



Officers		*	Rprt*
Delegate	Don B.	P	O
Alt. Delegate	Susan B.	P	O
Chairperson	Debbie	P	W
Secretary	Jaye R.	P	W
Active Past Delegates	Cathy T.	P	
	Cheryl A.	P	
	Renee H.	E	
	Carol V.	P	
	Jim S.	E	

Coordinators		*	Rprt*
Alateen	Connie O.	P	W
AAPP	Mary Sc.	P	W
Archive	Jamie C.	E	
Assembly	Mary Sk.	P	W
Convention	Mary Sk	P	W
Group Records	Sandi H.	P	Oral
Literature	Arla P.	P	W
Public Outreach	George B.	P	W
Web Coordinator	Elizabeth S.	P	Oral

DISTRICT REPS	Present*	Rprt
1 Maureen E.	A	
2 Annemarie A. (Alt)	P	W
3 No DR	-	-
4 Milette K.	P	W
5 Sandi G. (contact)	n/a	n/a
6 Selwa P.	P	W
7 Matt G.	P	
8 Susanne S.	P	
9 Cathy T.	P	W

DISTRICT REPS	Present*	Rprt
10 No DR	-	-
11 Sue R. (alt)	P	W
12 Michelle M.	P	
13 Sharyl M.	P	W
14 no DR	-	-
15 Kathryn M.	P	
16 Cecile E. (contact)	n/a	n/a
17 No DR	-	-
18 Kathleen P.	P	

DISTRICT REPS	Present*	Rprt
19 Connie O.	P	W
20 Kathy G.	P	W
21 Dan G.	P	
22 Merged with District 2		
23 No DR	-	-
24 Marge R.	P	
25 Jim D.	P	
26 No DR	-	-
27 No DR	-	-

* **Present column:** Present, Excused, Absent (unexcused). *Contacts are encouraged but not required to attend.*
 ***Rprt column:** Oral report, Written posted to website: <http://area61afg.org/area-business/awsc-materials>

9:02am- CALL TO ORDER by Debbie H. Chairperson
 followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer

- 1. Reading of the Traditions, Concepts & Warranties**, read around the room
- 2. Courtesy Rules Reminders**
- 3. Welcome & Introductions** – Around the room. Guests were asked to sit at the side of the room. Ask It Basket explained by Susan B.
- 4. Officer Reports**, See attendance list at the beginning for reports given. Written reports are posted to website: <http://area61afg.org/area-business/awsc-materials>
Secretary, Jaye R. The report deadline for the Spring Assembly is **April 8th**.
 Corrections to the minutes from the AWSC meeting on 8/6/2016 were requested. No corrections were made.

*Motion made to accept the minutes (by Mary Sk., seconded by Arla P.). **Motion carried.***

Rules of Discussion we presented.
 Introduction of Jeri V. as AIS/LDC Liaison.

Treasurer's Report, Ann J. requested that groups fill out the Area Contribution Form when sending in donations. Financial Reports from 2016 were presented. Donations dropped by \$4,000 in 2016. The Area is in good financial shape. The area will donate to WSO.

*Motion made to approve the financial reports as given (by Susan B. second by Selwa P.) **Motion carried.***



Delegate, Don B. spoke about the Chairman of the Board letter. WSO finances have improved due to increased contributions. Our International Convention will be July 5-8th 2018 in Baltimore. A complimentary copy of our annual World Service Conference Summary will no longer be available starting in 2017. Copies will be available for purchase. A digital copy will be available online. Our next Service Manual (2018-?) will be made available in digital format and complimentary copies will no longer be provided to groups. They will be available for purchase. A new piece of literature is available; Paths to Recovery Workbook.

Alternate Delegate/Forum, Susan B. reported on *Forum* writing workshops she led in LaCrosse and West Allis. The total number of groups in Wisconsin was 363 last September. The total number of *Forum* subscriptions was 597 last September. Susan told us how to increase our chances of getting our *Forum* submissions printed. Two *Forum* writing workshops are coming up. one is in New Richmond.

