



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

| COORDINATORS                 |            | Present* | Rpt |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|-----|
| <b>Alateen Coordinator</b>   | Connie O.  | P        | Y   |
| <b>AAPP</b>                  | Connie O.  | P        | Y   |
| <b>Archive Coordinator</b>   | Jami C.    | P        |     |
| <b>Assembly Coordinator</b>  | Mary S.    | P        | R   |
| <b>Group Records Coord.</b>  | Selwa P.   | P        |     |
| <b>Literature Coord.</b>     | Ferrell N. | P        |     |
| <b>Public Outreach Coord</b> | Denise P.  | P        |     |
| <b>Web Site Coordinator</b>  | Sandi H.   | P        | R   |

| DISTRICT REPS                | Present* | Rpt |
|------------------------------|----------|-----|
| <b>1</b> Brenda M.           | P        |     |
| <b>2</b> Annemarie A. (alt.) | P        | R   |
| <b>3</b> no DR               | n/a      | n/a |
| <b>4</b> Clarine F. (alt.DR) | P        |     |
| <b>5</b> Sandra G.           | A        |     |
| <b>6</b> Pat S.              | E        | R   |
| <b>7</b> Sarah M.            | P        | R   |
| <b>8</b> Jami C.             | P        |     |
| <b>9</b> Ann J. (C)          | P        | n/a |

| DISTRICT REPS           | Present* | Rpt |
|-------------------------|----------|-----|
| <b>10</b> Mary S. (C)   | P        | n/a |
| <b>11</b> Susan B.      | P        | R   |
| <b>12</b> Arla P.       | P        | R   |
| <b>13</b> Sharyl M.     | P        | R   |
| <b>14</b> no DR         | n/a      | n/a |
| <b>15</b> Heidi B.      | E        | R   |
| <b>16</b> Jackie L. (C) | n/a      | n/a |
| <b>17</b> no DR         | n/a      | n/a |
| <b>18</b> Kelli M.      | A        |     |

| DISTRICT REPS                    | Present* | Rpt |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----|
| <b>19</b> Mary S.                | P        | R   |
| <b>20</b> Diane R.               | P        | R   |
| <b>21</b> Stacy M.               | P        | R   |
| <b>22</b> Merged with District 2 |          |     |
| <b>23</b> No DR                  | n/a      | n/a |
| <b>24</b> Marge R. (alt. DR)     | P        |     |
| <b>25</b> Jim D.                 | P        | R   |
| <b>26</b> Diane G.               | A        |     |
| <b>27</b> No DR                  | n/a      | n/a |

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

**9:03am- CALL TO ORDER** by Denise M. followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer

1. **Reading of the Traditions, Concepts & Warranties**, read around the room
2. **Introductions** – Around the room
3. **The Newlywed Game**, Jim S.  
Buddies and their “hosts” answered funny questions about each other.
4. **Answer DR Questions**, Denise M.
  - District 2 has three Spanish-speaking meetings and there are no Area forms in Spanish, e.g., contribution forms. There may be someone in District 2 that could translate. Annemarie will discuss this with the groups.

Northern Illinois Area (NIAFG) has a “Spanish” committee that does this. Annemarie will head up the project to work on translating materials that are distributed by the Area. She will contact Ramona from NIAFG for assistance. The Treasurer requested that the forms contain English translations so that she can read them.

Could we hire someone to translate the **Policy** Manual? Beware of professional translators that are not in the program; we have many terms in Al-Anon that have special meaning. This has been tried in the past and not been entirely successful.

We had Spanish translation equipment at the TEAM event. Could we do that regularly to make Assemblies more attractive to Spanish-speaking individuals?

- There’s a lack of participation by Alateens and AMIAS. The Service Manual (pg. 82) allows dual-members to be in service.



- Concern with groups being tied financially to Alano Clubs, Service Manual 57, 121-122. One group changed locations when the club insisted that they buy literature from them. Al-Anon does not have specific guidelines on this. However, AA has a guideline called *Relationship Between AA and Clubs* on their website which may provide some insight that we can relate to Al-Anon.
  - Concern with groups who don't use the suggested meeting format. See Service Manual, pages 23-27. Tradition 4 says every group is autonomous; they can do things differently as long as it does not violate the Traditions.
  - Business cards were passed out to remind people of the Area 61 website login information.
  - We have a member who would like AWSC reports. If she's not an active Past Delegate from Area 61, she doesn't have the background in the Area and should probably not see materials before they go to Assembly.
5. **“How to” Host an Assembly**, Mary S., Assembly Coordinator with Debbie H-F.  
Performed an informative skit with a Powerpoint presentation.  
We need Districts to volunteer to host Assemblies in 2016.
6. **Officer Reports**, see the attendance list at the beginning for reports given
- Delegate – Cathy T.  
Distributed the 2015 World Conference Summary booklet.  
The *Meet the Board* event is comprised of the WSO Board basically doing a meeting on wheels. This year it was in Newfoundland on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The WSO is asking that we submit a bid for the 2015 *Meet the Board* event – a Board meeting that all members are invited to attend. The Area would only be required to advertise the event; the WSO takes care of everything else.  
  
