

## Panel 61

### MNSA World Service Committee Meeting

February 5, 2022

After a moment of silence, the meeting opened the Serenity Prayer

Colleen CD dr13 read the 12 Traditions; Theresa C adr15 shared the 12 Concepts of Service; Maddy K adr8 GR recited the General Warranties. Dianne G POAC dr15 volunteered to speak 5 minutes on Concept 3 and Cheryl C DEL37 d8 offered to share thoughts on Concept 4 at the Assembly in April.

Welcome: Chair, Sherry GS, welcomed everyone to the February AWSC virtual meeting. Panel 61 started at the beginning of the pandemic and it is still impacting our ability to meet in-person; however, working together we are getting a lot accomplished. A shoutout to our delegates who have shared their thoughts and ideas in a loving way and then let go of the outcomes. THINK. Pat P, Alternate Delegate for Panel 61, is absent today due to the sudden unexpected death of his sister-in-law who had been ill.

Roll call:

Present: All Officers

Delegate

Coordinators: Archives, Alateen Process Person, Assembly Activities, Group Records, Asst GRC, Forum, Literature, Public Outreach, Website

Action Committee Chairs: Fellowship Communication, Group Services, Membership Outreach, GR Orientation Leader

District Representatives and Alternates: 4, 8, 8 Alt, 11, 12, 13, 15, 15 Alt, 16c, 16c

Past Delegates and Alternates: Panel 28, Panel 37, Panel 43 Alt/Panel 55, Panel 49 Alt, Panel 52 Alt.

Other: 8 GRs and 2 guests

Jen J dr12 quoted from our General Warranties, Traditions and Concepts on the importance of including minority opinions in decisions, keeping the process democratic.

The Area has set precedence that if a district has a representative present, but the representative was not elected, they are eligible to vote so long as only one (1) vote is cast per district.

**Motion: Dianne G POAC dr15 moved that substantial unanimity be determined by seventy-five percent (75%) of those voting at today's AWSC meeting. Peggy W GRC d11 seconded the motion. Results: 86% voted Yes and 14% voted No**

Corrections to the August 7, 2021, minutes included the clarification that Membership only agreed to produce the 2022 calendar, a typo, and adding the Secretary's name to the end of the minutes.

**Motion: Peggy W GRC d11 moved to approve the minutes as amended. Sally J LIT d12 GR seconded the motion. Results: 100% YES**

Treasurer's Report: Mark P. TRS d13 reviewed the Balance Sheet showing \$7,000 Prudent Reserve + \$4,000 Folderol + \$430.35 Archives Reserve + \$4,104 Alateen earmark for 2021 Midlake = Total Liabilities and Equities of \$31,664.16

Actual vs. Budgeted items for the fiscal year ending 12/31/2021 highlights: Income of \$16,786.35 was \$3,317.65 less than budgeted, however, expenditures were significantly less than budget. The net result after subtracting the earmark for Alateens of \$4,104 was a net gain of \$703.92. The WSO line item includes a refund since the meeting was virtual. The leftover money in the Other Area Service Events is from the Folderol meeting that changed to virtual. The Technology line item includes the cost to purchase a computer for the Treasurer after returning Scott T's computer. Expenses will still be forthcoming related to Incorporation and for updating Technology needs. The bills for the fidelity bond and post office box were paid in 2022.

An audit of the books for 2021, conducted by Jim L IITFC d13 GR and Theresa D adr15, confirmed all the accounts balanced.

**Motion: Kit S DEL d11 moved to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented. Betty A AAC DEL58 d16 seconded the motion. Results: 100% Yes**

As a member of the Finance Committee, Kit S DEL d11 asked if a request to the Assembly could be presented to remove the earmark for Midlake 2021 participation by Alateens and the funds moved to general operating funds. There was concern some individuals sent contributions for the express purpose of helping Alateens attend Midlake in the fall of 2021. The Treasurer did not track the giver of funds. Did the entire amount come from earmarked contributions? The website directed people to send contributions for Alateen attendance at Midlake to the Area so funds were not meant to be for Area expenses. The GRs are responsible for determining what to do with the funds. It is possible that this issue will remain unresolved at the April Assembly.

