

Panel 61 MN South Fall Assembly

October 1, 2022

After a quiet moment, the chair, Sherry GS opened the meeting with the serenity prayer.

Sherry thanked everyone for attending today and for contributing to the important work we provide for families of alcoholics.

Sally J LIT d12 GR read the 12 Traditions.

Jim L d13 GR shared the Concepts of Service

Charley B FOR d11 GR read the General Warranties

Pat P ADL d11 GR offered more in-depth information on Concept 7 using resources from Paths to Recovery and his personal experiences.

Betty A AAC DEL58 d16 shared information from Reaching for Personal Recovery and her own insights on how Concept 8 has positively impacted her recovery.

Sherry GS CHR d11 read from Courage to Change, September 7<sup>th</sup>, highlighting the importance of contributions both financially and through acts of service. Sherry reminded everyone to consider how their talents might benefit Panel 64 as there is only a little more than a year remaining for Panel 61 trusted servants.

Substantial unanimity: All important decisions of the Assembly and Area World Service Committee shall be made by substantial unanimity. Substantial unanimity is the proportion of those voting required to pass a motion so it is not necessary to identify those abstaining.

**MOTION: Russ ARC TWGCd11 GR moved that substantial unanimity be seventy-five percent (75%) of those voting today. Veronica F ds13 GR seconded the motion. Results: Yes 25 No 0**

Roll Call:

All Officers

Delegate and Alternate Delegate

Coordinators: Archives, Alateen, Assembly Activities, Forum, Group Records, Asst

GRC, Literature, Newsletter, Website Absent: Area Alateen Process Person, Public Outreach

Action Committee Chairs: Fellowship, GR Orientation, Group Services, Membership Outreach Absent: Calendar, Public Outreach

Liaisons Absent: Mpls Information Services, St. Paul Intergroup

District Representatives: 1, 4, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17

Group Representatives: Districts 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17

Past Delegates or Alternate Delegates: 28,34, 43, 49, 55, 58

The minutes of the Spring Assembly were reviewed.

**MOTION: Sally J LIT d12 GR moved to accept the Spring Assembly minutes as presented. Allison F d12 GR seconded the motion. Yes 28 No 0**

Chisago Lakes AFG was introduced by the Chair as they have requested to move from MN North Area to MN South Area. Cindy S d1 GR from Chisago Lakes AFG said that many who live in and around Center City moved there after residing in St. Paul or its suburbs. Many of the members actively participate in events in the Twin Cities and feel more connected to groups in MN South. A committee was formed in 2020 to discern if this was the right move for its members. MN North has approved their request to change Areas. Boundaries are arbitrary and it will increase participation in service work.

**MOTION: Pat P ADL d11 GR moved to allow Chisago Lakes AFG to become a member of MN South Area. Jim L d13 GR seconded the motion. Results: Yes 25 No 0**

After a 5-minute break, some members shared how they are doing today.

Open positions for Panel 61 are Public Outreach Chair and Public Outreach Coordinator. Folderol will be in February 2024 and will, hopefully, be in-person. Volunteers will be needed to organize the event and to fill positions for Panel 64.

Action Committees met for 90 minutes followed by a lunch break.

Website: Sasha shared previous proposals for updating the website and a new one by Jason Piemeisl. The previous proposals ranged in price from \$16,000 to \$69,000 and ranged in scope. Jason's proposal of \$6,500 includes the required specifications to begin the process. There will be ongoing fees of \$720 annually, costs of \$200 for plug in, and additional developer fees billed at \$75/hour. Four highly desired options that are not included in the initial redesign due to cost are:

- Event registration and ability to accept payments
- E-commerce
- Discussion groups
- Zoom integration

Our website is clumsy and out-of-date. Future website coordinators will not need to have Java Script or http software knowledge. We will have the ability to update meeting changes. Eventbrite or similar programs will not work for AI Anon due to anonymity requirements. The Tech Work Group supports the compromises required to allow for work to begin on designing the new website. The money is in the approved budget so a motion to approve the latest proposal is not necessary. It was suggested that certain highly desirable features like on-line registration might be worthy of a special appeal letter in the future.