Someone sent Cathy 3 very old Forums. She will keep them until it is decided if we'll put them in the Archives.  
  
Cathy has new PSAs for the Public Outreach Coordinator.
  - Chair – Distributed 2015 Calendar Quotations that may be used without getting reprint permission. Did anyone make a calendar for this year? No, but we have lots of ideas. We could do calendars as a fundraiser for the Area.
7. **Minutes from the Prior AWSC Meeting on 3/1/2014**, Debbie H-F.  
Discussed the purpose of the Expense Reimbursement Thought Force mission.  
*Motion made to accept the minutes as presented (by Cheryl A., seconded by Don B.). **Motion carried.***  
  
(Note that the report deadline for the Fall Assembly is **August 16<sup>th</sup>**.)
8. **Treasurer's Report**, Ann J.  
We will be reviewing Office Supplies in the 2015 Proposed Budget as well as the increase in Hotel Mead costs. *Motion made to approve the financial reports as presented to take to the Assembly (by Susan B, seconded by Annemarie A.). **Motion carried.***  
  
Are donated baskets or donations more financially effective for the Area? Baskets do not appear to bring in as much money as what the group paid for it. So, monetary contributions are probably better.
9. **Task Force on AFG Area 61 Convention**, Denise M.  
The Task Force recommends yearly conventions at the same time every year with the title of “AFG Area 61 Convention”.



We're looking at venues in Wisconsin Dells (per the results of the survey). The first convention would be in 2016 in October as it is the most cost-effective timeframe of all the survey suggestions.

The estimated cost is \$6,510. If we had 200 people attend, each person would pay \$32.55. To get meeting rooms for free, we must meet certain minimums for room stays and meals.

The document that was distributed should say 2016-2018 for the Assembly Coordinator position, not 2015-2017.

**10. Task Force on Expense Reimbursement, Jim S.**

- The Policy Manual is confusing. However, it is a huge project to make significant updates so the scale of the suggested policy change was scoped-back. We will look at revising whole sections of the manual in the future.
- The most pressing issue is that of Past Delegate reimbursement for the North Central Regional Delegate's Meeting (NCRDM). The purpose of the NCRDM is to prepare new Delegates from our region to attend the World Service Conference (WSC). We propose to add a sentence to the existing text (marked in **bold red**).

Area Expenses, Item 16, page 4: The Delegate and Alternate Delegate will be reimbursed in full for expenses to attend each North Central Regional Delegate's Meeting (**NCRDM**) within their terms. (5/89)

**Because active Past Delegate historical knowledge is valuable to the success of the NCRDM, the Area will reimburse each active Past Delegate the cost of registration, lodging, meals, and travel.\***

*Motion made to approve the proposed policy change as presented to take to the Assembly (by Susan B., seconded by Arla P.). **Motion carried.***

In the future, consider reimbursing volunteers' expenses when Area 61 hosts the NCRDM (every 9 years).

**11. Policy Manual Housekeeping Changes.**

The Policy Committee approved 2 housekeeping changes to the Policy Manual (marked in **bold red**).

- The first change is due to the merger of Districts 2 and 22.  
Area World Service Committee (AWSC), Item 3, page 1: OTHER MEMBERS are: District Representatives (**27 26**), Liaisons and Active\* Past Delegates. (5/86) (5/91) (5/05)
- The second change is the correction of a typo.  
Area Expenses, Item 4, page 3: All **AWSC** meeting expenses.

**12. Proposed 2015 Budget, Ann J.**

Two changes made by the Treasurer:

- Past Delegates budget increased from \$1,800 to \$3,000. This is in anticipation of Past Delegate's expenses being reimbursed for NCRDM.
- AWSC Meetings budget increased from \$200 to \$400 for contracted hotel cost increases.
- These 2 changes caused Contributions to increase to \$12,835 and Total Receipts/Expenses to \$34,235.

*Motion made to approve the proposed budget as amended to take to the Assembly (by Brenda M., seconded by Sharyl M.). **Motion carried.***



13. **WSO Financial Report, Cathy T.**

The World Service Conference did a workshop on group budgets to show members how much it actually costs to run a group. The hope is to encourage members to put more than a dollar in the basket if they can.

They created a spreadsheet for groups to fill in for their specific expenses. Cathy also distributed the Reserve Fund guideline G-41. The chart and guideline will be posted on our website on the General Documents & AWSC pages.

**11:55am – 1:06pm – Lunch**

14. **Ace Reporter, Alotta Mee (aka Cheryl A.)**

Buddies dressed up and participated in a fun interview.

15. **Coordinator Reports**, see the attendance list at the beginning for reports given

- AAPP – Midlake t-shirts are for sale. Please take one of the beautiful God Boxes. Midlake went well. In 2011, they had \$12,000 in revenue/expenses. This year, we had \$35,000. It was a great success!

