Area 61 – Al-Anon/Alateen
Wisconsin & the Upper Peninsula of Michigan
For families & friends of alcoholics

Spring Assembly Meeting Minutes
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015
Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids

OFFICERS		Present*	Rpt
Delegate	Cathy T.	P	
Alt Delegate	Don B.	P	R
Chairperson	Denise M.	P	
Secretary	Debbie H-F.	P	R
Treasurer	Ann J.	P	R
Active Past Delegates	Cheryl A.	P	
	Renee H.	E	
	Jim S.	P	
	Carol V.	E	

COORDINATORS		Present*	Rpt
Alateen Coordinator	Connie O.	P	R
AAPP	Connie O.	P	R
Archive Coordinator	Jami C.	P	R
Assembly Coordinator	Mary S.	P	R
Group Records Coord.	Selwa P.	P	R
Literature Coord.	Ferrell N.	P	
Public Outreach Coord	Open position	n/a	
Web Site Coordinator	Sandi H.	P	R

DISTRICT REPS		Present*	Rpt
1	Brenda M.	P	
2	Jaye R.	P	R
3	Charles K.	P	
4	No DR	n/a	
5	Sandra G.	A	
6	Pat S.	P	
7	Mary S.	P	R
8	Jami C.	P	R
9	No DR	n/a	

DISTRICT REPS		Present*	Rpt
10	Renie M.	P	
11	Susan B.	P	R
12	Arla P.	P	R
13	Sharyl M.	P	R
14	no DR	n/a	
15	Heidi B.	P	
16	Jackie Lins (C)	n/a	
17	no DR	n/a	
18	Kelli M.	A	

DISTRICT REPS		Present*	Rpt
19	Mary S.	P	
20	Diane R.	P	R
21	Dan G. (alt DR)	P	
23	No DR	n/a	
24	Marge R.	P	R
25	Jim D.	A	R
26	Diane G.	A	
27	No DR	n/a	

**** Present column:** Present, Excused, Absent (unexcused). Contacts are encouraged but not required to attend.*

9:08am - CALL TO ORDER, Denise M. followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer

1. **Courtesy Rule Reminders**, Denise M.
   NO texting or playing games while in the room. No talking while others are talking. Limit movement around the room.
2. **Reading of the Traditions**, **Concepts**, **Warranties**, **& Anonymity Statement** (around the room)
3. **Welcome to all new DRs & GRs**, All people at their first Assembly were introduced and said what they feared about coming to their first Assembly. Fears:
   - Unable to download or print a meeting list from the website.

   District Introductions: Each District described themselves.
4. **Officer Reports**, see the attendance list at the beginning for reports given.

   Alternate Delegate/Forum Coordinator, Don B.
   Attended the Michigan conference and brought back 2 things about hosting a convention: 1) We may have trouble getting people to come to Assembly, 2) GRs will need more money to be able to attend.

   Forum subscriptions are falling behind; there are only 591 subscriptions in the entire state of Wisconsin. Don challenged all GRs to take subscription forms back to their groups to encourage more subscribers. Also, Forum writing worksheets are available; we need more submissions.

   There are 3 new books in the works; they need submissions. If you write something today, Don will mail it in for you.

   Regarding the Spare Change Jar, Don asks that it be changed to give a subscription to every newcomer who comes to the group.

The Forum magazine is available electronically thru iTunes (Sandi H. said that it was available on most devices now). Email Cathy, delegate@area61afg.org, for more information.

5. **Minutes from the last Assembly on September 20, 2014**, Debbie H-F.
Motion made to accept the minutes as presented (by Cheryl A., seconded by Heidi B.). ***Motion carried.***

6. **Treasurer's Report**, Ann J.
We are in great financial condition. Group contributions have increased approximately $1,000. Hotel costs have also increased.
Motion made to approve the financial reports as presented (by Carol R., seconded by Sharyl M.). ***Motion carried.***

7. **Policy Updates,** Denise M.
The Policy Manual states that we reprint the manual every 3 years. Last time, we printed a copy for every group in the Area *(plus a few extras)*; it cost about $400. There are approximately 100 leftover now (as not all groups took a copy). How many do we need to print this year?

   Consensus vote:

   2 votes – Shouldn't print any

   21 votes – Print 200

   Majority voted to print for all groups. They will be distributed at the Fall Assembly.