Chairperson, Debbie H. said that one of her goals is to promote Area service and to help make transitions to the new panel (2019-2021) easier. She requested that Officer and Coordinator job descriptions be updated.

5. **Coordinator/Liaison Reports**, See attendance list at the beginning for reports given. Written reports are posted to website: <http://area61afg.org/area-business/awsc-materials>.

AIS/LDC Liaison, Jeri V., Happy Birthday Lois Wilson! The LDC has the new workbook in stock. The Newcomer Packets are now in a booklet form. The AIS will forward district donation information to members who request it if this info is provided. This only applies to SE Wisconsin districts. Please remember to let us know of any events so we can post them on our site. Our Snow Ball fund raiser was a success! We raffled 1 night at the Chula Vista resort for our first state convention and challenge districts to promote this event.

Alateen Coordinator, Connie O. let us know about this year's Midlake Conference. Groups were requested to please support Alateen financially. DRs please make sure your AMAIS are certified.

- AAPP Mary Sc. Reported that there are 23 Alateen groups and 113 AMIAS in our area.
- Archivist Jami C., absent
- Assembly Coordinator, Mary Sk. The Hotel Mead 2019/2020 prices will only increase slightly for some of the meeting rooms.
- Convention Coordinator, Mary Sky. – State Convention will be held Oct 20-22, 2017 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. There are 24 rooms reserved at the Chula Vista for our convention weekend. Convention chairs should send a list of things needed from the hotel to Cathy T.
- Group Records Coordinator, Sandi H. asked to please fill out form GR-1 forms to make changes to your group's information. DRs who would like access to WSO group records for their district should contact Sandi for information on how to do this. DRs who would like Sandi to print out their district's group reports for Spring Assembly should contact her:
grouprecords@area61afg.org
- Literature Coordinator, Arla P. will have the new Paths to Recovery Workbook for sale at the Spring Assembly. If DRs want a number of items of CAL please let Arla know so she can get these ready and make the line run smoother during the assembly. She reported on the difference between *the Forum* and *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*.
- Public Outreach Coordinator, George B. reported on his challenge for district's to do presentations before the Fall Assembly. Next round of PSAs will be out shortly. Healthy Community Connections project is still in progress.
- Web Site Coordinator, Elizabeth S. no report.

6. **District Reports**, See attendance list at the beginning for reports given. Written reports are posted to website: <http://area61afg.org/area-business/awsc-materials>



- District 2, Annemarie A. reported on their *Forum* writing workshop. They are investigating ways to do Public Outreach. She wants to help get the Spanish speaking groups connected to the district and area.
- District 4, Milette reported they are providing 3 scholarships to Midlake for groups in her district. Her district is also donating to the Midlake hospitality fund. Please put ‘Midlake’ on the checks if donating.
- District 9, Cathy T. is having a workshop on June 10th. Speakers and panels are on the program.
- District 25, Jim reported on an April 1st *Forum* writing workshop that will be held in Ft Atkinson followed by a potluck and speakers.
- District 7, Matt G. reported on a workshop in Appleton on April 1st.

7. Cards were distributed with information on where to send letters and packages to our delegate Don B. at World Service Conference. A collection for personal donations to Don was also passed.

8. A Discussion of Area 61 name. Background from Don B.: WSO does not recognize ‘Area 61’. Should we start to use Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan? Should we use WI-UPMI? Wi/UPMI? Can we put ‘Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (WIUPMI)’ on the cover of our Policy Manual? Straw vote was taken as to what should be placed on Policy Manual cover. Adding (WIUPMI) was the favorite by many votes.

9. Policy vs Procedure. Background by Debbie H.: Because changing policy takes a lot of time at Policy Meetings, AWSC meetings and Assemblies we would like to only put what is actual policy in the Policy Manual. Items that are procedure, guidelines or process should be placed in other documents. This could be in the Supplemental Section of the manual or on the website. These items are peer reviewed. A task force was created as to what is our definition of policy. This task force is made up of Carol V. (chair), Cathy T., Cheryl A., and Ann J. If a member has experience on this subject please contact Carol V. to assist the task force.

