



Officers		*	Rpt*
Delegate	Don B.	P	yes
Alt. Delegate	Susan B.	P	
Chairperson	Debbie H.	P	
Secretary	Jaye R.	P	R
Active Past Delegates	Cathy T.	P	
	Cheryl A.	P	
	Renee H.	P	
	Carol V.	P	yes
	Jim S.	P	
Treasurer	Stacy S.	P	yes

Coordinators		*	Rpt*
Alateen	Connie O.	A	
AAPP	Mary S.	P	
Archive	Jamie C.	A	
Assembly	Mary Sk.	P	yes
Convention	Mary Sk.	P	yes
Group Records	Sandi H.	P	yes
Literature	Arla P.	A	
Public Outreach	George B.	A	
Web Coordinator	Elizabeth S.	P	

DISTRICT REPS	Present*	Rpt
1 Maureen E.	A	
2 Linda D.	P	Yes
3 Charles G(contact)	n/a	
4 Milette K	P	Yes
5 Sandi G. (contact)	n/a	n/a
6 Jeni W.		
7 Matt G.	A	
8 Susanne S.	P	Yes
9 Cathy T.	P	Yes

DISTRICT REPS	Present*	Rpt
10 Sharon N(contact)	n/a	
11 Jenni B.	P	
12 Michelle M.	P	
13 Sharyl M.	P	
14 No DR	-	
15 Kathryn M. (alt)	P	
16 Cecile E.	A	
17 No DR	-	-
18 No DR	-	

DISTRICT REPS	Present*	Rpt
19 Connie O.	A	yes
20 Kathy G.	P	
21 Dan G.	P	
22 Merged with District 2		
23 No DR	-	
24 Marge R.	P	
25 Jim D.	P	
26 No DR	-	
27 Daniel B.(contact)	n/a	

* **Present column:** Present, Absent. Contacts are encouraged but not required to attend.

9:03am- CALL TO ORDER by Debbie H. Chairperson

followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer

- Reading of the Traditions, Concepts & Warranties**, read around the room
- Welcome & Introductions** – Around the room
- Ask It Basket**, Susan B.
- Courtesy Rules Reminder**
- Mary Sk.**, Hotel considerations, GR/DR Orientation sign up and lunch count-off.
- Officer Reports**, See the attendance list at the beginning for written reports posted to our website:
<http://area61afg.org/area-business/awsc-materials> .

Secretary- Jaye R. Minutes from the March 5th meeting were presented. There were 2 corrections: Jim S. was not in attendance and Milette K. is on the Literature Task Force. The report deadline for the Fall Assembly is **August 20th**.

*A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected (by Don B., seconded by Mary Sk.) **motion carried***

Treasurer- Stacy S. The Financial Report was presented. A question about Literature Coordinator expenses to the Cabin Fever Event was discussed. Equalized delegate expenses vs. actual delegate expenses were discussed. Reserve fund policy was discussed, page 2 of Policy Manual. Finance Committee will look into the amount that is needed in this fund.

*A motion was made to approve the financial reports as presented to take to the Assembly (by Cathy T., seconded by Cheryl A.) **motion carried.***

Chairperson – Audit is needed after the Fall Assembly. Two volunteers along with the treasurer will perform the audit. Jim S. and Elizabeth S. will assist. Mary Sk. is now the Assembly Coordinator, no longer acting.

Delegate – Don B. Don is on a Midlake task force charged with writing new guidelines for the Midlake Conference. There was also a Conflict Resolution Task Force created for Midlake. July 5th-8th, 2018 is the next International



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Conference in Baltimore MD. There are TEAM events going on all over the country. Don asked who may be attending these.

Alternate Delegate/Forum – Susan B. No Report.

Past Delegate – Carol V. Never a dull moment, since Spring assembly, I have continued to work with the 2017 Area 61 Convention Committee securing the main speakers, getting a taper to tape our speakers, creating our new and improved Save the Date flyer, creating workshop and panel names and times, and helping to correct and improve our Convention guidelines. Now we need people to volunteer to take meetings, panels, and workshops at our convention and I have brought with me a sign-up sheet. I also have worked with two Task Forces, one to create a definition of what the Policy Committee does and a brand newly created Task Force to rewrite the Midlake guidelines and therefore also fix the Area 61 Policy changes in the Rules for Participating Minors section.