Connie will redo the AMIAS training to be more effective. She has also developed a new fingerprint process.

- Assembly Coordinator – Districts 9 & 21 are preparing for the 2014 Fall Assembly. District 1 is hosting the Spring 2015 Assembly. District 2 and possibly 8 are hosting the Fall 2015 Assembly. Mary will be recruiting for 2016.

Hotel Mead contracts for 2016 are signed.

Mary has drafted a re-write of the Assembly guidelines. Please get comments back soon. They will eventually replace the Assembly guidelines in the Policy Manual's-Supplemental Information section. She will give the completed guidelines to the Secretary who will then update the manual.

Regarding the survey on Basket Raffles at Assemblies, there were 24 enthusiastic yes, 4 okay, 1 no.

- Archive Coordinator – Reviewing materials and will have an updated display for the Fall Assembly.
- Group Records Coordinator – How many DRs have logged into the WSO's site for group records? About half and half.
- Public Outreach – Three Powerpoints are available which are customized to Healthcare, Educators, and Law Enforcement audiences. They are now posted on the Area 61 website. Please DO NOT CHANGE the slides. However, you are free to use only the slides that are pertinent. Stickers and evaluation forms are also included.  
The next issue of the Professionals eNewsletter will be sent in September.
- Web Site – We are reaching a younger audience and more mobile devices. If you have changes to your group's information, contact the Group Records Coordinator (for Al-Anon) and AAPP (for Alateen). They will let the Web Site Coordinator know of the changes.

16. **Action Committees Met**

17. **Action Committee Reports**

Membership Outreach, Mary S.

GR/DR orientation volunteers have been recruited.

We are putting packets together for people to take to groups without a GR. If they attend the Assembly, their reward will be a new piece of literature.



Fellowship Communications, Susan B.

Some literature is available in electronic format.

- One Day At A Time – audio book
- How Al-Anon Works – audio and digital (eBook)
- Having Had A Spiritual Awakening – digital (eBook)

Two CAL literature writing workshops are coming up. October 25<sup>th</sup> in La Crosse and Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> in West Allis.

Sale of literature to outside agencies needs to carefully target the literature to the audience.

Regarding participation beyond the group level, e.g., AA Speaker meeting with Al-Anon participation. They can't find Al-Anon speakers. Try approaching members one-on-one to encourage them to speak.

Sponsorship can encourage the use of the Forum magazine; be an example.

Group Services, Jami C.

We will update the job descriptions for Officers & Coordinators prior to the Spring 2015 Assembly (in advance of the 2015 elections at the Fall Assembly). Debbie H-F will coordinate the project.

How can we encourage members to come to Assembly? One idea is to start a Lois W Fund to provide scholarship money.

How can increase member donations to the group basket? One idea is to create a tent card with the triangle symbol saying, "Give 3". We also discussed using the Spare Change concept to raise money for GR expenses.

Public Outreach, Diane R.

We addressed questions about Public Outreach opportunities.

- There are sometimes overlaps with people who are affected by alcohol vs. drugs; a boundary we cannot cross.
- Appearance of the press at outreach events. No full names may be used in public media.
- Participating at state-level meetings that are associated with mental health and alcohol. There is a significant initiative going on at the state-level at this time. Should we just be available as a resource or have a "seat at the table"? We should only share information about Al-Anon and not take positions.
- Webinars vs. podcasts. Podcasts are more accessible. We will look into this.
- The Powerpoints are currently available on-line in updatable format. We will take the updatable documents down and only leave PDFs so that they cannot be changed.
- Denise P. is updating the eNewsletter mailing list when there is an on-line sign-up.

**18. District Reports**, see the attendance list at the beginning for reports received/given.

- DR 2, Annemarie – There are only 2 Spanish-speaking meetings, not three.
- DR 6, Pat S. – is excused.
- DR 9, Carol V. – District 9 does not have a DR; we are rotating responsibilities. There are 2 new meetings and we had a picnic. We're hosting the Fall Assembly with District 21.
- DR 11, Susan B. – We're hosting a Step 12: Carry the Message in Writing workshop on October 25<sup>th</sup> in La Crosse.
- DR 12, Arla P. We're participating in the AA Area 74 Fall Conference in Eau Claire, September 26-28.
- DR 19, Mary S. – Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Alateen meeting is starting in September.
- DR 20, Diane R. – We're starting an Alateen meeting in Hayward.



- DR 25, Jim D.-We're co-sponsoring a conference with AA.
19. **Buddy Questions/Comments**, Denise M.  
There were 6 buddies in attendance.
- It is a good idea for everyone in service to be reimbursed for expenses. Service should be equal opportunity.
  - Groups can set aside a Reserve Fund for people to come to Area meetings. Districts can send a District Appeal letter for contributions to the groups in the District.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Fall Assembly is September 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> hosted by Districts 9 & 21. The next AWSC is March 7, 2015.

**3:28pm - MEETING ADJOURNED** by Denise M. closed with the Al-Anon Declaration  
*Motion made to adjourn the meeting (by Arla P., 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 AWSC.*