10. Liability Insurance for CAL, Ann J. We need to decide as an area if we want insurance on our literature. We have between \$5,000 and \$8,000 of CAL at any one time. Our bond insurance company quoted \$112.00 per year to insure. We don’t know exactly what it covers. We will decide by Fall Assembly so it can be included in our budget. Anyone with experience with insurance can contact Ann J. to help with this.

11. Alateen revisions on page 13 of our Policy Manual. The policy committee approved these changes as housekeeping. These were reviewed:

WHO WILL AREA 61 RECOGNIZE AS AN AL-ANON MEMBER INVOLVED IN ALATEEN SERVICE (AMIAS)?

A recognized Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) is a responsible adult member of Al-Anon who attends Al-Anon regularly and who shares their recovery experience gained through working the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts. ~~He/she~~ They will have passed the Area 61’s requirements for AMIAS. ~~He/she~~ The AMIAS helps the Alateens to focus on the Al-Anon program. It is in sharing recovery that we provide hope for the future.

Requirements for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service

1. Every Al-Anon member (including, but not limited to ~~AMIAS Sponsors~~; substitute AMIAS Sponsors, transportation providers, etc.) involved in Alateen service must:
 - a. Be an Al-Anon member regularly attending Al-Anon meetings.
 - b. Be at least 23 years old.
 - c. Have at least two years in Al-Anon in addition to ~~any~~ time spent in Alateen.
 - d. Not have been convicted of a felony, and not have been charged with child abuse or any other inappropriate sexual behavior, and not have demonstrated emotional problems which could result in harm to Alateen members. A child abuse and criminal records background check will be required for all adults involved in Alateen Service



2. There must be at least one ~~AMIAS Alateen Sponsor~~ at every Alateen meeting. Note: Although not currently a requirement by Area 61, we strongly suggest that each group have two ~~sponsors~~ AMIAS present.
3. The Area prohibits overt (~~open~~) or covert (~~secret~~) sexual interaction between any adult and Alateen member.
4. Any conduct contrary to applicable State of Wisconsin or State of Michigan laws is strictly prohibited by Area 61.
5. Area 61 requires procedures for Participating Minor Information and Permission Forms when applicable. (See Area 61 Policy Manual for these forms.) The name of Alateen can only be used with functions in participation with or in conjunction with the structure of Area 61 Al- Anon/~~Alateen~~ Family Groups.

12. Shortened Fall Assembly, Jaye explained that these policy changes were as a result of the Assembly approved changes of our shortened Fall Assembly due to our new state convention. These housekeeping changes were reviewed:

ASSEMBLIES

2. ~~One Al-Anon, one Alateen and sponsor, and one AA speaker at the Fall Assembly and~~ One Al-Anon Speaker ~~at the Spring Assembly~~ will be totally reimbursed expenses at each Assembly. Selection of speakers is fully described in the Guidelines for Districts Hosting Assemblies. (5/89) (5/00) (09/11)
3. Each District or combination of Districts should take a turn at hosting the Assemblies. The hosting District should work closely with the Assembly Coordinator. It is budgeted \$100.00 ~~for the Spring Assembly and \$250.00 for the Fall Assembly~~ to be made available to the hosting District. Receipts for expenses shall be submitted to the Treasurer and any unused funds returned to Area 61 Treasurer. (5/87) (5/00)

AREA EXPENSES

5. All Officers, Coordinators and Past Delegates will be paid expenses to the following:
 - a. Spring ~~and Fall~~ Assembly-gas*, overnight**, (1) meal, and registration.
 - ~~b. Fall Assembly-gas*, two overnights**, (2) meal(s), and registration.~~

Attendance Policy, Cheryl A. gave background information. Members shared their experience as past chairs. The result of this past year's letters that were sent to DRs due to their absence was reviewed.

March 4th, 2017 AWSC Discussion of Attendance Policy Summary

Area 61 Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan Al-Anon/Alateen Policy Manual 2015 edition, General Policies #1:

1. All AWSC members are to attend two (2) Assemblies and two (2) AWSC meetings per year. If unable to attend, or have an alternate present, the Chair should be notified. The Secretary will send a meeting notice at least three weeks prior to Assemblies and AWSC meetings. Any AWSC member who misses two consecutive meetings and/or Assemblies will receive a written notice from the Chair. Upon missing the third meeting, he/she will be considered inactive.
(8/89) (5/03)

AWSC members are officers, coordinators and district reps.