*The following italicized was not available today but is from the April 2021 Assembly minutes:*

*Midlake Conference for Alateens: Mariah B. AAC d13 recommends that the Area contribute funds to help Alateens who are not able to afford the conference. An Alateen, Madison, also presented to the Area. The pandemic has made it exceedingly difficult for Alateens to meet. The annual conference in October was held virtually last year. Many groups are inactive since in-person meetings were stopped. The cost for registration and housing is \$250 per participant with an additional \$150 for transportation for a total of \$400 per person. Not all will attend the entire conference, need to travel, or require any help paying. Additional comments:*

- *AMIAS training is being offered at 10 AM tomorrow via Zoom.*
- *Group representatives are to encourage love gifts be sent the Area Treasurer earmarked for Midlake participation by Alateens. Special fundraising by groups is a possibility.*
- *In the past, \$1,500 was given to support participation. \$1,200 added to the \$360 is a possible contribution.*
- *Some felt that sponsorship should be limited to Alateens within the MNSA membership and others felt that we should consider a broader group since some teens have been participating via ZOOM after losing local support.*

- *There are insufficient funds to consider a request for \$10,000. Also, there is a concern for setting a precedent for funding at this level.*
- *It is not possible to table this issue as the next Assembly will not be until October. If a project request had been made before the Assembly, details could have been vetted out to allow for a better understanding the commitment.*
- *It was suggested that Alateen representatives also ask Northern MN Area about possible contributions.*
- *It was suggested that, instead of the Midlake Conference, there should be consideration in supporting Alateen participation at the Gopher State Roundup.*
- *How will the money be allocated and who decides who will qualify?*

***Motion: Julia E. d8 GR moved, and it was seconded that \$2,500 of discretionary funds be contributed for the Midlake Alateen retreat in October at the Wisconsin Dells; the motion was made with a strong recommendation of an appeal letter to be sent to groups and GRs are to request their group send contributions to the Area Treasurer marked for Midlake Alateen sponsorship. Results: Yes 85%, No 10% Abstain 5%***

*The following is from the Fall Assembly minutes:*

- *Balance sheet: The Area has \$16,017 in assets, and \$32,446 including reserves. There is \$3,675 earmarked for Alateens for future use since Midlake was postponed.*
- *Earmarks: It is cumbersome for Treasurers to allow for earmarking donations for specified use. The Policy Review Committee will determine if the Area should continue to allow the option when voted in favor of at an Assembly. The WSO does not allow earmarks.*

There was a request for an updated roster. The Secretary agreed to review the work of the Taskforce on Anonymity for the Area and will send approved roster information with these minutes.

Delegate report: Kit S DEL d11 reported AI-Anon has a new acronym, AFGWME, which stands for AI-Anon Family Groups Which Meet Electronically. MNSA needs to decide if we want to include electronic groups, regardless of geographic location, and what requirements might be necessary for the Area and the group(s) for a successful union.

- The WSO non-panel Electronic Area met on January 25<sup>th</sup> and elected a Delegate. The new Delegate intends to petition the Conference as soon as it opens to join with full representation, that is, with voice and vote.
- The WSC will undoubtedly vote to admit the new Area into the World Service Structure.
- Likewise, a GR of an AFGWME may someday ask the MNSA Assembly to join. If petitioned, does the MNSA Assembly wish to welcome AFGWMEs into our geographic Area service structure?
  - If no, action unnecessary and group(s) will be excluded; however, that may depend on how the group(s) check the boxes on the WSO group registration form that is not finalized. Kit S will suggest the form includes geographic location so there is an opportunity to welcome electronic group(s) within our Area.
  - If yes, the Assembly may need to create parameters or procedures for welcoming such groups. Should the Assembly decide on a group-by- group

basis? What will the procedure be if an MNSA group petitions to leave and join the Electronic Area?

- The time is nearing if the Assembly needs to act. What is the role of the AWSC, the Assembly Officers, and the members of Assembly? What is the next step?
- Electronic groups may only join one Area and have one vote.
- The Electronic Area will only be for groups that are 100% virtual with no intentions of ever offering in-person or hybrid meetings. Virtual only groups will automatically be assigned to the Electronic Area; it would be up to the group to petition a change to another Area.
- The Assembly will need to decide if our Area will welcome 100% virtual groups and then create a taskforce to develop policies/procedures.
- The 2022 Conference, Panel 62, will be held in person in Tarrytown, NY. The main reason is to fulfill a contract that was extended twice but will not be extended a third time. AFG, Inc. is on the hook for a sizable penalty to the venue should it be cancelled.
  - WSC members from Canada may face hardships due to the pandemic. A hybrid conference will not bring the number of attendees needed to meet the contract requirements and avoid the penalty.
  - Small groups of Conference members will be scheduled to visit Steppingstone on a rotating basis.
- Regarding love gifts:
  - The WSO will not accept packages of love gifts, distribute them, or allow tables used for direct distribution of love gifts for safety reasons.
  - Last year, Delegates sent love gifts directly to others by post and other private delivery services. Some of the Delegates intend to repeat that this year.
  - Love gifts include keychains, pens, notepads, and other doodads. Kit S is willing to share with anyone that wants to get them from his basement.
  - Last year, Betty A AAC DEL58 d16 gave Kit S a Peanuts themed Al-Anon recovery PowerPoint well received by conference members. Kit S is recommending the Area, Districts, or Groups that want to create a love gift get it to him and he will do his best to distribute. One possibility is an original collage of Al-Anon related files, photos, and humorous content or downloadable bookmarks. Other ideas?
- The Al-Anon survey many of you completed last July that the WSO conducts every three years has been tabulated. Results are online at <https://al-anon.org/pdf/2021-MembershipSurvey.pdf>. Eventually, a link will reside on the Area website.
- The updated 2022-2025 Service Manual will be available online within 2 to 3 months; the print version will be available mid to late summer.
- Delegate's report is scheduled for 9 AM June 18<sup>th</sup> and will, hopefully, be hybrid to allow for in-person attendance.
- Kit S's email has changed as his previous email was hijacked. Please use togetherwecanmakeit108@gmail.com.

