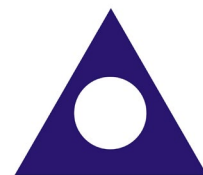


AL-ANON-CER



Quarterly Newsletter of Al-Anon Family Groups of Maryland and District of Columbia (AFG of MD and DC, Inc.)

www.marylanddc-alanon.org • email: area24@marylanddc-alanon.org

www.alateenmddc.com

Area 24 December 2023 Delegate Report

Good day Folks,

As I search the P24-27 Service Manual there are just under forty (40) pages devoted to the World Service Handbook portion from pages 137 to 176. This section of our service manual shares information about how Al-Anon is structured, how each position helps to support the entire Al-Anon structure, and the responsibilities for each position in the Al-Anon World Service Conference Structure. At the end you will find the World Service Conference Structure Graphic illustrating and explaining how it is all connected, working together. Here is a link to our Service Manual:

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/manuals-and-guidelines/service-manual/>

This World Service Handbook section of the Service Manual is my favorite. While I must work my own program, I believe that working my program includes doing my part to support what has been passed on to me by those who came before me in Al-Anon. What I find that is most valuable in service is that **I know I have received so much more than I have given** in service to the program. This is what I call the Secret behind Service. Service has enriched my heart, my mind, my soul and my serenity far beyond what I ever imagined!!

As Al-Anon members we are brought together by a common problem and united by a common goal. I realized when I was in in program a short while that my self-esteem, had digressed to an all-time bottomless pit of despair. Once I realized that Al-Anon could help me more if I stopped practicing "Band-Aid Al-Anon" (going to meetings when my home life got crazy, and then stop going to meetings when that chaos died down) I knew I could trust the program. When I started my service, I realized that my serenity and spirituality could be enhanced even more if I accepted and committed to service in the program. Soon, I discovered that while I wasn't paying as much attention to the fact that I was serving, my self-confidence returned. As I accepted others for who they were, accepted there are other valid opinions in the program, and that several opinions could be helpful to our Area and our individual growth, I felt so much more committed to the program. Soon thereafter I realized I had also been spiritually enriched as a direct result of service in the program.

The theme for the 2019 World Service Conference was, "There is no growth in the comfort zone". Nothing could be more important to my own program because this theme encouraged me to press myself more than I had in the past, that I could feel safe and supported in the program and that I could get what I needed by committing to Al-Anon, and more specifically, to service.

continued on page 3

Al-Anon-Cer

Published by Al-Anon Family Groups of MD & DC

www.marylanddc-alanon.org

Editor: Joe D Newsletter4Area24@gmail.com (outgoing)
Jill R (incoming)

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AREA 24 CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2024

December 23, 2023	Saturday	Al-Anon/AA holiday potluck, meeting to follow, see flyer
March 3 rd	Sunday	District 7 SereniTea, stay tuned – flyer forthcoming
March 16 th	Saturday	Spring AWSC meeting
May 18 th	Saturday	Spring Assembly meeting
June 7 th – 9 th	Fri, Sat & Sun	Spring Convention, details forthcoming
September 21 st	Saturday	Fall AWSC meeting
October 19 th	Saturday	Fall Assembly
November ??	??	Fall Convention, to be confirmed, details forthcoming

For an up-to-date calendar of events, please visit the Area 24 website:
[click here](#)

Or aim your smartphone camera at the QR code on top of page 1

In my service commitment I learned that while there are certain responsibilities for each role, I didn't have to perform my responsibilities exactly like the person before me. As I set forth in my service position, I knew there were others that came before me that I could lean on if I wasn't completely sure of myself, if I just wanted to get a second opinion to be sure I was on the right path. Many times, while interacting with others I came up with even more new ideas that I thought were even better than I had envisioned previously. I like to think that was my Higher Power working in me, around me and all through me.

We in Area 24 find ourselves in need of a few more volunteers to serve. At our October 21, 2023, Assembly meeting we gratefully honor many folks who volunteered to serve in most of our Area 24 service positions. At the present time we still have a few very critical positions vacant. Those Area 24 positions that are still open at this time are listed below.