   Convention Coordinator: We're recommending a policy change to add the words "Convention Coordinator" to the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) section, page 1, item 2.

   Motion made to approve adding the Convention Coordinator position to the Policy Manual (by Susan B., seconded by Larry P.). ***Motion carried.***

   Note: We're working on a Convention Coordinator job description.

8. **Bring a GR to the Fall Assembly**, Jaye R.
Challenge for ALL members to visit a group that does not have a GR. She passed out a folder with materials to educate District members on the need for groups to be represented by a GR. It also included a list of unrepresented groups.

   Please bring a GR to the Fall Assembly from an unrepresented meeting or District.

9. **Alateen Meetings In the Schools** (continued discussion from Fall 2014 Assembly), Denise M.

   Anonymity within Schools – Per Connie O., most school meeting are held within the School Counselor's "pod". Or, they do not advertise the room that the Alateen is in (during school time). They train the school staff with a script.

   Christina C. (from Burlington) shared her experience with their 3 Alateen meetings in schools.

   - They don't advertise where the meetings are; teens ask a staff person or counselor. They conduct school staff training so they know what to recognize and what to say.
   - Their meetings are during school times. They rotate through different times of the day (not the same every week). Teachers generally see such a difference in the kids that they don't mind if they miss class.
   - Kids do not have to have parental permission to go to the meeting. At the beginning of the school year, parents signoff on all groups (not just Alateen) that the kids might need to participate in.
   - Some schools require that a teacher be in a room. Once they educated the administrators about Alateen, they allowed the meeting to only include certified AMIAS'.

- A comment was made that some teachers may qualify to be an AMIAS and could be encouraged to become one. Christina said that she works in the schools and as a 'mandatory reporter', she does not do her AMIAS work at those schools. Staff may also have their own child at the school making it difficult to maintain, "no gossip or criticism of one another".
- Our meetings are in public schools so we cannot use the word 'God' but we can use 'Higher Power'. The way our schools handle it is, if the student initiates the conversation and uses the word 'God' (e.g., "Well, I don't believe in God."), it's okay to continue.
- The meetings are only held during the school year. There are other Alateen meetings nearby that the kids can attend during the summer.
- They ask their Alateens to talk up the program with their friends. They also make copies of the Alateen section of The Forum (that don't mention 'God') and put them on the posters throughout the schools.
- The WSO guideline, *Alateen Meetings in Schools (G-5)*, is excellent. They hand it out to all staff people.

10. **Delegate Report from the World Service Conference (WSC),** Cathy T.
    Theme: Living Our Spiritual Principles: Expanding Our Vision
    For full details, see the *Delegate's Report May 2015*, posted on the Assembly Materials page of our website, (http://www.area61afg.org/area-business/assembly-materials/ - Spring 2015 Assembly section),

11:54am – 1:07pm – Lunch
Speaker, Hillarie W. from Racine shared her Al-Anon journey. Thanks Hillarie!

11. **Chosen Agenda Item Breakout Session**, Cathy T.
    KDBM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) Discussion, Denise M.

    How can we clarify our primary purpose while welcoming members who need our program who may have a drug addicted friend or family member?

- Need to be inclusive, attraction not promotion; they're coming to us.
- We keep the focus on us, not the alcoholic. Everyone is welcome.
- We don't get to decide who is in an Al-Anon meeting. If we are sticking to the Traditions in our meetings, we don't know the issues that caused the person to come.
- We allow the person to speak. When they're done, we bring the discussion back to the solution.
- We don't have a membership committee. Individuals decide for themselves if they belong.
- A lot of addicts also use alcohol (especially when they can't get their drug).
- 87% of people use, drink (statistic from 2013).
- 5th Tradition (primary purpose), 10th Tradition (no outside issues). When I'm talking about the alcoholic in my life, that's an outside issue. I try to talk to the person after the meeting.
- Are there things that are particular to alcohol?
- As a teacher, we always refer to "alcohol and other drugs". They're not separate.
- How specific do we need to be with the jargon used by a newcomer? They don't know it yet.

