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# Idaho Area Assembly - Spring 2008

## AI-Anon Assembly Business Meeting Minutes

The business meeting of the Idaho Area 2008 Spring Assembly was held at the Four Rivers Cultural Center, Ontario, Oregon on May 17, 2008. Cecilia S. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. The steps, traditions, concepts and a Forum piece on Concept 5 were read. After Introductions, there was a reading on Area Assemblies from the Service Manual.

### Agenda

See attachment on page 4.

### Reports

#### DR Reports

Each District Representative was asked to report the number of voting GRs from their Districts: District One – 5; District Two – 4; District Three – 11; District Four – 3; District Five – 5; District Six – 3; District Seven – 2. For reports, see attachment page 11.

#### Delegate's Report

Berta reported on the World Service Conference. Some highlights:

- There was discussion on the Internet and anonymity. There will likely be some wording changes to the service manual in this regard;
- Discussion on Areas splitting after reaching a certain number of active groups;
- There are now podcasts available online;
- Conceptual approval to the Literature Panel to put together a piece on "AI-Anon's First 60 Years";
- 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition – being self supporting. Each group costs WSO \$228 per year (on average)

See attachment on page 7 for full report.

### Discussion – AI-Anon Assembly Separating from AA

Passed out list of pros and cons discussed at the Fall Assembly in October 2007, which Cecilia read. The topic was then opened for comments.

- If Area can come up with enough seed money, couldn't we have an AI-Anon Assembly with AA participation?
- Let go of the fear and think positive
- Muddy waters – current assemblies blend business & fellowship. Bottom line is that assemblies are for business. How can we get our business done in the most functional, financially sound way?
- Knowledge based decision – are we close enough to start gathering info – costs, venues, etc.?
- Background – AA has mentioned uninviting us simply due to the large number of people. It would be great to be proactive & decide what's best for AI-Anon (NWRDM)
- If we think negatively, that's what we're going to get.
- Maybe we could invite an AA luncheon speaker.
- We need more participation with AA, not less. It's nice to have a longer time (not just one day) with lots of fellowship.
- It's hard, sometimes, to adjust to new thinking. It is possible for us to build something great – fun – for ourselves. Maybe it's time to start an ad hoc committee.
- AI-Anon is about cooperation, and separation causes division.
- This isn't about us not participating with AA at assembly, it's not about us not cooperating, it's about what's best for us as AI-Anons to get our business taken care of.

- Al-Anon has given us the dignity to stand on our own 2 feet.
- It's possible that splitting would give us a sense of empowerment.
- We can be self-supporting and still love and support AA
- What about the Al-Anon outreach opportunities we might miss?
- Aren't we enabling AA to direct us and tell us what to do?

*Motion: Ad Hoc committee to study feasibility & to report at Fall Assembly. Passed*  
Committee members: Sandy B., Ruth B., Danielle, Heidi W., Jeanne, Deb, Sue, Barbara,  
Traci

### **Secretary's Report**

*Motion to accept minutes as presented. Passed.*

### **Treasurer's Report**

All reports are attached.

- Went through forms: group contributions, treasurer contact info, expense reimbursement
- Profit and Loss (P&L) Statement for 2007 – Income \$8776.32, Expenses \$9044.26, Net loss <\$264.94> See footnotes on report
- P&L for 2008 YTD – Income \$1315.35, Expenses \$2283.45 Net loss <\$968.10>
- Group donations to date \$1132.27
- Went through the budget by line item

*Motions to accept the financial reports and the 2008 budget. Passed.*

### **Assembly Guidelines Committee**

This committee meets before the AWSC meeting, and is comparing suggested guidelines to what we're actually doing.

### **Coordinator Reports**

**Alateen** - Interim training module for sponsors. Special training module to be debuted at International in July.

**AAPP** – Sponsors are to be recertified by July 2

**Archives** – Show and Tell

**Literature Center** – New Hours M-W-F 11-3

**Newsletter** – Next issue June 1st

**Group Records** – Please go to the website and check your District schedule. To update Info, email Lisa or send group records change form to WSO

**Website** – Keep sending flyers for events. All Alateen forms and information are there.

**Literature/Forum** – New book on relationships is due out in July – “Discovering Choices”. There's a new Reserved Fund guideline (G-41), that talks about prudent reserves at the group, district, and area levels.