- **Delegate**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Literature Coordinator**



Please note that three (3) of the five (5) service positions on the Steering Committee remain open. These three Steering Committee positions are critical to having a fully functional Area Steering Committee.

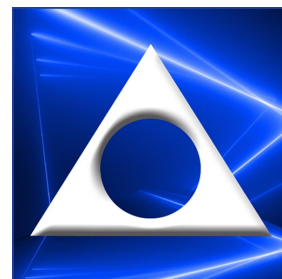
If you are looking for a new service role perhaps one of these four roles could be right for you. If you have been considering a new service role, and are wondering if any of these might be right for you, why not give it a chance? If any of you are wondering if there will be support once you take on a new role, know there is always someone in our Area 24 who can help support you. I found myself in these three circumstances more than once and when I stepped forward my self-esteem grew immeasurably.

I encourage you to push past that comfort zone in favor of the goodness of your growth and serenity. You deserve it, you are entitled to it, and you will be served so well for stepping forward.

In conclusion I would like to thank all of you for this opportunity to serve as your Delegate for the last 3 years. It has been nothing short of stimulating, gratifying, fulfilling, and yet, none of these words alone, nor combined do it justice. Perhaps I can create a new word that is not yet in Webster's Dictionary..., "Serenitizing". I never envisioned that this role would bring me the joy, the growth and camaraderie I've welcomed and accepted into my life. I wish you all the greatest joy and blessings in this holiday season. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can ever be of assistance. Lastly, I hope you embrace service through the program, and consequently, I hope you embrace all the happiness you can handle...and then some. God bless you all.

With the kindest blessings and sincerely,

Phil B.
Delegate, Panel 61
Maryland/DC



N.B. (I would like to credit the Texas East Area for a portion the third paragraph related to service)

From our Chairperson

“Part of my business today is the welfare of Al-Anon. I can’t do everything, but today I do what I can to ensure that Al-Anon remains here for others in need as it has been for me.”

p. 314, *A Little Time for Myself*



It is so important that we keep this thing going, this thing that has “saved our lives.” We have had a stable and strong Area 24 all throughout the Pandemic. Are we going to let this Area deteriorate now?

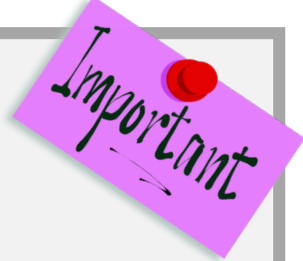
As of the Election Assembly and immediately following, we have filled all but one of the coordinator positions with some incredible Al-Anon members who will do an excellent job for all of us in the Area. But we still need to fill some key positions on the Steering Committee and one Coordinator position.

- **Area Secretary-** Take minutes during AWSC meeting and Assembly. This position is part of the Steering Committee for Maryland and the District of Columbia. May need to take minutes during Steering Committee meetings. Sends minutes to the Al-Anon-Cer.
Qualifications: Served as a secretary at the District level, AIS, or convention level. Be familiar with the service manual. Al-Anon member for at least 3 years, who is not a dual member.
- **Area Treasurer-** Financial officer of Area 24, Part of the Steering Committee. Develops the budget, keeps the books, reports on the finances of the Area, files the tax form (even though we are tax exempt), sends donations, etc.
Qualifications: Has served as the treasurer at the District level, AIS level. Be familiar with the service manual. Can use QuickBooks. Al-Anon member for at least 3 years, who is not a dual member.
- **Delegate-** Primarily an information conduit between the World Service Organization and our Area of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Represents our Area at the World Service Conference. Willing and able to attend the World Service Conference in April, during the next three years. Also attends the Northeast Regional Delegate’s Conference (NERD) in March in preparation for the WSC. Be able to keep up with a lot of emails. Be familiar with the service manual. Be willing to travel around the Area and get to know all districts. Al-Anon member for at least 3 years, who is not a dual member. Need to have served a full term as a District Representative in Maryland or the District of Columbia.
- **Area Literature Coordinator-** Gains a familiarity of all the Al-Anon literature and is able to share that with all of us. The Literature Coordinator maintains the literature display boards and brings them or gives them to others who can display them at Area Conventions including the AA Convention with Al-Anon participation. Al-Anon member for at least 3 years, who is not a dual member.