Technology Thought-force: Russ F ARC d11 presented the attached PowerPoint presentation located at the end of these minutes. Comments and questions following the presentation included:

- Some Districts have purchased Zoom accounts. A few have members willing to let the District or Groups use their personal Zoom account.
- How will Technology efforts assist Action committees?

- It would be helpful to have information on how to safely set up a Zoom account; offer training session(s) on how to do it correctly.
- Hybrid meetings do not require that someone be on site to open the meeting.
- A long-term strategy is likely needed.

**Motion: Sheila P dr8 moved that the Assembly vote to establish a standing committee for Technology. The motion failed to get a second.**

- A working group would be helpful to ferret out more information before considering formal policies and procedures. Getting more information from GRs will help make a better decision on how to proceed.
- Would the AWSC elect members?
- The work of this Technology Thought-Force is complete. Does the AWSC want more detail and need to form a taskforce with the same members for dissolution in August?
- Next step will be to present the excellent Technology Thought-Force PowerPoint to the Assembly.

Incorporation Taskforce: Jim L. IITFC d13 GR received the bylaws Thursday night and they are now available on the Area website under documents for today's AWSC meeting. As of November 2021, our Area is incorporated. The bylaws are complete. State laws mandate wording and designations that are incongruent with how we operate which made the bylaws challenging to create (e.g., must use directors vs. trusted servants). The bylaws will allow us to operate but keep in mind they are amendable in the future should they inhibit or conflict with the desires of the Assembly. Only one meeting per year is required so it does not appear burdensome for Area Officers to serve as Directors during their time on a Panel. There is an option to vote in two (2) additional board members. There is concern that anonymity may prevent some from agreeing to serve as an officer. The counter to that is some people are unwilling to serve without the protection provided by being incorporated. The attorney is listed as the person to contact but it is possible to learn of the Directors names if someone really wanted the information and was willing to pay a fee. The annual renewal for non-profits does not require a list of officers. The work of this Taskforce is complete. Any changes going forward would be up to the Directors or newly created committees.

**Motion: Kit S DEL d11 moved to recommend approval of the bylaws by the Assembly. Russ F ARC d11 seconded the motion. Results: 15 voted Yes, 2 No The motion passed at 88%.**

Alt DEL report: Donna T APP d1 GR reported in Pat P's ALT DEL absence the following:

- The Alateen Safety Manual has been with the WSO for final approval for at least 3 months. The WSO is backlogged with no promise on when final approval will be forthcoming. Okay to use the draft on the website when guidance needed.
- Awaiting a decision from a person considering volunteering for the Alateen Coordinator position.
- AMIAS recertification process requires training completion by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Training sessions for February and March are being scheduled. Training dates will be sent for posting on the websites. Recertification will be good through July 2023.
- Theresa D adr15 to be voted upon for inclusion to the Alateen Safety committee at the April Assembly.
- There are requests from a high school and a church for creation of new Alateen groups.
- Currently, 5 Alateen groups are listed as active on the Twin Cities website.

Open positions: Sherry GS CHR d11 is hopeful the Alateen Coordinator position will be filled soon. Charley B d11 GR has volunteered to fill the Forum Coordinator position. There is still a need for volunteers to fill the Public Outreach Chair and Calendar Editor positions. The Thought-Force created to review the Action Committees is chaired by Karin B MOAC d8 with 2 other members. Mary H DEL43 d10 agreed to be the 4<sup>th</sup> member.