Purpose of discussion is for information gathering only.

- How can we (AWSC) remove DRs when we haven't elected them?
- Service Manual p.148 states if GRs are not aware of DRs absence from AWSC meetings AWSC can ask GRs for a replacement DR.
- This is not punitive but to encourage participation and rotation of position.
- What is 'inactive'? This was repeated several times. What is 'active?'
- Please review this policy prior to elections.
- Asking GRs for a replacement DR is not the same as inactivating a DR.



- Groups within a district that have no registered DR receive communications from Area 61 using a group email or snail mail. Groups within a district that have a registered but inactive DR receive no communications from the Area because it is assumed that their DR will forward these to the groups within their district.
- Service Manual states that DRs do not need to be present at Assemblies because it is GRs who vote at Assemblies.
- Two messages from the present policy. First we noticed you were not present at our meetings, can we help. The second that you are inactive is a shaming message. We need to determine what inactive means.
- Do we let GRs know when their DR is inactive? No we don't.
- GRs know when information is not being passed down to groups. Groups are then uninformed.
- This should go back to the district to determine
- Can DRs be excused? Not according to the policy as written.
- A district can send an alternate.
- Procedure to address DRs about absences should not be part of policy. Chairperson should have discretion on how to apply this policy.

14. Liaisons at Area Meetings, Carol V. explained the current liaison from the AIS/LDC is paid and cannot vote. Policy needs to change due to this. This is the suggested change from the Policy committee:

Page 1: **Area World Service Committee (AWSC)**

3. OTHER MEMBERS are: District Representatives (26), **Liaisons** and Active* Past Delegates. (5/86) (5/91) (5/05) (9/14)
4. **A liaison may attend AWSC and Assemblies at the discretion of the Chairperson and will have voice but no vote.**
5. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS are...
6. AWSC meetings will be centrally located.....

*Motion made to approve this language and refer this policy to the Assembly for consideration as written (by Cheryl A., second by Mary Sk.) **Motion carried***

12:00pm – 1:04pm – Lunch

15. Standing Committees and Task Force Breakout Sessions and Reports

Literature Committee reported they are working on the Literature Coordinator description and how to pass information to the next coordinator. How can we track inventory? They reminded us that the district hosting the Assembly should provide volunteers to sell CAL during the meetings. They discussed making an order form. The committee would like to host a writing workshop during their committee breakout session at the Spring Assembly.

Public Outreach will have meetings between AWSC and Assembly meetings. This is the year of the professional for Public Outreach. Thank you cards for TV and Radio stations that play our PSAs will be worked on at the Spring Assembly. George asked for help dealing with requests from families who need help with drug addiction and come to us for support.

Finance Committee discussed the annual budget to be presented at Fall AWSC. They will also meet between AWSC and Assemblies, probably using an electronic format. They will prepare a succession plan for the next treasurer. Reserve fund changes should be in the 2018 budget.

Growing Service reviewed the Partners in Service Day. AWSC members can invite more than one person to our 2017 Fall AWSC meeting and guests will be provided with complementary lunch. The flyer is for AWSC members only.

Growing Service gave a presentation about The August Partners in Service Day. Please submit reservations to Mary Sk. by July 1st. They presented a Service Special Project Request for their Partners in Service Day. See form at the end of these minutes.

*Motion to accept Special Project Request (by Dan G. second by Carol V.) **Motion carried.***



16. Convention Report, Cathy T. reminded us of the venue, Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, and the date October 20-22, 2017. The convention budget was distributed.

Each district was challenged to donate \$100 to the hospitality room. Please send a check to our treasurer with a memo stating that it's for the hospitality room. Please bring food for the hospitality room if you're attending the convention.

The name of the convention is 'Keys to Serenity' so old keys are needed for the ice breaker on Friday night and for decorations. Please send them to our archivist, Jami C. There will be panels, workshops, speakers, banquet, game night and raffles on Saturday. On Sunday we have a Breakfast buffet and speaker.