These are brief descriptions of the jobs and the requirements. For additional information please see the Al-Anon Area website: <https://www.marylanddc-alanon.org/area-jobs-service> or call the Al-Anon member who currently holds this position through the end of this year.

Let’s keep Al-Anon strong in Area 24. It’s a difficult time with our busy lives and demands on our time. We have the resources in Al-Anon to meet the needs of today. The previous group of Area Officers and Coordinators have left us in good condition and are always available to provide support and guidance. So, let’s keep it going!

Important Notice from AIS-DCSMD



On November 9, 2023, the Board of Directors of the AL-ANON/ALATEEN INFORMATION SERVICE of WASHINGTON DC AND SUBURBAN MARYLAND, INC. (AIS-DCSMD) met and voted to dissolve the AIS-DCSMD.

Without a slate of Officers to be elected at its December 7th Annual meeting and without a sufficient level of interest and commitment by other program volunteers to perform outreach or to maintain an answering service or a website, the AIS-DCSMD incorporation application could not be submitted on its Biennial renewal due date of March 31, 2024. Instead, that will be its dissolution date.

The purpose of the AIS-DCSMD has been to aid the Districts that had formed it originally and incorporated it in 2014 by assisting in the coordination and maintenance of outreach activities such as staffing information tables at health fairs and distributing Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism to local libraries and professionals, as well as operating a centralized telephone answering service and a Website. These and other activities supported the common purpose of the Districts to carry the Al-Anon message to the suffering families and friends of alcoholics.

An AIS-DCSMD dissolution plan has been drafted and will be available for review at a later date. Remaining funds after all AIS expenses are paid will be donated to the WSO.

District Reps, Area Coordinators/Officers and AIS contacts, please look over your contact and meeting information on pages 16 – 20 and send any updates to: Newsletter4Area24@gmail.com

Also, don't forget to get your flyers for spring events to us in time for the March issue!



JOIN AA &
ALANON FOR A

HOLIDAY
POTLUCK
23
DECEMBER

SATURDAY @ 7:30 PM
ST. JUDES CATHOLIC
CHURCH

12701 VEIRS MILL ROAD,
ROCKVILLE, MD 20853
BRING A DISH
MEETING TO FOLLOW



2024 Spring and Fall Convention updates

The 47th annual Spring Convention

will be taking place June 7, 8 &9, 2024
at Washington College, Chestertown, MD
This year's theme is "*Finding Our Happily Everafter*"

There is a convention committee meeting Saturday, 12/9/23 via Zoom.
The only chair positions we need to fill are Hospitality Chair and
Printing/Publishing Chair. Feel free to join any of our committees.

Please contact Jane M at Janemacnealy@gmail.com for more details

At this time, we plan to have an **in-person Fall Convention in November 2024!**

We have a partial committee in place, including Chairperson, Co-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. There seems to be good word-of-mouth interest in resuming a face-to-face convention, which was last held in 2019.

What we need is the proper venue for our Fall Convention. The Delta Hunt Valley is not housing conferences and conventions in 2024, so that is out of the question. We have a Venue Search subcommittee who is vetting various conference centers throughout Maryland and DC. There are several good possibilities, and we are hopeful of signing a contract before too long. We are mindful about keeping costs reasonable for attendees as they have skyrocketed over the past few years.

***If you are aware of a locale that might suit our needs,
please reach out to me ASAP.***

(Please don't contact the venue yourself as we may have already done so)

Let's keep our fingers crossed. As soon as we can secure a venue, we will announce a Kick-Off meeting to get things rolling.

Thank you, Joe D

jodifran@hotmail.com

Save the Date!



The annual District 7 SereniTea

will be held
Sunday, March 3, 2024
2-4pm

Fellowship, speakers, refreshments
Grace United Methodist Church
5407 N. Charles St. Baltimore 21210

Stay tuned for the flyer and more details



Treasurer's Corner

A new treasurer was not elected at the fall assembly. If you have been the treasurer of a convention, an AIS or an active district or have significant accounting experience, please consider volunteering to serve the area as the treasurer.

