

Minutes from the:

Fall 2025 Assembly meeting of the Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups of Maryland and the District of Columbia

Saturday, October 25, 2025, 10 am to 3 pm

Log-in started at 9:30 am. Log-in naming for the zoom connection is set to identify Group Reps or Alternates. These are the voting members at the Assembly.

The meeting began at 10:00 am with the Serenity Prayer, then

Reading of the Steps

Reading of the Traditions

Reading of the Concepts and Warranties

Chairperson Dolores M. welcomed the attendees and gave information about the purpose of the meeting.

Group Records Coordinator: Roll call and establishing of substantial unanimity (p. 220-221 Service Manual)

Secretary: Joanie N. presented the minutes from the Spring 2025 Assembly, which had been published in the Al-Anon-Cer. Motion was approved to accept the minutes.

Chairperson Report: Dolores M.



PURPOSE OF THE FALL ASSEMBLY MEETING

- Adjust and approve the **2026 budget**.
 - Make changes and Approve **calendar of 2026 Area business meetings** developed at the AWSC Meeting.
 - Hear from the **Officers and Committee Chairs**. Groups give input to them, and take information back to Groups
 - Hear from **Area 24 Coordinators** about current Area business.
-

SERVICE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- It is clear that we must do something different to keep the Area healthy
 - **Help for the Al-Anon-cer Coordinator**, email list update, mailing some copies
 - **Secretary**- Steering Committee position (position available in December)
 - **Chairperson**- Steering Committee position
 - **Treasurer**- Steering Committee position
 - **Filling all service positions next fall**
-

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2026

If we meet the way we are currently meeting:

Spring AWSC- March 7, 2026

Spring Assembly- May 16, 2026

(WSC is April 20-25, 2026)

Fall AWSC- August 29, 2026. This is before Labor Day

Fall Assembly- October 24, 2026



SPANISH - SPEAKING MEETINGS

- Increasing awareness of Al-Anon in the Spanish-speaking community
 - Encouraging Spanish-speaking people to start a meeting
 - Help spread the word about existing Spanish-speaking meetings
 - Make literature in Spanish more available
 - Try to respond to requests from Spanish community
-

Delegate Report: Dolores M.



FALL ASSEMBLY 2025 - DELEGATE'S REPORT

October 25, 2025

AL-ANON'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2026

- We will be celebrating **Al-Anon's 75th Anniversary on April 25, 2026**, with a WSO tour and dinner in Virginia Beach.
- All Al-Anon members are welcome. As soon as tickets become available, we will let you know.
- Many of us went to the 50th Anniversary celebration in Virginia Beach and had a great experience.
- Let's celebrate in our own Area, Districts and Groups. Connect to all the people who came before us, because their experience, strength and hope paved the way for us.

WHAT DO THE TRUSTEES DO?

- **"In the field of World Service, the Trustees assume the primary leadership."**
The WSO executives and staff are not running the organization all by itself. The Delegates and the Board of Trustees work together with the staff.
- The Trustees **meet regularly and attend the World Service Conference.**
- **The Trustees have the power of veto.**
- **The Trustees have the legal rights for Al-Anon as a whole.**
- It's not a full-time job, but **it's a big part-time job.**

ISSUES FACING THE WSC - GROUP NAMING POLICY

- In 2024, the WSC approved a policy that no NEW group can be named with an exclusive identifier, like "Grandparents group AFG" or "Al-Anon Adult Children AFG". We are getting too specific, according to the WSO & Trustees.
- Only general names like "Keep it Simple AFG", will be approved.
- After much discussion at the 2025 WSC, we decided to suspend implementing the policy. However, we will revisit it in 2026. It's my job to make you aware.
- If you are in a group that has an exclusive identifier, you must allow others in the meeting. Al-Anon is for everyone.
- How should we implement the policy already voted on?

WHAT ARE WE DOING AT THE AREA LEVEL?

- The business work-- so that we can smoothly, effectively and safely carry the Al-Anon and Alateen message to others in Maryland and & the District of Columbia.
- Bringing information to the groups.
- We are protecting the integrity of Al-Anon so that it remains in alignment with the Steps, Traditions and Concepts.
- Sometimes this business includes a lot of minutiae, as we reason things out with each other.