- No matter what the addiction is, it still affects me the same way. The alcoholic or drug addicted person's behavior is the same.
- The book, Many Voices One Journey, goes thru the history of Al-Anon and the struggles and issues that have been addressed. Good background on how the decisions were made.
- Ask the newcomer, "Does this help you? If it does, please keep coming back." "If you don't have any alcoholics in your life, you can borrow one of mine".
- Why do we ask this question? AAs experience came from the experience of other groups. When they "diluted" and start taking on outside issues, the group was gone in a year?
- Family members may be adult children of alcoholics.
- Groups exist to help families of other "addictions" but are not available in many places.
- If it works, it should work for everybody.

12. **Coordinator Reports**, see the attendance list at the beginning for all reports given
    - Assembly Coordinator, Mary S. – Contracts with Hotel Mead for 2017 have been completed; 2017 will be the same as 2016 for AWSC & Assemblies. Starting in 2018, the Fall Assembly with be like the Spring Assembly (Friday night and Saturday only).

      In 2018, guest rooms will increase by $2. AWSC meeting rooms will increase by $10. Assembly meeting rooms with increase by $50.
    - Alateen Coordinator/AAPP, Connie O. - AMIAS recertification is winding down (still 25 left to go). Alateen trainings have been a great success; many new AMIAS'. The Alateen Midlake conference is next week.
    - Archive Coordinator, Jami C. – Has a new project in mind, we'll hear more later…
    - Group Records Coordinator, Selwa P. – See her report on the Assembly Materials page of the website *(Coordinator Reports)* for full details.

      PLEASE send all *(Al-Anon)* changes and additions to the Group Records Coordinator, not WSO. She will update the WSO Group Records information. Her email is grouprecords@area61afg.org.

      Send all Alateen changes to the AAPP, alateenprocess@area61afg.org.
    - Literature Coordinator, Ferrell N. – Please urge members to write for any of the new Conference Approved Literature (he can email forms to you). Also, send Assembly literature orders in advance to his email, Ferrell@emypeople.net. If you have suggestions on how to organize pamphlets, please let him know.
    - Web Site Coordinator, Sandi H. – To see Assembly Materials on the website, you must first login. There is a business card available with the login information. Flyers and meeting lists to be posted on the website must not have any personal information, e.g. personal phone, email, mailing address. There's also a cheat sheet available to DRs on how to access their Area 61 webmail.

13. **Public Outreach**, Cheryl A./Diane R./Denise M./Pat S.
    They did a very informative demo of the Professionals Powerpoint for Educators. It included initial contact with the institution and setup of the equipment. One note, if you have time available to expand on the slides, its best to share more personal stories.

    They are working on a written template for how a District can set this up.

14. **Al-Anon State Convention Task Force**, Denise M.
    Based on your input, the Convention is planned for the 2017, the last weekend in October or the first weekend in November in the Wisconsin Dells area. In addition to the new Convention

Coordinator position, there are several spots open on the Convention Committee, e.g., Chair, Treasurer, etc. We need your help; please consider volunteering.

15. **Area 61 Purchasing Literature Thought Force**, Ann J.
The SE Wisconsin Literature Distribution Center (LDC) can no longer sell us literature at a discount as it is against WSO policy.

    Using KDBM, we're looking at options for the Area on how to handle Conference Approved Literature (CAL) going forward as well the responsibilities of the Literature Coordinator - the Who, What, and How of selling literature in the future. Jaye R. will talk with the LDC to see what part they want to play going forward.

What was the most important thing you want to bring back to your group?

- Use the Powerpoints
- Need new Forum subscriptions
- Print the tent card to increase contributions
- Great discussion on Alateen in the schools
- We have 3 new books i-the-works. Please submit sharings.
- Chosen Agenda Item on diluting the fellowship
- Elections at the Fall Assembly
- Bring a new GR to the Fall Assembly
- Recommended books, *Many Voices One Journey* & *From Survival To Recovery*
- Voted to create an Area Convention Coordinator position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Fall AWSC is August 1, 2015.
- The Fall Assembly is September 25-27, 2015

3:25pm - MEETING ADJOURNED, Denise M. closed with the Al-Anon Declaration
Motion made to adjourn the meeting (by Susan B., seconded by Mary S.). ***Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Harvey-Frederiksen
Area 61 Secretary, Term 2013-2015

Note: *These minutes are not official until approved by the Assembly.*