Contributions

The group, district and individual contributions for the first three quarters of 2023 were \$13,828; \$4,855 in the first quarter, \$4,613 in the second and \$4,360 in the third. The Area thanks you for all these contributions. See the "Contributions July through September 2023" page for details of the \$4,360 in contributions in the third quarter.

Very generous personal contributions helped boost our total contributions. As more groups resume meeting in person more baskets will be passed around and contributions should return to pre-pandemic levels, which used to be about \$1,500 higher for the first three quarters.

Expenses

The total net expenses for the first three quarters of 2023 were \$5,880. The expenses are low for this time of year because we have not yet made the budgeted contribution of \$5,000. The fall area assembly approved an additional contribution of \$6,900 of money above out prudent reserve.

Third quarter total expenses were \$3,340. Payments were \$2,530 to send our new delegate to the 2024 World Service Conference, \$340 for the area web site, \$40 for Alateen support, \$190 for June AI-Anon-Cer printing and mailings, \$190 for Public Outreach, and \$50 to support the hybrid Spring Assembly.

The cash balance as of September 30 was \$40,300. The remaining known major expense for the year will be the \$11,900 contribution to the WSO. The smaller expenses should total under \$400, including about \$140 to print and mail the December AI-Anon-Cer, and \$100 in web expenses.

2024 Budget

The 2024 Budget was approved at the Fall Assembly. See the "Approved Budget for 2024" page for the details.

There are three significant changes for 2024 from the 2023 budget:

1. The cost of insurance for the area will be \$2,390, \$330 more than budgeted in 2023. This is because the Crime Theft insurance is paid every three years.
2. The budget for Legal and Professional services was reduced by \$250 to \$350. We now use a free service to do our IRS non-profit filing.
3. The budget for printing and mailing the AI-Anon-Cer was increased to \$700, an increase of \$100 from 2023.



Yours in Service,
Charles L Treasurer

AFG of MD and DC Inc
Approved Budget for 2024

Income	
4100 · Contributions	
4101 · Group Contributions	\$ 17,000
4102 · District Contributions	2,000
4103 · Individual Contributions	60
Total 4100 · Contributions	19,060
4200 · Conventions Proceeds	
4201 · Spring Convention Proceeds	0
4202 · Fall Convention Proceeds	0
Total 4200 · Conventions Proceeds	0
4800 · Interest Income	3
Total Income	\$ 19,060

Program Expenses	
5010 · WSO Contributions	\$ 5,000
5020 · Alateen Support	
5021 · Alateen Coordinator	1,000
5022 · Alateen Process Person	250
5023 · Background Checks	1,300
Total 5020 · Alateen Support	2,550
5030 · Literature	
5031 Literature Coordinator	100
5032 Jessup Literature	400
5033 · Frederick Literature	0
Total 5030 · Literature	500
5060 · Convention Support	
5062 Spring Convention Chair Expense	100
5063 · Fall Convention Chair Expense	100
Total 5060 · Convention Support	200
5070 Liason to AA Support	
5071 Liason to AA Spring Convention	500
5072 Liason to AA Fall Convention	0
Total 5070 Liason to AA Support	500
5080 Public Outreach Coordinator	1,900
5090 Web Services	400
5100 Technology Services	200
5120 AI-Anon-Cer	700
Total Program Expenses	\$ 11,950

Administrative Expenses	
6010 · Steering Committee	
6011 · Chair	\$ 400
6012 · Secretary	150
6013 · Treasurer	150
6015 · Delegate to WSC	3,000
6016 · Delegate Expenses	250
6017 · Alternate Delegate Expenses	150
Total 6010 · Steering Committee	4,100
6020 · Regional and Past Delegate	
6021 · Northeast Regional Delegate	750
6022 · Past Delegate N.E. Regional	2,000
6023 · Past Delegate Miscellaneous	100
Total 6020 · Regional and Past Delegate	2,850
6030 · Group Records Coordinator	100
6040 · Archives Coordinator	100
6050 · Assembly Meetings	850
6060 · AWSC Meetings	700
6070 · Insurance	
6071 · Liability Insurance	1,224
6072 · D & O Insurance	800
6073 · Crime/Theft Insurance	330
6074 · Insurance Coordinator	36
Total 6070 · Insurance	2,390
6090 · Legal and Professional	350
6120 · Contingency Fund	300
Total Adminstrative Expenses	\$ 11,740