**Public Outreach** – Spread the Word

### **2008 Fall Assembly**

Robbin reported that, while she and Traci are still in the process of securing a speaker, everything else is moving right along. All committees are in place and people have volunteered to chair them. The other districts are asked to bring a raffle basket, and if there are people attending who might be willing to chair a one-hour meeting, please let them know: Traci – 208-841-8001; Robbin – 208-602-2743.

## **2008 Al-Anon Day**

The committee is requesting help from other Districts to host a one-hour segment. District 3 has already committed. The theme is "Lois Remembers". Please bring raffle baskets.

### **Miscellaneous**

- There's an e-cal contest on the WSO website
- Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism – July 28 deadline for ordering
- Mary Pearl is doing a 12 Step Workshop in Coeur d'Alene in Sept.
- Topics for Fall Assembly – fundraising, newcomers, Alateen

### **Hot Topic Highlights**

#### **Outreach**

- How do I protect my anonymity and still spread the word?
- Can we partner with AA to draw in more people?

#### **Service Participation**

- Service at the Group, District, and Area levels
- All of these things can be done – just be involved
- Check out the guidelines on the WSO website
- Get members of the group involved – don't wait for volunteers

#### **Group Health**

- Lead by example – invite others into service in and above the group level
- Business meetings and inventories are vital to group health
- Send reps to meetings – it doesn't have to be the GR or Alt GR – substitutes are welcome!
- Monthly step and tradition meetings

### **Attachments**

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Respectfully submitted,  
Traci E.  
Area Secretary

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## Agenda

***Area Assembly Business Meeting Agenda (GRs Attend)***  
***Saturday, 5/17/08 – Four Rivers Cultural Center, Ontario, Oregon***  
***“Build Bridges – Energizing Our Spiritual Quest”***  
***Collins Foundation Gallery – Meeting Room***

- 8:30 am** Opening, Welcome, Serenity Prayer; Cecilia S., Area Chair  
Traditions, Concepts, Reading from the Forum – Concept 5  
Introductions; Name, Position and Home Group
- 8:45 am** District Reports: (please give number of voting GRs from your  
District to Area Secretary). District Reports – 3 minute limit.
- 9:00 am** Delegate’s Report – Berta R.
- 9:45 am** BREAK (15 minutes)
- 10:00 am** “Al-Anon Separating from AA Assemblies” – Discussion
- 11:00 am** Secretary Report: Traci E.
- 11:05 am** Treasurer Report – Toni R
- 11:30 am** LUNCH BREAK
- 1:30 pm** Al-Anon Luncheon Speaker – Ellen C., Addison, Texas – *Speaker Room*  
HOT TOPIC – BREAKOUT SESSIONS
1. Outreach – Lead by; Lisa C. & Wanda L.
  2. Service Participation – Lead by; Danielle E. & Laura F.
  3. Group Health – Lead by; Robbin B.& Rob
- 2:30 pm** BREAK (15 minutes)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 2:45 pm** Idaho Area Assembly Guidelines Update – Berta R.
- 3:00 pm** Coordinator Reports – 3 minute limit
- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Alateen/AAPP: Ruth                     | Archives: Ladora        |
| AIS/LDC: Marje K. (Beverly)            | Newsletter: Danielle E. |
| Group Records: Lisa C.                 | Website: Toni R.        |
| Literature/Forum: Heidi W.             |                         |
| Institutions/Public Outreach: Wanda L. |                         |
| Spanish Contact: Jennifer P. (Absent)  |                         |
- 3:30 pm** Fall Assembly, Boise, Idaho – October 10 – 12, 2008  
Doubletree Riverside – Robbin B.
- 3:40 pm** 2008 Al-Anon Days – 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church; Pocatello, Idaho  
Saturday, June 28, 2008 – Theme: “New Thinking.” Wanda L.
- 3:50 pm** New Discussion, Concerns or Issues?

Let it Begin with Me.

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen  
always be there...and let it begin with me.