ISSUES FACING THE WSC - SINGLE TRUSTEE PROCESS

- Current we have both Regional Trustees and Trustees-at-Large
- There are 9 Regions, e.g. US Northeast, US North Central, Canada Central, Canada West, etc. (Global mtgs are currently in US SouthWest Region)
 - 6 positions are filled, 3 are vacant- ONE NEW APPLICANT IN US NE!
These trustee positions are filled through the Areas
- There are 8 Trustees-at-Large
 - 7 positions are filled, 1 is vacant
Al-Anon members apply directly to WSO to become Trustees-at-Large
[Also 1 Chairman of the Board Trustee at Large- Kathy M. 1 Sustaining Trustee- Vali F.]

WHY A SINGLE TRUSTEE PROCESS?

- The Board of Trustees proposes that we have a single process- direct application and eliminate the Regional Trustee process because it takes too long.
- Trustees have to double-up on assignments when there are so many vacancies.
- What do you think about eliminating Regional Trustees and having more Trustees-at-Large?
- They are all Al-Anon Members and are required to think of Al-Anon as a whole, not just represent their region. But there are nuances region to region and there could be inadvertent favoring certain ways to look at things.

WSO CURRENT FINANCIALS

- **The WSO is projecting a deficit of \$171,000 for 2026.**
- In 2025 we had a \$100,000 bequest, but you can't budget for those situations.
- Literature sales declined because new releases are 2 yrs old.
- New website changes and computer security is taking longer.
- New staff training and some overlap with retiring staff.
- **Contributions are critical to maintain our program.**

WSO JUNE 2025 YTD ACTUALS VS. BUDGETED

June 2025 YTD	Year-to-date Actuals	Year-to-date Budget
Revenue		
Literature Sales- net	1,259,526	1,354,758
Contributions	1,469,426	1,342,124
Other Income	549,794	563,903
Total Revenue	3,278,746	3,259,785
Total Expenses	3,198,039	3,347,300
Change in Net Assets		
Increase/(Decrease)	80,707	(87,515)

WSO 2025 FULLYEAR BUDGET - REVISED

2025 Full Year Budget	Original Budget	Revised Budget
Revenue		
Literature Sales- net	2,802,766	2,480,766
Contributions	2,900,000	2,900,000
Other Income	793,000	763,500
Total Revenue	6,495,766	6,144,277
Total Expenses	6,359,795	6,315,075
Change in Net Assets	135,970	(170,800)

AL-ANON'S PRESENCE AT THE AA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN VANCOUVER

- In July 2025 in Vancouver- 40,000 AAs and 4,000 Al-Anon members
- Alateen was available- thanks in part to Katie CS from Maryland

The calendar for 2026 meetings was proposed and motion was approved to set the meetings for these dates:

Spring AWSC- March 7, 2026

Spring Assembly- May 16, 2026

Fall AWSC- August 29, 2026.

Fall Assembly- October 24, 2026

Treasurer: Charles L. Presentation and Approval of a budget for 2026 2025 Fall Assembly Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported on the status of the budget as of September 30. So far there is a surplus of about \$7,080 for the year and a bank balance of about \$30,500. The major expense that still needs to be paid is the budgeted contribution of \$7,500 to the WSO, which is in addition to the contribution of \$20,600 above the prudent reserve which was made in May after the spring assembly. The other remaining expected expenses are \$160 for Alateen expenses including the web site, about \$100 in area delegate expenses, and about \$100 in additional area web site expenses.

The projected result for 2025, based on expected expenses and hoped-for contributions, is a surplus of over \$4,800. This estimate is very dependent on the amount of contributions for the rest of the year. Contributions from groups and districts are projected to continue at the level of recent years. The projected bank balance at the end of the year is about \$27,800, which is about the 2026 prudent reserve of \$28,050. The prudent reserve for the year is equal to the budgeted expenses for the year.

Groups meeting by phone and internet are encouraged to continue to collect funds to support Area 24, the World Service Conference, the district, and the local Al-Anon Information Service, if they are served by one. Individuals can also contribute directly to the WSO and Area 24 and their AIS at the web sites.

There were no 2025 budget adjustments requiring approval by the assembly.