Total Program and Admin Expenses	\$23,690.00
Net Income (Expense)	(\$4,630.00)

AFG of MD and DC Inc Contributions July through September 2023

AFG or District	Amount
000 Individuals	\$696.53
000000 Unknown Group	\$60.00
0002415 Brightwood AFG	\$57.63
0002424 Friday Night St Albans DC	\$60.00
0002433 Let it begin with me	\$50.28
00030503137 Ellicott City Courage to C	\$50.00
00030519063 Paths to Recovery	\$35.33
00030532420 Sat Serenity Easton	\$37.50
00030550843 New Beginnings	\$19.11
00030555587 Norbeck Blvd AFG	\$42.63
00030563855 Severna Park Sat Morn	\$21.60
00030567681 Monday night Ellicott City	\$10.00
00030573893 Just for Today	\$40.00
00030586318 Keep It Simple AFG	\$15.00
00030625374 Participation	\$24.80
00030654267 Tues Step Severna Pk	\$28.00
00030657156 Beginners By the Bay	\$50.00
00030664356 Mionday at a Time	\$46.00
00030676662 Paths to Recovery	\$24.00
00030678086 New Market	\$25.00
00030683130 Weds. Rising Sun	\$30.00
00030685957 Women's Renewal Kensington	\$126.25
00030793689 Fallston Parents	\$10.00
00030795 Learn to Live	\$22.80
00030800327 Many Vioces 1 Journey	\$31.38
00030810832 - Olney Monday PEG	\$25.00
00030818077 Sat. Morn. Serenity-PEG	\$19.11
00044667 Weekenders Hagerstown	\$38.50
00046170 Fri Morn Gratitude	\$49.40
00047185 Arnold Monday Night	\$35.00
00049402 Keep It Simple, Arnold	\$128.32
000503306 Westmoreland Circle	\$30.00

AFG or District	Amount
00052341 Steps to Serenity	\$100.00
00052431 Came to Believe	\$100.00
00052791 Bolton Hill Family AFG	\$159.96
00053132 MWF AFG	\$55.00
0005774 Annapolis Tuesday pm	\$40.25
0005785 Broadway Mon Night	\$60.00
0005789 Catonsville Early Bird	\$100.00
0005803 Loch Raven Fri Morn	\$75.00
0005805 Govans AFG	\$68.00
0005839 We Care Tues	\$30.00
0005849 Wed Beltsville	\$212.00
0005856 Potomac Womens AFG	\$43.00
0005891 Crofton	\$7.00
0005892 Fort Cumberland AFG	\$70.00
0005895 Pasadena Monday Noon	\$20.00
0005903 Tuesday Night Topic	\$92.00
0005916 Forest Hill	\$40.69
0005943 Friday Nighters	\$97.52
0005967 Linthicum Heights Thursday	\$50.00
0006025 Anne Arundel Thurs Nite	\$76.00
0006035 Silver Spring Thursday PM	\$42.63
00060374 Miracle and Rainbow	\$30.00
0006060 Westminster Mon night	\$25.00
0006062 Wed 12 + 12	\$50.00
0006063 Wheaton Family Group	\$219.56
00061600 How AFG Works Study	\$16.00
00063891 Tuesday Night Eldersburg	\$75.00
00064316 Davidsonville Adult Child	\$82.00
00064317 Midtown AFG	\$15.58
00066997 Steps to Recovery Wed	\$25.50
00067295 Service for Fun	\$42.80
District 13	\$300.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$4,359.66

CONTRIBUTIONS

Online at MarylandDC-Alanon.org with Paypal, Credit or Debit card.

By mail make the check payable to AFG of MD & DC.

Send check to: AFG of MD & DC, 3116 Parkway, Cheverly, MD 20785-1255

Please note "individual", group number or district number on check.

Contributions above the level required to pay expenses and maintain the prudent reserve are normally contributed to the WSO each year after approval by the assembly.

The WSO number for a group can be found on the Al-Anon.org web site at the bottom of the listing for the group.

Do you know a teen affected by someone else's drinking?