Respectfully submitted in the Love of Service

7. **Coordinator Reports**, See the attendance list at the beginning for written reports posted to our website: <http://area61afg.org/area-business/awsc-materials>

- AAPP Mary Sc., Alateen AMIAS registration form is being revised. It's in the Supplementary Materials part of the Service Manual. Susan B. and Jaye R. will review before it's brought to membership.
- Alateen Coordinator, Connie O.
- Archivist Jami C. Excused. Presented by Carol V.
- Assembly Coordinator, Mary Sky. Hosting districts: Fall 2016 district 8, Spring 2017 district 25, Fall 2017 districts 10 and 21, Spring 2018 district 19, Fall 2018 district 11. Fall Assembly flyers were not available. Please remember to get your registration info to Mary Sk.
- Convention Coordinator, Mary Sky. – State Convention will be held Oct 21-22. 2017 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Please promote this event within your area and groups. Hotel reservations can be made now. Mary will answer all questions about the hotel. Please don't call the hotel but go through her. Convention flyer is posted on our website under Events.
- Group Records Coordinator, Sandi H., Area 61 has 359 active meetings. Six meetings are in 'No Mail' status and eleven in 'bounced e-mail' status. All group changes SHOULD be sent to Group Records Coordinator using the GR-1 form located on Area 61 website. Sandy is sending DR's updates of changes she gets.
- Literature Coordinator, Arla P. Absent
- Public Outreach Coordinator, George B., Absent
- Web Site Coordinator, Elizabeth S. There is trouble with posting materials on the site. Webmail should be working properly. Let Elizabeth know if you need your email password reset. AWSC and Assembly materials cannot be put on the website until the problems are resolved.
- New Officer/Coordinator Template Carol V., This guideline was presented to members and will be posted on the website.

8. **Convention Report and Fall Assembly Format**, Cathy T. and Mary Sk., The committee is working on a budget figured on 300 attendees. Room rate is \$99 plus tax per night with a max of 6 to a room. This includes waterpark passes. There is a tentative schedule set for Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. Al-Anon and AA panels and speakers are set. Alateen sessions are also planned. Linda D., DR for district 2, is the volunteer coordinator. Contact her if you'd like to help. A written report is posted to our website: <http://area61afg.org/area-business/awsc-materials>

9. **2018 State Convention** The Al-Anon International in Baltimore is set for July of 2018 and AA Area 75 Conference is at the same venue the first week in October 2018. Will we get enough attendance due to these 2 other events? Survey will be sent to members in the Area.

Area 61 Fall Assemblies the registration fee for shortened Fall Assemblies will be \$15.00.



Notes From Policy Meeting Debbie H., Convention Reserve Fund will not be needed. Jaye R. will review the Policy Manual with any policies changes needed due to the State Convention and shortened Fall Assembly.

9. **Midlake Alateen Conference Task Force**, Carol V., the suggested policy changes are posted on our website: <http://area61afg.org/area-business/awsc-materials>. The task force worked on Area 61 Policy changes due to changes in the Midlake Conference. Changes are mostly changing the words teen or minor to alateen, changing the words sponsor or group sponsor to AMIAS and adding the word guardian after the word parent. The new wording for #8 will be: Age, gender identity and sexual orientation should be considered by the accompanying AMIAS when bringing alateens to overnight events. The wording for #9 changes the word under to the word using. We had discussion about sexual activities at Area 61 events.

*A motion was made to recommend to the Assembly the approval the revised Area 61 Rules for Participating Minors at Area Events. (Jaye R. seconded by Susan B.) **motion carried***

10. **Group Records/Website Recommendations** Carol V.

Recommendation: that there is more than one person who knows the passwords, logins and procedures for the Area Website.

Recommendation: that there is relationship with Website Coordinator and Group Records Coordinator, so that information can flow freely and in the area's best interest.

Recommendation: Create a task force to develop Policies regarding this relationship and also Policies about what is or is not allow to be put on website i.e. meeting lists, events, and links to other websites.