Volunteers are needed for literature, registration, greeters and raffle help. Contact Linda D. at drdistrict2@area61afg.org

17. Change to Find a Meeting search feature on our area website, Elizabeth S. We are now able to use WSOs meeting search feature on our website. It allows real time access to the database that our group records coordinator uses to update our group's records. These are the benefits:

- Easy to include on website
- Group records can update and website coordinator will *not* have to update
- Less maintenance to our website

These are the drawbacks:

- Fewer search options than we already have

A straw poll was taken to use this website. The consensus was to use it. District meeting listings will not change and will go through the same process they have used in the past. All DRs have access to WSOs Group Records Database. Districts should check their meeting lists against this. Changes should be sent to grouprecords@area61afg.org on the GR-1 form: <http://www.area61afg.org>

18. Discuss Coordinator and DR Questions, Debbie H.

- What are the date of action for including District 22 with District 2? **This was done in 2014**. What is the date of action for including the UP of Michigan into Area 61? What is the date of action for including LaCrescent, MN to WIUPMI? What is the date of action for including Superior, WI in Minnesota North? Can we add this info to our Area 61 map?
 - Please request this info from Archives coordinator.
 - Cathy T. will check for the date UP of Michigan joined Area 61
 - Michigan archivist may have info
 - We can use the motion log to find this info
- Why should GRs attend Assemblies?
 - This is the time they get to vote to approve motions of AWSC. They are the ones who get the final vote on policy changes etc.
 - An active GR in district 4 will not attend assemblies, what can a DR do?
 - Education may be the answer, have a meeting on concept one
 - How are the AWSC and Assembly not being inclusive? What can we do to make Assemblies more interesting and fun? More workshops?
 - Partners in Service Day will help attract members. AWSC members need to make guests feel wanted.
 - GRs vote for all officers including our delegate to WSC.
 - Connie O. will share a workshop from a TEAM event she attended.
 - Don B., our delegate, has access to lots of workshops.
 - Each of us should reach out to individuals to make them feel welcome.
 - Should the AWSC do a group inventory?



- How can redefined policy committee achieve the goal of being democratic without GRs or DRs on the committee?
 - All of members of policy committee are available to talk to about making policy changes. Policy committee brings many of these ideas to the AWSC
 - Any GR or DR may be on the policy committee when elected to an officer or Alateen coordinator position. GRs make the final decision on all motions.
 - Policy committee is where the footwork is done before bringing items to AWSC, then to the Assembly. All members are welcome at policy meetings with no voice and no vote.
 - Many issues coming before the policy committee are coming from members and not officers.
 - Have we thought about an ‘at large DR or GR’? They usually lack the background to participate.

19. Ask It Basket, Susan B.

- Members would like more literature in large print. Don said we can enlarge any CAL so we are able to read it. We cannot change it but can enlarge it. Susan commented that all of our daily readers do come in large print.
- Can a reminder be sent out 3 weeks before AWSC with an agenda and a link to the website? A reminder stating when reports are due is sent out 6-7 weeks before AWSC to DR, Officer and Coordinator email addresses. I will try to remember to send links to our website when I send this out. A preliminary agenda is included in the Chairperson’s report posted to the website approximately 3 weeks before the meetings.
- What is the difference between AFG (Al-Anon Family Groups) and ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics) as described in the flyer that was attached about the Green Lake Adult Child Workshop. ACOA is a different 12 step program that is much like AFG. The Green Lake Festival attracts members of ACOA although this is an Al-Anon event. AFG has meetings that have a focus on adult children that are not part of the ACOA organization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have an online Ask It Basket on our website. The Spring Assembly is May 19-20, 2017. The next AWSC is August 5, 2017. The next convention is Oct 20-22, 2017,

3:22pm - MEETING ADJOURNED by Debbie H. We closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

*Motion made to adjourn the meeting (by Susan B., seconded by Dan G.). **Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

Jaye Roush
Area 61 Secretary, Term 2016-2018

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