Treasurer's Report: The Financial reports were shared. Mark P noted that contributions are under budget by \$1,827.34 after the first eight months. Expenses are under budget by \$4,785.59; however, several expenditures have been made but some requests for reimbursement have not been received and processed. The Area does have \$36,499.75 in cash. To be reimbursed for expenses you need to request a form from the Treasurer at [mnsa.treas@yahoo.com](mailto:mnsa.treas@yahoo.com), complete it and then return it to Mark.

**MOTION: Joan Md3 Co-GR moved to accept the financials as presented. Mark A AAC d2 GR seconded the motion. Results: Yes 23 No 0**

The budget for 2023 was reviewed by Mark. Sixteen thousand (\$16,000) is being budgeted for contributions, the same as for 2022. Most expense items were budgeted at the same amount as 2022 but not all of them. There is an additional \$100 for software needed by the Treasurer. Mileage was reduced by half as many still opt to meet via Zoom. Delegate expenses to attend the WSO will be less than originally budgeted. Expenses to host the Regional Delegates Meeting next March are unknown but \$1,000 was put in the budget. More money was designated for the spring 2023 AWSC and Assembly as it is hoped they will be hybrid. Folderol needed \$4,000 more to meet the budget of \$12,000 that will likely be needed. Costs related to incorporation are expected to be less. Actual expenses budgeted for 2022 are \$23,259 or \$7,259 more than expected contributions. The 2023 budgeted expenses of \$25,547 will exceed expected contributions by \$9,547. The \$4,104 earmarked for sending Alateens to Midlake remain on the balance sheet. Policy states that a prudent reserve be half of the previous year's expenses but since the pandemic prior year's actual expenses are not realistic for budgeting purposes. Contributions to MN South Area should be sent to MNSA, PO Box 1059, Minnetonka, MN 55345 noting the Group number (available on WSO mailing labels or from Group Services). Options to receive contributions other than through the mail are being researched.

**MOTION: Gloria K d11 GR moved to approve the 2023 budget as presented. Mae E d4 co-GR seconded the motion. Results: Yes 23 No 0**

Alternate Delegate Report: Pat P reported that the WSO is still behind on approving our Alateen Safety Behavior Requirements due to other more pressing work by WSO staff. Mark A and Donna T have done a fantastic job with AMIAS training and recertifications. A new Alateen group has been started at a high school. Pat also commented that he receives 5 to 6 emails a week and most are looking for meeting information.

Accepting Electronic Only Groups in MN South Area: Kit S and Pat P said the GRs need to decide today if our Area wants to allow Electronic Groups only into MN South. If yes, then parameters need to be identified and documented. It is anticipated that there will be requirements that align with our geographic location as we would not want groups that might have competing agendas. There may be a disconnected group or two that would benefit from the resources of our Area to assist them with serving families of alcoholics. If groups are already assigned to MN South and they have decided to meet virtually only they will not need to leave the Area. Should a current group split into 2 groups, one in-person the other electronic only, one group will need to apply to the WSO for their own group number. If the in-person group applies they will both automatically stay with MN South. The reason the WSO created an Area for all Electronic Groups as there were roughly 800 groups that didn't have any affiliation with an Area.

**MOTION: Pat P ADL d11 GR moved to accept Electronic Groups that want to be a part of MNSA, requiring the Chair to assign a work-force to document the details to limit acceptance to groups that will complement the work of MNSA and benefit the group(s) joining our Area. Cathy S d2 GR seconded the motion. Results: Yes 22 No 1**

Technology Work Group: Russ F ARC TWGC d11 GR reported on the progress the 5 goals assigned to this work group. Ways to contribute on-line are being explored keeping in mind the need for

anonymity. A ~~Best~~-Good practices document for conducting on-line meetings safely is being developed. Russ shared a PowerPoint on the importance of Rotation of Service (See attached presentation at the end of the minutes and be sure to share with your groups.)—Email Russ at [MTKASerenes@gmail.com](mailto:MTKASerenes@gmail.com) if you want him to email you the presentation.