A task force was created. Task force members are Elizabeth S. (chair), Sandi H., Carol V. and Mary Sc. Debbie H. will write a charge. The task force will report on their progress at Fall Assembly. Dan G. is also on this task force.

11. **More from the Policy Committee** Carol V., Presented a statement as to what the Policy Committee does:

Policy Committee Defined

submitted by Carol V.

The Policy Committee is composed of all Area 61's officers, all active Past Delegates, and the Alateen Coordinator. The Chairperson calls a Policy Committee meeting when one is needed. The Policy Committee decides and brings recommendations to the AWSC on issues or projects that involve Area 61 policy, public relations, or the Traditions, as these may arise. The Policy Committee is often asked to help when there is confusion about how a specific Tradition applies to a new or controversial situation in Area Al-Anon or Alateen. It may consider any issues or projects submitted by any Al-Anon member, reconsider a decision already made if any part of the fellowship dissents, and also reports minority views. The Policy Committee may in their discussions help the chairperson to set agendas. In an emergency, when immediate action is necessary, its decision is binding so far as that particular incident is concerned. But this decision does not necessarily become part of the overall policy, unless approved by the Assembly members. If wording or intent of Area policies are to be changed, it is done at the Assemblies.

*A motion to recommend that the Assembly vote to accept the Policy Committee Description Statement as policy and add to the Policy Manual on page 1, paragraph 2 and amend the Table of Contents. (Jaye R. seconded by Dan G.) **motion carried***

12. **Liability Insurance for Groups**, Susan B. Susan recommends the following:

Area 61 does not offer or provide any form of blanket liability insurance covering its individual Al-Anon Family Group meetings.

Recommend adding paragraph to the Area 61 Policy Manual, General Policies, page 7, item #16.

*A motion to take 'Liability Insurance for Groups' to Fall Assembly for a vote. (Cathy T. seconded by Sharyl M.) **motion carried***

13. **Standing Committees and Task Force Assignments** Each group gave a short description of their group's work.

14. **District Reports** See the attendance list at the beginning for written reports posted to our website:

<http://area61afg.org/area-business/awsc-materials>

District 2, Linda D. reported on their picnic and public outreach project



District 4, Milete K. reported on her GR education project. They study the Area 61 Policy Manual and Tradition 2. She encourages her groups to hold group conscious meetings. She would like her GRs to understand KBDM better.

District 8, Susanne S. reported on planning the Fall 2016 Assembly. The district is supporting an Alateen meeting and a county jail meeting with leaders and CAL.

District 9, Cathy T. reported on their district workshop on September 10th. She is looking for support for panels.

District 24, Marge R. reported on their potluck and workshop in September and provided flyers.

District 20, Kathy G. is planning her first district meeting.

District 21, Dan G. reported on a conference on December 3rd in Kenosha that is being planned.

District 13, Sharyl M. reported on Al-Anon participation in Area 74 Conference.

Lunch

15. Standing Committee, Thought and Task Force Reports

Growing Service Committee discussed the GR/DR Orientation folder additions and the need to have members sign up to lead these sessions. Partners In Service Day will be at the Fall 2017 AWSC meeting. Guests will receive a free lunch. Elizabeth will make a flyer for the event. The committee would like the partners to sit with their host and be able to ask questions. There is no limit to the number of partners an AWSC member can bring.

Public Outreach Committee referenced the WSO 'Best of Public Outreach'. They plan to distribute, at the Fall Assembly, post cards for members to send thank you notes to TV and radio stations when they hear an Al-Anon Public Service Announcement. They continue to work on their Presentation Toolbox. It goes along with the power point presentation.

Finance Committee discussed finding a way to draw down our checking account and send WSO donations. The committee would like to distribute contribution envelopes for donations to WSO at the Fall Assembly to celebrate Al-Anon's birthday. They would like to have cake to celebrate. After an exhaustive discussion we decided to have a party. The finance committee will coordinate with Mary Sk.

