



**AREA 61**  
**Wisconsin & UP of Michigan**  
 AL-ANON / ALATEEN

# JULY 2019 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 7, 2019 1:00pm  
*Phone Conference Call*

## ATTENDEES

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS		Present*
Delegate	Susan B.	A
Alt Delegate	Debbie H	P
Chairperson	Ann J.	P
Secretary	Linda D.	P
Treasurer	Jim D.	P
Alateen Coordinator	Renie M.	P
Active Past Delegates	Don B.	P
	Jim S.	A
	Carol V.	P

(With voice, no vote)	Cathy T.	P
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>		Present*

\* **Present column:** Present, Excused, Absent (unexcused)

The meeting opened at 1:00pm with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer, led by Cathy T.

Attendance was taken.

**Approve Minutes:** Debbie H. moved to accept the Fall 2019 Policy Committee Minutes as presented, Don B. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved unanimously.

### Announcements

- **Cathy T. (Trustee and Past Delegate) will be on the Policy Committee and AWSC with a voice but no vote.**
  - At this time there is no precedence for this.
  - This issue is not addressed in the Area Policy Manual.

- Cathy T. is on the Area Finance Committee, but only takes notes and does not vote on anything.
- Don B. noted that Trustees cannot hold a position above the group level (per WSO Service Manual.) They have only one vote, which is at World Service Conference (WSC.)
- Carol V. thinks Cathy T. should have a voice but no vote on an Area committee.
- Ann J. wants to form a Thought/Task Force to define an active Past Delegate and what they can do at the Area level; to research what other Areas do; and what the WSO statement means
- **Formerly dissolve the AWSC Inventory Task Force, unless someone steps up to continue it at the AWSC meeting.** This will be added to the Fall 2019 AWSC agenda.
- **Technology is now a Task Force, Debbie H. is the Chair. (Need new Chair for the Area Name/Legal Task Force.)**
  - Debbie H. said they have a group working on a more advance solution including screen sharing and voting, which would allow remote participation in Assemblies, including on-line registration.
  - Debbie H. has stepped down from the Area Name/Legal Task Force.
- **Convention Excess Funds Guideline Update** – Jim D. and Ann J. have not been able to meet on this yet.

### **Top Priority**

- **How to address the low number of DRs within the Area**
  - A DR at the Spring 2019 Assembly suggested that there be a DR Roundtable discussion at the AWSC. Ann J. suggested that at the AWSC meeting all DRs, including Past DRs, split into 3-4 small discussion groups to discuss how to help the current DRs and get more DRs involved, and noted that we only have 13-14 active DRs; therefore concentrating on district issues. Other suggestions included a dinner meeting or a breakfast meeting (using Abundance Funds.) Debbie H. suggested letting the DRs organize it.
  - The Brainstorm List from Spring 2019 AWSC has DR issues including-how to help them get started, how to help new groups. At AWSC this issue was delegated to the Growing Service Committee.

## Priorities

### ▪ Quorum and vote majority policy/procedure

- Ann J. noted that the Secretary will have a spreadsheet/chart to record what the quorum numbers are, # of GRs present, etc. at future Area business meetings
- The current Area policy on quorum is on pg. 2, general policies #3, which could be used for Assemblies, AWSC, and Policy Committee meetings. Debbie would like to have the wording changed from “how many groups are present” to “groups represented”.
- WSO says our Area has 318 active groups. Debbie H. thinks we are “under-counting” the number of groups in our Area and will check with the Groups Record Coordinator and email answer to the committee
- It was noted that Roberts Rules of Order says a quorum should be established before any business takes place. At WSC a substantial unanimity is established before any business takes place.
- Suggestions were made to change the Area quorum number to 5%; to use 10% for quorum; to keep the quorum at 15%. One opinion was that because of the small number of groups represented at the Assembly, 5% would be too low because it would be a very small number of people making the decisions.
- It was suggested to keep the quorum issue separate from the voting issue. A 2/3 majority vote is unrealistic, except for the Policy Committee
- The majority vote should be a “mere majority” or a “simple majority (51/49”.)
- We need to know how many AWSC members are present at the Assembly when voting for Officers.
- Suggested to bring the quorum and voting issues to the Fall AWSC to make a decision.

### ▪ Annual Audit volunteers, AWSC members only?

- The word “AWSC” was included in the Annual Audit section by mistake. Is this just a housekeeping issue?
- Taking out “AWSC” and changing it to “members” is just housekeeping. WSO had a similar issue with some wording in the Traditions, and they just

changed the wording back as it was a simple mistake.

- The Finance Committee is not being audited; the Treasurer is being audited. Currently we have two members to conduct the audit before the Spring AWSC meeting. The audit is normally conducted the night before the AWSC meeting, but it could be done at another time. One opinion is that the GRs may view it as a conflict of interest for Finance Committee members auditing the books. It was noted that whoever stands for the positions might be on the Finance Committee at some time, but may likely be on other committees at another time.
- Ann J. will announce at the Assembly that Finance Committee members will not be doing the audit and will ask others to step up.
- Defining AWSC members – tabled. The Area Policy Manual defines who the AWSC members are on p.75.
- **Define ‘stand-alone/self-supporting’ event (Area Convention, Midlake Conference, NCRDM)**
  - Renie M. (Alateen Coordinator) said that the Midlake Conference is not a stand-alone event, as Alateen is part of Al-Anon. WSO states that Area Alateen Conferences are part of the Area structure. WSO states that before Alateens in one Area can participate in another Area, they need permission from the home Area.
  - Whether or not an event is “stand alone/self-supporting” is a matter of how the Area reports the events on the financial statement for tax purposes.
  - Should the Area Convention and Midlake Conference expenses and income be on the Area budget? Midlake is not currently on the Area budget.
  - For insurance purposes the Area is responsible for those events, so legally the Area Convention and Midlake Conference funds are on the Area budget.
  - The Area Convention is run by only Area 61, no outside funding.
  - ⊖ A question was asked whether the Midlake Conference is an Area event or not because three Areas participate. It was explained that each Area’s monies are separate and that it is a joint event.
  - Ann J. and Jim D. (Area Treasurer) will discuss this.
  - Also questioned, is NCRDM a stand-alone event?

- **Do we need a motion for Special Project Requests being done by email?**
  - The Special Project Request for Partners in Service was voted on by email.
  - The request form is still being finalized.
  - After discussion, it seems that a Special Project Request is a motion itself, and does not need to be re-stated as a formal motion.
  - Names and addresses will be removed from the Special Project Requests before the GRs vote on them.
- **AMIAS Procedure Task Force (Certification, Re-Certification and Information Retention)**
  - Ann J. suggested Renie M. and Joanne F. chair the task force and supplement it with other people.
  - Renie M. is concerned that all AMIAS are not certified.

#### **Tabled Items to be on Fall 2019 AWSC Agenda**

- **Defining AWSC members**
- **Pending/Deferred Items**
  - Attendance/Active-Inactive status (“Remove attendance policy because we are volunteers”)
  - Past Delegate duties and active status definition
  - Area Equipment Thought Force (on Secretary’s computer)
- **New Business**
  - Area Newsletter

#### **The Policy Committee will meet on Friday, August 2, 2019 at the Hotel Mead.**

Jim D. moved to adjourn the telephone committee meeting. Don B. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:43pm.

The meeting was closed with the Alateen Declaration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda D.

Area Secretary (2019-2021)