Delegate Report: Kit S said there are legal and traditional duties that must be followed. There are job descriptions for Chairs and Coordinators, however, AFG groups have the ultimate authority to decide how to best serve its members. How groups work together are identified in our Traditions and Concepts led by GRs. As things change, we will need to stretch ourselves and consider what are best practices at the current time. Kit really appreciates all the support he receives.

Policy Review Committee: This committee has assigned positions and allows for 3 additional members. At the AWSC meeting, Jen J DR12 and Teresa D aDR15 were voted upon favorably to serve on this committee. If anyone else is interested in serving let Sherry know. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 PM.

#### ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fellowship: Charley B FOR d11 GR reminded us to look for the bookmark in the newsletter. He presented his workshop on writing stories for the Forum. Members learned how to submit their stories for publication. Anyone interested in him presenting the workshop to their group needs to let him know.

Group Services: Barb U GSAC d11 said the WSO mailed requests for annual updates to each group. Be sure to let Peggy W GRC d11 know of any changes that you will be reporting to the WSO. The cost for physical storage of archived Area records continues to rise. The committee might consider ways to scan documents to eliminate physical storage. What should and could be stored in the cloud? A new AI Anon group for members aged 18 to 35 was recently formed. Pat P offered his assistance if they need help with Zoom.

Membership Outreach: Karin B reported how important it is for Ute Z to have an accurate postal and email address for distribution of the newsletter. One paper copy is mailed for each group so if groups aren't receiving their copy, it could be other groups at the same location received all the copies. Ute led the group in an activity to practice writing stories for submission to the newsletter and hopes she will receive some for publication. Ideas were then shared on what would be beneficial to include in the newsletter in addition to the Assembly minutes and the calendar.

Public Outreach: Gloria K d11 GR offered to assume the Coordinator position and Judy K d18 GR is willing to serve as Chair. Sherry will send them job descriptions outlining the positions and follow up with them to make sure they understand the duties. Sherry is thrilled they are willing to serve. Time was spent reviewing previous and new suggestions for public outreach.

#### DISTRICT UPDATES:

District 15: Teresa D adr15 reported they are having some difficulty getting involvement at the district level so they are getting a Zoom account to see if that helps. This district covers McLeod and Wright counties.

District 13: Veronica F ds13 GR said they will be conducting a workshop on Sponsorship Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

District 12: Jen J dr12 said they currently only have 6 active groups so they may need to consider collaborating with another district. The groups are either in-person or hybrid.

District 11: Michelle W GRO d11 reported on the successful Conflict Resolution workshop held last Saturday from 9 to noon. They will be offering workshops on How to Tell Your Story and Writing for the Forum at the Calvary Church in Golden Valley. The district is planning a workshop on Step 4 next spring. The book club meets the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. They are currently reading How Al Anon works. Pat P shared they held a successful in-person meeting for beginners.

District 8: Sheila P dr8 said they will be hosting a Zoom meeting October 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8 PM on The Power of our Literature. Attendees will be asked to share their favorite Al Anon literature. The district meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. They will be offering workshops on Writing for the Forum and Sponsorship. They continue to have good turnouts at the Uptown House for newcomers. It is more difficult to get participation at the district level. They have switched to Proton for email. It is from Europe and offers more privacy as it's illegal to market online email accounts. They dropped Pay Pal due to anonymity issues.

District 4: Hilary L ds4 reported groups have adopted places in town to drop off literature. They have restarted open speaker meetings in September; making the event a potluck assured a good turnout. They are trying to get local TV to provide information on Al Anon.

Miscellaneous:

Volunteers for the Regional Delegates meeting in the spring will likely be those attending the event. If additional help is needed it will be made known at the AWSC meeting in February.

Criteria recommended by the work-force committee for electronic groups only joining MN South will be reviewed by the Policy Review Committee.

Sherry will need volunteers for a thought-force to assist with designing the new website so send her an email if you are interested.

Michelle R d15 GR shared her intentions for what she will be bringing home to her group from what she learned at today's Assembly.

Linda S SEC d7 GR closed the meeting with the Al Anon declaration.

Area Secretary,

Linda S