ALATEEN is a supportive program for teenagers who are affected by the drinking and related problems of a parent, family member, or friend

ALATEEN is a safe place for teens to gather & share their experiences, strength, and hope

LOCAL MEETINGS

MONDAY NIGHT - ZOOM
New Hope Alateen Meeting
For Ages 9-19

7:30pm - 8:30pm
Meeting ID: 897 5578 6747
Passcode: 717885

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9740789758?pwd=WXZpMnE5eEl3N2ZQWDJRc3J1dGxTQT09>

TUESDAY NIGHT - IN PERSON
New Market Alateen Meeting
For Ages 9-19

7:30pm - 8:30pm
Grace Episcopal Church
5740 Green Valley Rd., New Market, MD
(AA & Al-Anon meeting in same location)

THURSDAY NIGHT - IN PERSON
Arnold Alateen Meeting
For Ages 9-19

7:30pm-8:30pm
Arnold Asbury United Methodist Church
78 Church Road, Arnold MD
(AA & Al-Anon meeting in same location)

SATURDAY - ZOOM
Serenity Step Alateen Meeting
For Ages 9-19

11:00am - 12:00pm
Meeting ID: 852 9632 3586
Passcode: 240291

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83580763081?pwd=SUFTRjlHWUZoR3I3YUNwdGp5U1Rndz09>

www.alateenmddc.com

Area 24 Group Records Instructions: New Trusted Servants & Temporary Ad Hoc Electronic Meeting Updates for WSO, Area & AIS Group Records!

**Update your WSO Group Record with your New Telephone Contacts, CMA,
GR & Ad Hoc Electronic Meeting Information.**



Trusted Servants: WSO expanded the Meeting Location Special Instruction section in the Group Record to allow for “Face to Face” (FTF) & “Ad Hoc Electronic Meeting” Comments/Information. This displays on WSO’s “Find A Meeting Page” for the Newcomer & Returning/Visiting Member to use to attend your meetings.

Instructions on how to update your group’s WSO Group Record:

1. From Al-Anon’s homepage (<https://al-anon.org>). Select “Members” tab”; then Select “Group Resources”; then Select “Group Records”; then Select “Group Change Form on this page & input your group’s data. OR cut and paste: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/group-resources/group-records/> directly into your browser, input your information and submit. Your input into the WSO Group Change Form is re-directed to the Area 24 Group Records Coordinator (AGRC) for their data entry into the WSO Group Records Database within seven days of receipt.
 - AGRC Process: AGRC updates WSO record, which is uploaded within an hour to the WSO database & is available on WSO website.
 - AGRC notifies the meeting’s GR/CMA, DR and AIS (when meeting is located in an AIS area) & requestor if not GR/CMA/DR/AIS via email.
2. WSO expanded the Meeting Location Special Instructions section of the Record to accommodate detailed information on FTF meeting instructions & ad hoc electronic meeting information.
3. Other Group Records Change Options:
 - Email Area 24 Group Records Coordinator, Flemena B at records4area24@marylanddc-alanon.org with updated information for input or Send USPS mail to 9157 Helaine Hamlet Way, Columbia, MD 21045, or call 1-443-756-9699 for input.

Check WSO’s “Find a Meeting” feature to see how your meeting is listed for the Newcomer and visiting Member: <https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/find-an-al-anon-meeting/>.

To make contributions to Area 24

Mail to:

AFG of MD and DC, Inc
3116 Parkway
Cheverly, MD 20785

- *Make donation checks payable to “AFG of MD and DC, Inc”*
 - *Please include your group name & number on your contribution*
 - *For District contributions, include the District #*
-

To make contributions to the World Service Office

Mail to:

Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc.
1600 Corporate Landing Parkway
Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617

- *Please make donation checks payable to “AFG, Inc”*
- *Please include your group number on your check*

Meeting Information: 888-425-2666
All other business: 757-563-1600

Website: <http://www.al-anon.org/members>

All members are encouraged to visit and browse the WSO website!