**Al-Anon Assembly Weekend Schedule**  
**“Build Bridges – Energizing Our Spiritual Quest”**

**Friday, May 16, 2008**

- 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**                      Registration – *Lobby*
- 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**                      **Al-Anon Kick-Off Meeting – *Collins Foundation Gallery***
- 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**                      **G.R. Exchange (GRs Attend) - *Collins Foundation Gallery***
- Hosted by Laura R. - Alternate Delegate
- 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**                      **D.R. Exchange (Past & Present D.R.s) – *Collins Foundation Gallery***
- Hosted by Cecilia S. - Area Chair

**Saturday, May 17, 2008**

- 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**                      **Registration – *Lobby***
- 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**                      **Al-Anon Business Meeting (GRs Attend)-*Collins Foundation Gallery***
- District Reports
  - Delegate Report
  - Al-Anon Separating from AA Assemblies
  - Secretary Report
  - Treasurer Report
- 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.**                      **Al-Anon Luncheon & Speaker – *Snake River & Owyhee***
- Luncheon Speaker: Ellen C., Addison, Texas
- 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**                      **Al-Anon Business Meeting (GRs Attend)-*Collins Foundation Gallery***
- Hot Topic Breakout Sessions
  - Old Business
  - New Business
  - Coordinator Reports
- 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**                      **Banquet and Speaker’s Meeting – *Three Rivers Meeting Room***
- Robbie W. New Jersey
- 9:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.**                      **FREE DANCE - *Lobby***
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- 1:45 p.m. to 2:45 pm.**                      **Open Al-Anon Meeting – *Topic Room- Museum Theater***  
“Relationships and Serenity”
- 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm.**                      **Open Al-Anon Meeting – *Topic Room- Museum Theater***  
“How does the toilet paper roll?”

**Sunday, May 18, 2008**

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
*Room*

Breakfast & Spiritual Speaker – *Three Rivers Meeting*

- Bill P., Fruitland, Idaho

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**Treasurer Report**  
**Spring Assembly - May 17, 2008**

**Forms on Website**

I worked closely with the Website Coordinator to post forms on the website to help members and groups.

**Idaho Area Expense Form**

This form is used to record expenses incurred by area officers, DRs, coordinators, and Alateen sponsors requesting reimbursement. The form is completed, receipts are attached, and then the form is mailed to the Treasurer. I created both a pdf and Excel version of this form so you could download the pdf to fill in manually or the Excel to complete on your computer. Please use the new forms that include state and zip code.

**Treasurer Contact Information**

This handout documents how and where to send Area donations.

**Group Contribution Form**

This is a new form that was inspired by information Ruth B received from other Areas. It is a way to identify a donation to ensure a group can be credited with the donation. The form should be used to send donations to WSO, Area, District, or the Literature Center. Sometimes a group will mail a check and it is very difficult for the receiving entity to identify the group. This form identifies the group with Area, District, and group numbers.

Groups are encouraged to fill in the top of the form with their group's information, then make copies each time a donation is made. This way the group's treasurer does not have to fill in the form each time.

If a group needs their group number, they can look at the meeting schedules on the website. Each schedule has the group's number.

Change the district mailing address for your district before making copies.

**Documentation**

I created a document called Treasurer Information. It includes a chart of accounts to explain each expense and income account, a list of treasurer activities, and details of the initial setup when a new Treasurer is elected.

Bean Countingly Yours,  
Toni R.  
Area Treasurer

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## Delegate's Report

### BUILD BRIDGES..... ENGERGIZING OUR SPIRITUAL QUEST

Once again, thank you very much for electing me to be your delegate for this three year term. It is not only an honor but a privilege to represent Idaho Al-anon at the World Service Conference.

This year's conference was held in Stamford Connecticut. It began on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2008 and concluded on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. There was also an open board meeting on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> which I attended. Each day brought new challenges, new topics, more confidence, and new friendships.

Thank you so much to the individuals, districts, and groups that sent cards and love gifts to me throughout the week. The hospitality room was certainly a popular place. Each day new items arrived and breaks were often spent browsing through the room. I brought several items back with me to share with you.

This year's theme "Build Bridges - Energizing our Spiritual Quest" was used in every area of the conference. Each day it became clearer that bridges were being built and we were certainly on a spiritual quest! We were always reminded that we are the bridge of information to the area we represent as well as carrying the message from our area to the WSC.

We had a representative from Germany, Mexico, and the Southern tip of South Africa. Each shared experience, strength and hope about Al-Anon in their countries.

There were 9 voting motions.