Literature Task Force

- Reviewed Literature Coordinator Job Description with these suggested updates:
 - Inform about new suggested CAL in the works
 - Lead writing workshops for new CAL, when necessary
 - Discussed the suggestions for computerized inventory/receipts - Excel vs. Square
- Recommended dissolving the Task Force and forming a Standing Literature Committee with the possible duties of:
 - Assist Literature Coordinator at Assemblies and when attending area events to sell literature.
 - Assist with Writing Workshops
 - Pick up literature from SE Wisconsin Service Center
 - Improve the process for ordering literature
 - Assist with literature inventory

A new standing Literature Committee was formed with Arla P. as chair.

Website/Group Records Task Force Elizabeth S was named as chair.

16. **Proposed 2017 Budget** was presented. Questions were answered. Operation line items were changed from 2016. These were discussed. There will be funds added to the reserve fund as per Policy. An updated proposed 2017 budget will be available prior to Fall Assembly.

*Motion to take the 2017 Proposed Budget to Assembly for a vote as corrected (Don B., seconded by Jim S.) **motion carried***



17. DR and Ask-It Basket Questions

- Group conscience concerning the removal of The Prayer for Today from the Just for Today pamphlet, bookmark, etc: page 101 of How Al-Anon works and page 188 of Courage to Change along with any other piece of CAL in which it is referenced. Per Suzanne Martin, Director of Group Services; WSO would like to hear from as many members as possible to enter in this discussion which was initiated by the Literature Committee. Individual groups should be encouraged to hold a group conscience and send their Group Rep to the Assembly where an area group conscience will be conducted. This is the best way to advise our delegate as to the wishes of the Al-Anon members in our Area. Our delegate, the representative of these members, will then have insights and information to share at the next WSC. Don B., our delegate, explained how this came to the Conference floor. Groups can contact Don B. with comments or WSO with comments. This will be discussed as a Hot Topic at Fall Assembly so Don will know our feelings.
- If KDBM is the preferred method of conducting area business, the GRs at the Assembly should make this decision. Please have a group conscience so the GRs can decide if they truly want to break Tradition Six, align with an outside entity, and Tradition Seven, accepting an outside contribution. If this is the decision, please record it in the Area 61 Policy Manual. (district 4)
- This was opened up to the floor for comments. We decided to review the KDBM document. A Task Force to communicate effectively the KDBM process and post to our website was established. Cathy T. and Cheryl A. were assigned to this task force.
- The Twelve Steps should be read at the opening of the Assembly. This is an Al-Anon meeting and the Assembly should read the Three Legacies. Group conscience should make this decision and it should be recorded in the Area 61 Policy Manual. (District 4)
A straw poll was taken and not reading the steps during our business meeting was the consensus.
- WSO has removed Part 1: the Al-Anon Program from the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017. I do not know when or why this decision was made. The Area 61 Policy Manual should have a statement defining The Al-Anon Program as the Three Legacies of Al-Anon and our commitment to practicing these principles in all area affairs. (district 4)
A straw poll was taken as to whether to put a statement in our policy manual saying that the Al-Anon Program is the Steps, Topics and Traditions. Not adding this statement was the consensus.
- The issue of Al-Anon members serving above the group level who do not own laptops, tablets, or smartphones needs to be addressed. In an effort to be inclusive and welcoming members into service, limited numbers of paper copies of assembly materials should be available at the Assembly. If the group conscience decides not be accommodating, perhaps a policy stating that electronic devices are a prerequisite for service should be established and recorded in the Area 61 Policy Manual. (D4)
Area 61 has used the 'Buddy' system of having another member or 'buddy' print out materials for members who don't have this type of access. We discussed how each district handles this differently.
- With the establishment of a Convention, GRs should decide which Area Officers and/or Coordinators expenses will be paid for by area funds. This should be reflected in the 2017 approved budget as well as the Area 61 Policy Manual. (district 4)
This question was recalled
- At our last meeting in June, we discussed the service possibilities of Members of Al-Anon who are also members of AA. One member is concerned that we do allow these members to serve in more positions and had questions as to how this could be changed. Research of the history of this issue will be done and we may discuss. (district 9)
- When will we have more eBooks and what will we do when we have too many hard copies?
Don said eBooks were not taking off as thought. More submissions for new books are needed.
- My appeal and petition that may affect Al-Anon as a whole: At the Spring Assembly it was explained that only the Chair could call for a group conscience in accordance with concept 10. I feel this is a mistaken interpretation of the concept. Concept 12 Warranty 2 'no Conference member shall be placed in unqualified authority over other members' places the chair in this position because no other member has the authority to make this decision. Tradition 2 states that leaders do not govern and I feel this is an act of governance. How can our higher power express itself if we never take a group conscience? I have read the Policy Manual cover to cover and called WSO for clarification. I must appeal to the decision making body. There is no guideline direction for Area 61 to achieve this goal. Where can I locate the procedure for petition and appeal? Do you listen and hear the minority opinions?
What is a group conscience? The Service Manual definition is on page 53 "The group conscience is the result of the group's business meetings discussions. The group conscience is the will of the group. The guiding principles for the group conscience are always the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service. It may be helpful for the group to review these principles prior to any group discussions. Some simple group decisions may be decided quickly;