The agenda for the Spring Assembly to include: Reports of secretary and treasurer, action committee meetings, electronic groups, technology thought-force PowerPoint presentation, bylaws of incorporation, Theresa D adr15 for Alateen safety committee, and standing reports. Notices for Assemblies are sent first class mail vs. bulk mail.

#### Coordinator reports:

- Archivist: Russ F ARC d11 is aware of 2 former archivists to ask questions and determine how to save documents electronically. Please let him know if you previously held the position of Archivist.
- Newsletter: Ute Z NWS d11 needs submissions so please consider authoring a short story for publication.
- Public Outreach: Dianne G POAC dr15 is using a 5'X3' felt board for an Outreach event in St. Michael. She is missing 2-3 structural pieces so please let her know if you are aware of their location.
- Website: Sasha W WEB reported that virtual meeting information was updated as of the end of January. She is waiting to hear on next steps for updating the website.
- Group Services: Barb U GSAC d11 is working with the committee to find DRs for inactive districts. They are also trying to encourage younger generations to serve outside their home group.
- Membership: Karin B MOAC d8 was excited to receive ideas for committee work at the Assembly ahead of today's meeting. Membership will be working on updating meeting information on the websites at the Assembly. Also, it was great to see new participants today.
- Group Records: Peggy W GRC d11 reported 8 DRs are willing to help get inactive districts up and running. She thanked Kit B DEL28 d8 for keeping hybrid and Zoom meeting information current on the Metro website.

#### Action Committee Chairs:

- Public Outreach: The committee will continue their work from the Fall Assembly with 2 dozen responses. The focus is on outreach to professional communities.
- Fellowship: They will be creating a bookmark at the Assembly.

#### District Representative updates:

- Su S dr4 said they are doing clean up after not having a DR for some time. The secretary and treasurer have things in order. The district is saving money after changing banks and terminating the calling service in lieu of a phone that takes messages and volunteers return calls. A new meeting started during the pandemic. The district purchased a Zoom account for virtual and hybrid meetings.
- Sheila P dr8 reported their district has a Zoom account. January 29<sup>th</sup> they held a Feed Your Recovery event. Intergroup has a speaker meeting scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>. March 26<sup>th</sup> they will sponsor a workshop on writing for the Forum. Beginner meetings at the Uptown House average 12 attendees. It has been difficult to keep up with groups regarding changing venues.

- Michelle W GRO d11 said their district also has a Zoom account. Their location has moved from Richfield to Calvary Church in Golden Valley. The book club is reading how Al Anon works and meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays. Fifty people are enrolled with 10-20 attending each session. Workshops offered cover topics on Sponsorship, 4<sup>th</sup> Step, Conflict Management, and Carrying the Message. Lois B. is looking for someone to sit on the steering committee for the New Members meeting.
- Jen J dr12 is from a small district with not much going on currently. Many groups disappeared during the pandemic. They may investigate getting a Zoom account. Her home group, Quiet Moments, was in a church basement that flooded so everything was ruined, e.g., flyers, literature, etc. They have moved to a new location and are meeting as a hybrid.
- Colleen CD dr13, Scott and Carver counties, reported 2 groups suspended meetings but the district has 6 hybrid meetings, 1 in-person meeting, 1 unknown, and 3 virtual meetings. Issue with Zoom account when 2 groups meet at the same time so 1 member is using their personal Zoom account. They want to hold a workshop on sponsorship but church is not allowing meetings currently. Kit S DEL d11 spoke at their meeting and she highly recommends other districts ask him to speak.
- Dianne G POAC dr15 is McLeod County with 4 active and 6 inactive groups. Fun day scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in March and will be in-person in Rockford. It will be the 25<sup>th</sup> year event held.
- Sheila O cdr 16, Mankato, said they offer in-person, hybrid, and virtual meetings. Holiday party included food, white elephant exchange, left/right game. District is planning April fun day to take place in St. Peter.
- Kate H dr17 was unable to attend due to family conflicts.

Miscellaneous:

- Suggested inclusion of Technology PowerPoint in newsletter.
- Contact information for DRs is desired so they can meet and share ideas.
- Remember to hold spacebar to temporarily unmute yourself on Zoom meetings.
- Please stay muted when not speaking on Zoom to improve sound and prevent interference.
- District 11 welcomes anyone that wants to join them to share ideas and participate in workshops.
- Need to verify with records of the WSO if a DR is listed for district 5.
- Assembly meeting will take place virtually on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Dianne G POAC dr15 read the Al Anon declaration and the meeting closed at 2:55 PM.

Area Secretary,

Linda S.