Motion 1: To seat 5 people at the conference with voice, but no vote and 1 person with no vote and no voice. - Motion carried.

Motion 2: To approve the 2007 Audited Financial Report – Motion carried.

Motion 3: To approve the Finance Committee Report. – Motion carried.

Motion 4: To approve the Operational Report and Strategic Plan Update. - Motion carried.

Motion 5: That the 2008 World Service Conference give conceptual approval to develop a piece of literature on Al-Anon's first 60 years. Motion carried.

Motion 6: To amend the text regarding anonymity on pages 83-84 of the 2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies to include the internet. - Motion carried.

Motion 7: To move the paragraph titled "Introductory Meetings" from 78 to 80 in the 2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Digest of Al-anon/Alateen Policies. – Motion carried.

Motion 8: To amend the text on page 78 of the 2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies regarding limited access groups. Motion carried.

Motion 9: To amend the text on page 85 of the 2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen policies, Finances, Contributions to WSO – Individual, Bequests – Motion carried.

There were 93 voting members at the conference making 62 the 2/3 number needed to make a change. By using the KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) process, each item was discussed thoroughly before a motion was made. By far the most discussion came with Motion #9 regarding bequests. It did however carry with 70 yes and 23 no.

The changes that were made regarding the text in our service manual will soon be made available on line so we can print them and put them in our books.

We learned about what is called "The Big Question Item". This concept is to ask big questions to generate big conversations. This year's question was: What might be the impact of further division or consolidation of the Areas: a. on the WSC, b. finances, c. innovative approaches to the links of service, d. growth and diversity in the fellowship? A lengthy discussion followed with input from many.

The Finance committee did a presentation on the Quarterly appeal letter. We want to make sure that members know this is a personal donation from them not from the group. Personal donations are our messenger in places where we cannot be. The first appeal letter was sent out in 1951.

It was also noted that in 1961 only 55 percent of registered groups contributed to the World Service Headquarters. The percentage of groups contributing in 2007 was 56.45 percent. The current cost to WSO per group is \$228.33.

We had a lengthy discussion on anonymity within the fellowship, anonymity with the general public, anonymity and professionals and anonymity and the media to include the internet as well as all forms of evolving public media.

The new book Discovering Choices will be released at the International convention in Pittsburgh, PA. in July.

We had additional discussions on Creating and maintaining healthy groups, Using KBDM for group conscience in the areas, and How the Al-Anon /Alateen message can reach families of active A.A. members and attract those family members to our Al-Anon/Alateen meetings.

We viewed the new PSA as well as listened to the new pod cast that will be on the member's website.

We had the opportunity to visit Stepping Stones during conference week. This truly was a spiritual experience. We had lunch outside and I believe it looked very much like a picnic that Lois and Bill hosted. It was exciting to speak with a number of people who knew Lois. This was a joy of a lifetime.  
Thank you again for allowing me to be your delegate.....

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## Group Records

Thank you for allowing me to be the Area 13 Records Coordinator. I'm learning quite a bit and will do the best job I can. Please do not hesitate to let me know if the groups have any concerns about information updates to Area and WSO.

There have been a number of GR and meeting changes over the past couple of months. I'm providing a printout of the current meeting information on file for each District. I'd like to invite each District Rep to take the information back and share it with their Group Representatives so updates can be made. Group Reps also should know what the process is for getting meeting change information to the Area and WSO.

Two ways to update information with Area & WSO:

- 1) You can e-mail me directly ([lisacon2001@yahoo.com](mailto:lisacon2001@yahoo.com)) with any changes and I can file an on-line Group Records Change Form to WSO on behalf of the group.
- 2) Groups can file a Group Records Change Form by mail

If groups choose to file their own information, WSO sends a confirmation to the Area Records Coordinator so the Area Records and Website Schedules can be updated.

Love in Service  
Lisa C.