The budget approved for 2026 was largely unchanged from the 2025 original budget. Public outreach was significantly increased because of new efforts being planned. Alateen support was restored to about their 2024 level. There were slight adjustments to area business meeting costs and insurance:

ITEM	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Alateen Support	\$1,500	\$2,750
Public Outreach	\$700	\$4,000
Assemblies and AWSC's	\$1,050	\$1,250
Insurance	\$2,030	\$2,350

The area is fortunate that the prudent reserve is projected to be at the maximum level recommended by the WSO, which is one year of operating expenses. This, along with the generosity of individual members, will continue to fund vital area services. After we have a final number for 2025 and the year-end bank balance, the 2026 spring assembly will decide if any surplus above the prudent reserve should be contributed to the WSO.

Charles Lady, Treasurer

Spring Convention Report: Kelly N.

The committee has been actively exploring possible venues for the Spring Convention. Trying to keep it affordable while comfortable and safe and easy to manage getting around to meetings and meals. Trying to keep it all-inclusive. Frostburg State University seems the best option for any reasons. After ample discussion, a motion was approved for the committee to proceed with drawing up a contract with Frostburg, to be approved by the Steering Committee. A motion was also approved to provide seed money to the convention as needed for contract deposit. Many thanks to Kelly and the committee for their hard work and congratulations on such a promising outcome.

Fall Convention Report: Joanie N.

The theme is Heartbeat of Alanon and it's Oct 31 – Nov 2 at the Towson Sheraton. We have met our rooms minimum, and we have at least 240 registrations. We're deeply grateful for support from the Baltimore AIS who will be covering the registrations for Alateens, and who will invest in a stock of Spanish literature which we will sell at the convention. If you are bringing snacks for the hospitality room, please be sure they are in commercially sealed packaging. Registration Assistance seems to be working well, with no one who requested it being turned away, thanks to the generosity of many members. Program meeting lead assignments are currently being set and will go out this week. Thanks to ALL who volunteered and/or donated!

Virtual Wrap-up / Kick-off meeting is set for 10 am Saturday January 10 – please join us.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87253972108> Meeting ID: 872 5397 2108 Passcode: 01102026

Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP): Lynn K.

Area Alateen Coordinator (AAC)- Katie C.S.

AMIAS Summary:

Summary We currently have 50 certified AMIAS with 7 more Al-Anon members in process. We have 5 active meetings and are investigating opening additional meetings. Training was conducted in September for 2 new AMIAS that are supporting a new meeting in Hampstead (Carroll County). This meeting will open on **Sunday 11/2/2025** and is at St Johns UMC co-located with AA & Al-Anon and has 4 AMIAS. Additional periodic assistance from other AMIAS is being solicited.

Area 24 Meetings:

Day	Time	Name/Location	Format
Tuesday	7:30 PM	New Market	In Person
Thursday	5:30 PM	Rockville	In Person

Saturday	12:00 PM	Silver Spring	Hybrid
Sunday	11:00 AM	Evergreen / Loyola	In Person
Sunday	8:00 PM	Hampstead (New - starts 11/2)	In Person

A **new flyer** listing all these meetings has been attached with this report.

Area 24 Alateen website!

The Alateen website has a new look and feel! Please visit www.alateenmddc.com and check out the changes. As part of this change, we moved to a different GoDaddy plan and reduced our annual website hosting costs by 1/3!

Teen Chat

Also – keep spreading the word that Teen Chat is available on the Al-Anon mobile app for teens 13-18/ These are the only electronic Alateen meetings that WSO allows.

WSO managed Alateen Electronic meetings via the Al-Anon mobile app:

Day	Time (ET)	Day	Time (ET)	Day	Time (ET)
Monday	6:00 PM	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Thursday	7:30 PM
Monday	10:00 PM	Wednesday	9:30 PM		

News/Events:

- **Area 24 Fall Convention** – Alateen meetings are planned for Saturday and Sunday morning at the Fall convention. We opted not to have meetings on Friday because it’s Halloween.

Submitted by: Katie C (AAC); Lynne K (AAPP)

Al-Anon-Cer Editor (Newsletter): Jill R. Lucinda will be helping Jill with Alanoncer distribution.

Archives Coordinator: Lucinda W.

Group Records Coordinator report: Gina K.

