem with alcohol. We are not a program for drug and alcohol problems but most people are not turned away. They may not have the same bond as those who are dealing with alcohol. Others strongly disagree because believe the bond is there.

The situation can be handled in a different way. After the meeting a long-time member can explain that we help those dealing with alcohol. The focus is not on the alcoholic. No one can tell you if you belong in the meeting or not; only you can tell. Come to 6-8 weeks then share your reactions rather than the actions of the addict.

When they hand out a meeting schedule at the Walker Center; suggest potential members try several meetings because the meetings are autonomous. Suggest people talk to people after the meeting. Suggest be proactive and bring it up at the Family Meeting that we keep the focus on ourselves and not the alcoholic.

Committee Expenses

District 2 would like a discussion about the budget. Discuss paying all of the non-local Committee officers and coordinator expenses and not pay those who are attending locally. This applies to the Area meetings as well as the Assemblies. A Committee was supposed to be doing this, so would like a report at the Assembly.

Internet Coordinator

Motion Appoint Danielle as Internet Coordinator to complete the term until the Fall Assembly.

Vote Passed unanimously.

Action Items

- DR's
 - Take resumes back to Districts and encourage members to run.
 - Let GRs know positions available to be filled and what each entails.
 - Tell GRs they will sit on one side of the business meeting to vote.
 - Encourage groups to provide Ask-it-Basket questions.
 - Promote people to pre-register for the Al-Anon luncheon.
 - Encourage GRs to be sensitive to the newcomer and how to handle addict families.
- Pam
 - Will put the Agenda together and email it out prior to the Assembly
- All
 - Send your report to the Newsletter editor
 - Call Linda E if you want something added to the agenda
- Toni
 - Send meeting minutes to Committee members
 - Send Committee membership list to Committee members
 - Send Area Inventory notes to newsletter editor

Attachments

- A Agenda
- B Treasurer Report
- C Delegate's Report
- D Five resumes for AWSC
- E Fall Assembly 2004
- F Archives Coordinator Report
- G District 1 meeting schedule
- H District 5 DR report
- I District 6 DR report
- J District 7 DR report
- K Al-Anon Day flyer

Respectfully submitted,

Toni R., Area Secretary