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## Literature/Forum

*Hello ☺ My name is Heidi W. and I am your new Literature/Forum Coordinator. I was not quite sure on my duties and I was winging it there for a while, but how else am I going to get my feet wet if I don't just jump in and do it!*

*Reading through the Al-Anon Service Manual is a great way to start any new project. Basically my duties are to be a liaison between WSO and Area; Area and the Districts. To share Literature and to encourage The Forum Magazine.*

*WOW! My kind of duties! I love the new CAL that is out there and I carry The Forum in my bag with me everywhere I go. The best part is that I get to encourage other people to do the same.*

*Here is a list of some of the new Literature:  
Opening Our Heart: Transforming Our Losses*

*Will prove useful for thought-provoking individual reading as well as stimulating group discussions. It shares the experiences of hundreds of members as we explore how Al-Anon principles have helped us to acknowledge, understand, and accept the losses we have experienced as a result of someone*

else's alcoholism. The book covers a wide range of topics including death, financial ruin, abandoned dreams, and vanished self-esteem. With the help of Al-Anon Family Groups we can begin to heal and to live life more fully.

*Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2009*

*Discovering Choices*

About relationships.

*If you would like to order any of the new Cal that is available please go to*

*[www.al-anon.alateen.org/members](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members) type in your home group name followed by "afg" and you can be directed to many publications.*

*I have often wondered what people do with the "old" Forum magazines. I have had many excellent suggestions and I would love to share them with you.*

1. *Take The Forum to the correctional facilities; jails, prisons I.O.P's (Intensive Outpatient Programs.)*
2. *Attorney's offices.*
3. *A.A. Meetings*
4. *Courthouses*
5. *Schools*
6. *Doctor offices*
7. *The library*

*The list could go on and on and on.*

*It would be a good idea to put your local meeting schedule in the Forum magazine.*

*Step 12 states: "Having had a spiritual awakening as the results of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

*I was blessed to be an instrument of My Higher Power over the Assembly weekend. There was a lovely lady from Quebec, Canada at our table. She was visiting family in Boise and attended an Al-Anon meeting there. Someone talked her into going to the assembly and there she had some "eye opening" experiences. Someone was talking about the A.A. grapevine magazine and she proceeded to ask me some questions. I told her what it was and that A-Anon had The Forum Magazine. She asked me if I knew how to get a subscription to The Forum. I told her, "well, it so happens that I am the new Forum coordinator." She gave me her e-mail address and I just sent her the form this morning. My Higher Power works in me, through me and for me. Thank you ☺*

*Love in Service*

*Heidi W.*

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## Website Coordinator Report

Spring Assembly, May 17, 2008

### Events

Districts continue to provide flyers and other information for their events. Each are posted on the website and removed the day after the event is concluded.

### Newsletter Distribution

There are 83 members signed up to receive the electronic newsletter.

Anyone can request to be added to the distribution list by emailing [webinquiry@al-anon-idaho.org](mailto:webinquiry@al-anon-idaho.org). You can also click on "Send your email address" at this webpage: [www.al-anon-idaho.org/Newsletter/index.htm](http://www.al-anon-idaho.org/Newsletter/index.htm).

## Alateen Sponsorship

The webpages and forms referring to Alateen sponsorship were updated to include the new Area Alateen Process Person. Encourage potential Alateen sponsors to visit this page to understand the procedures.

## Meetings

District 3's meeting schedule by town has been removed from the website. The meeting schedule by day of the week remains because it is current. District 7's meeting schedule is included with District 3.

At the bottom of each web meeting page is a link to the Records Coordinator for you to send an email if you have changes to the web meeting schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni R.  
Website Coordinator  
[www.al-anon-idaho.org](http://www.al-anon-idaho.org)

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## District 6

District 6 Report  
May, 2008

District 6 news is as follows: Our "Spring Fling Chili Cookoff" on April 26 was a raving success and we hope to make it a yearly tradition as a spring celebration/fundraiser. We had two speakers (a husband and wife from Al-Anon and AA) who shared their experience, strength and hope in their stories. We raised some money for the district through generous donations and proceeds from a raffle. Thanks to all who participated and made this event so enjoyable and worthwhile! We continue to have a speaker brunch on the third Sunday of every month (excluding June and December) at Aussie Eats in the Guesthouse Inn on Lindsey Blvd. We have speakers lined up till November! This brunch follows the district meeting.

It's great to be a part of the Al-anon family worldwide and to feel at home in any meeting no matter where we are in the world. Our local groups all have dedicated core members who keep coming back. Our groups are strong and no matter what, we all know that just by showing up to a meeting we will hear or learn something that will help us in our journey toward recovery. Progress not perfection! How grateful we are for the tools of the program and our friends in Al-Anon!

Best wishes,  
Jody C.