- As of October 21, 2025, there are 217 active meetings registered in the WSO database for Area 24:
 - o 167 in-person/hybrid meetings
 - o 50 electronic-only meetings
- 71% of our meetings have Group Reps
 - o 124 in-person/hybrid meetings have GRs
 - o 31 zoom meetings have GRs
- 16 of our 24 Districts have District Reps
- On Aug. 14, 2025, I was notified by the AFG Records Manager, Valerie, that the 2 groups located in Chincoteague, Virginia, have been transferred (back) to the Maryland/DC Area as part of District 24.

Insurance Coordinator: Cindi S.

Literature Coordinator: Karen N. Contact/Karen N. 443.617.9663 karenannnovakoski@gmail.com

I had the pleasure of attending several Literature Coordinator Virtual Conferences with Carol Cowan, Associate Director-Literature, as well as many other Area Coordinators. We discuss ways that different Area’s are doing writing workshops and sharing literature.

Service Manual Update: There are now 8 pages of updates for the Service Manual dated: 2022-2025. The digital version has all of the updates. To update your physical book, if you haven’t already done so, download the 8 replacement pages, print them, trim them to size, and insert or adhere them to the current pages. You can find them here: <https://al-anon.org/pdf/P2427-v4-replacement-pages.pdf>

The following color codes show the different updates: Black vertical lines in outer margins indicate where changes were made to the content for v1 and v2 Orange vertical lines indicate changes made to v3. Green vertical lines indicate changes made to v4. The next printed copy of the Service Manual is expected to be ready for purchase in January 2026; it will be dated: 2026-2029.

****Attention: There will be a new service manual available at the beginning of next year****

Group Reps: please check your meeting literature and ask group to purchase new Service Manual when it becomes available..

WSO in Need of SHARINGS!!

I do not have the emails for the GR's. So, if you would like a copy of this report please email me and I will forward it along with the writing guidelines.

Sharing Needed for New CAL on Personal and Service Sponsorship. A new piece of CAL on Personal Sponsorship as well as Service Sponsorship was approved at the 2023 World Service Conference. You are encouraged to submit your sharings. This is the link to the Writing Guideline for Sponsorship and Service Sponsorship: <https://al-anon.org/pdf/Sponsorship-Writing-Guide.pdf>

Sharing's Needed for New CAL on Finances in Recovery approved at the 2024 World Service Conference. You are encouraged to submit your sharings, This is the link to the Writing Guideline for Finances in Recovery: <https://al-anon.org/pdf/Finances-in-Recovery.pdf>

The Forum needs your Sharing's about Our Three Legacies! Please consider writing about one of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, or Twelve Concepts of Service, as the World Service Office receives very few sharings about them. Submissions for The Forum should range from about 200 to 400 words. This is the link to the Writing Guideline for Forum Submissions: <https://al-anon.org/pdf/writing-guide-for-the-forum-F1.pdf>

CAL Corner How has Al-Anon Literature Helped You? Sharings are needed for future issues of "CAL Corner". "CAL" corner is a section of The Forum where members write about how any piece of CAL has helped them with their recovery. The writing should be on what the piece has meant to you rather than an overview of the book itself. This is the link for the Writing Guideline for CAL Corner: <https://al-anon.org/pdf/CALcornerSharingRevised%202018.pdf>

WSO is especially looking for sharings about the following CAL literature: Books:

Hope for Today (B-27)-Due November 20, 2025

For this share only please mail email to wso@al-anon.org

***New Edition of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism

Share your experience, or invite a professional to contribute (i.e. counselor, educator or health provider).

New eBooks: Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships is now available. Be sure to go through Ala-Non's website for your eBooks to ensure that you are getting the original literature from WSO. If you should have any problems, you can contact customer service.

Public Outreach Coordinator: Suzanne R.

I met with a Baltimore County Circuit Court judge with Robert W (Public Outreach for Baltimore AIS) to share information about Al-anon.

I've been doing some research into Maryland State Legislature and its committee. For example, the Joint Committee on Behavioral Health and Opioid Use Disorder or the Senate Committee on Children Youth and Families. Or organization such as Women Legislators of Maryland. Members live locally, such as Richard Metzger, grew up in Essex, MD.