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however, others may take time. It is by taking the time necessary to hear from all members who want to participate that a group conscience evolves.

In order to make an informed group conscience decision, members need access to all the information about the issue they are being asked to discuss, they need clarity on what their discussions hope to accomplish, and they are asked to trust each other’s motives and capabilities. By sharing information as equals, taking time for discussion, and maintaining principles above personalities during the discussions, groups are often able to reach unanimity in their decisions. If unanimity is not reached in the allotted timeframe of the meeting, discussions may continue at another time. Once a group conscience decision is made, the entire group supports the decision.

Concept 5 tells us that members have the right of appeal. If a member disagrees with the outcome of a group conscience decision, they have the right to submit an appeal for the reconsideration back to the body that made the decision. After an appeal is heard, regardless of whether the decision is maintained or altered, the individual accepts the group conscience.”

The chair is to set the agenda, any member can approach the chair and request a group conscience. It may take a while to get an item on the agenda. Area business runs slow and requires much discussion and much information. Debbie H. is approachable as our chair. She has tried her best to include all in participation. She has solicited comments. She has added much to the agenda upon requests by membership.

Milette said she thought that was a wrong interpretation of Concept 10 and was happy with the way this meeting is being conducted. It is much more open.

- The secretary is responsible for sending out an agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting at least three weeks before each assembly to each registered group. When can we expect to have an agenda posted to the website posted to the website, emailed or mailed? My home group has not received this information from the secretary for ten years since I’ve joined the group.

The Links of Service in the Service Manual goes from WSO to delegate to DR to GR to member. Susan B’s understanding is the secretary should pass this info to the DR who then distributes it to GRs. This is not what our Policy Manual states. We no longer send things in US post due to time and budget constraints. Agenda, minutes and other materials are posted to the website. Groups in unrepresented districts are either sent an email or snail mail or given the information from their district’s contact person. The policy is out of date and should be changed. Milette wants to know when the Assembly agenda will be posted. Web coordinator is working on a website problem with posting materials to the website. Presume good will and remember we all have lives besides service work. The agenda cannot be posted 3 weeks prior to meetings if it’s going to be accurate. The materials that are discussed at the AWSC are the items that will be on the agenda for discussion and vote.

- Is it true that when we have a fundraiser we can only sell to Al-Anon members?

Service Manual page 97:

“Fund Raising

Many groups, districts, Areas, Information Services, Conventions, Conferences, Assemblies or other gatherings of Al-Anon/Alateen members often raise funds to provide services.

Fund raising activities such as potluck suppers, dances, or other social events are conducted only within the fellowship and in agreement with the groups directly involved. If, however, such events are open to the public, use of the name Al-Anon or Alateen would violate the spirit of our Traditions.”

“Outside Contributions: Al-Anon and Alateen groups do not accept contributions of money, goods, or services from outside the Al-Anon membership in order to adhere to the Seventh Tradition of full self-support.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Fall Assembly is Sept 23-25, 2016 hosted by district 8. The next AWSC is March 4, 2017.

4:15pm - MEETING ADJOURNED by Debbie H. We closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

*Motion made to adjourn the meeting (by Carol V., seconded by Renee H.). **Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

Jaye Roush

Area 61 Secretary, Term 2016-2018

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