I continue to attend the WSO's virtual Public Outreach Meetings (approximately 7 per year). These meetings have speakers who share great information! WSO staff members and members of committees at large have spoken at these meetings to help us understand their role as well as projects that are in motion at the WSO. Also, PO Coordinators from ALL over share about projects in their areas.

Based on ideas shared on these WSO meetings, I completed some outreach to movie theatres, Maryland associations and billboard companies. The month of September is national recovery month. I emailed smaller,

local theatres asking if they would consider playing the WSO's PSA before films during the month of September. I also linked the PSA in the email (it is one minute long). I used a list of Maryland Associations to reach out about tabling these events to share information about Al-anon. I also researched the cost of posting a billboard in the area as a larger form of outreach. I am requesting funds (see below) to pay for these projects.

Exciting projects are also being completed by local DRs.

Heather Smith, WSO public outreach at the WSO, continues to send me information about events in our area. I follow up with the organizers of these events to see how Area 24 volunteers can participate. She also sends me the names and contact information for individuals from Area 24 that she meets at national events who are interested in learning more about Al-anon. I follow up with these people by emailing them personally and sending them general information about Al-anon.

Requested Budget 2026 shared at AWSC Meeting September

I would like to request an increase to the annual budget for Public Outreach in the year ahead from \$700 to \$4,000.

First, increased funding would allow on-going outreach projects, such as the newspaper ads, to continue for another year and add one additional publication. Cost: \$1200.

Next, increased funding would enable volunteers to perform outreach to professionals across Maryland by tabling annual conferences. The 2024 members survey reported that 43% of members found out about Al-anon from a professional. Some examples of local conferences include:

1. Maryland Counseling Association Conference (being held in September 2025 in Hanover, MD). The cost for Community Exhibitor is \$200. *see update below
2. The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) holds a fall and a spring conference. The Fall conference is being held on October 24, 2025, at the Doubletree Hilton in Columbia, MD. *see update below
3. District of Columbia School Counselor Association Conference which is being held in February 5-6, 2026, in Washington, DC. I have been in touch with the organizer and await specifics about the cost of tabling the event.
4. MD-DC SAM (MD-DC Society of Addiction Medicine) annual conference is taking place in Clarksville, MD in February 2026. I have been in touch with the organizer and requested information about the cost to table the event.

Finally, another opportunity that I would like to pursue in 2026 is a billboard in the Maryland area. An initial search into a local long standing, media company, Kegerreis, indicated Billboard prices of \$500-2500 per month. I would like to pursue renting billboard space for Jan. 2026 and September 2026. Cost: \$2000.

TOTAL:

Billboards: \$2000

Conferences 200 x 4: \$800

Renew publications and add one more: \$1200

Update since AWSC Meeting on 09/20/25

MCA Conference September 25, 2025

Patty K attended lots of students there. Many of these students who are in training for counseling are eligible as members. Literature was shared with colleges. MCA was willing to offer the table for free. Literature from Patty's district was provided. (40 AFAM, 20 Just for today/tonight, 20 detachment).

Follow up:

Professor/Licensed Clinical Counselor, University of Md Global Campus, School of Integrative and Professional Studies

Clinical Manager/Licensed Clinical Counselor, Oasis Behavioral Health, Mental Health Clinic

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) holds a fall and a spring conference. The Fall conference is being held on October 24, 2025, at the Doubletree Hilton in Columbia, MD.

-It was difficult to reach organizers of this event. I eventually was informed that a table was not available for the fall conference, but the Board is considering us for their spring convention

Outreach to Districts and AISs

Pat. P invited me to speak at a D13 meeting on 9/19/24. Lynn F invited me to share about public outreach at the Mid-Chesapeake AIS on 10/15/25. Carolyn T. invited me to speak at the District 12 meeting on 11/20/25.

Technology Coordinator: Suzy M. Suzy M. let us know she had nothing to report.

Website Coordinator: Vicki B.

Alternate Delegate: Paul C.

Reports from AISes:

Baltimore AIS- Jessica K.

Mid- Chesapeake AIS – Lynne F.

Chairperson Dolores M. wrapped up the meeting, and we closed with the Al-Anon Declaration and the Serenity Prayer at 3 pm.