Members can also make an online donation to both the Area and WSO very easily on the Area 24 website:

<https://www.marylanddc-alanon.org/>

...fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions

Al-Anon-Cer

Published by Al-Anon Family Groups of MD & DC

www.marylanddc-alanon.org

Editor: Joe D Newsletter4Area24@gmail.com (outgoing)
Jill R. (incoming)

SUBMISSIONS

Send calendar events and reports for the Al-Anon-Cer to the editor by the deadlines below.

Please include contact info with your submission to enable the editor to verify/clarify information

SUBMISSION DEADLINES			
Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
March	February 15	September	August 15
June	May 15	December	November 15
<i>Early submissions are greatly appreciated!</i>			

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Group Reps (or Current Mailing Address for group if different from GR), District Reps, Area Officers & Coordinators, Past Delegates, Regional Trustee and Area Information Services may request a paper copy. Additionally, all other members may request a paper copy; a \$15 annual donation to Area 24 is suggested but not required.

**The Al-Anon-Cer may also be emailed to any member who requests a subscription.
Email your subscription request to: Newsletter4Area24@gmail.com**

Or subscribe at the Area 24 website: <https://www.marylanddc-alanon.org>

OUR TRUSTED SERVANTS

Area Information Services

AIS of the Mid Chesapeake Region

Anne Arundel Co and Northern Eastern Shore

PO Box 763, Severna Park, MD 21146

(410) 766-1984

Website: www.md-al-anon.org

Meets quarterly in January, April, July, and October, on the third Wednesday of the month, at 7:00pm via Zoom. For more information, call (410) 766-1984 or email alanon@md-al-anon.org.

AIS-DCSMD

(Al-Anon/Alateen Information Service of Washington DC & Suburban Maryland, Inc)

PO Box 7457, Silver Spring, MD 20907

(202) 635-2023

Website: www.al-anon-alateen-dcmd.org

Contact: chair@al-anon-alateen-dcmd.org for more information

Please see important announcement on page 8

Please plan to attend the December 7, 2023, AIS annual meeting at 7pm on Zoom if you have any questions about the impending dissolution of AIS-DCSMD. Zoom room opens at 6:50 and the meeting will begin promptly at 7pm

AIS-DCSMD This meetings will be convened in Zoom:

to join: <https://zoom.us/j/92807385147?pwd=TFFLUC9temlyMXUwRzNs2iZbGxxdz09>

Meeting ID: 928 0738 5147, Pass code: 342961

or join meeting by Telephone: One tap mobile or Dial +1-301-715- 8592, Meeting ID 92807385147#, Pass code *342961# #

Baltimore Al-Anon Information Service

PO Box 185, Kingsville, MD 21087

(443) 695-0221

www.alanon-maryland.org

Baltimore AIS business meetings are the second Tuesday of the month (no mtgs in June or Dec) at 7:00pm. For more information call (410) 832-7094 or go to www.alanon-maryland.org

Baltimore, Baltimore Co, Harford Co,

& surrounding areas:

Carolyn S. (443) 528-5992

Please email orders and include the group and your name, address, and phone #.

AlanonLiteratureDepot@gmail.com

Eastern Shore (District 24):

Ruth C. (443) 235-0300

Ercody1@aol.com



Answering Services



Cumberland Answering Service

(301) 722-6110
(through AA answering service)

Easton Answering Service

(410) 822-4226
(through AA answering service)

Salisbury/Ocean City Answering Service

(410) 742-2504

Al-Anon/Alateen Information Service of Washington, DC and Suburban Maryland, Inc (AIS-DCSMD)

www.al-anon-alateen-dcmd.org

Frederick – Hagerstown Answering Service (Frederick & Washington Counties)

(240) 285-9831

MINUTES OF
THE FALL 2023 AWSC MEETING
(AREA WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE)
Sept. 23, 2023
10 AM to 3 pm

Conducted via Teleconference using Zoom

Meeting began at 10:00 am

Open with Serenity Prayer

Reading of Steps: Art S

Traditions: Patty K

Concepts & Warranties: Katie C

Chairperson Welcome and general information: Dolores, Chair:

Purpose of this AWSC Meeting is to prepare for the Fall Election Assembly, establish the calendar for the 2024 schedule of meetings, finalize the 2024 budget for approval at the Assembly, and get reports from all coordinators and districts. Dolores thanked everyone for attending, and noted this is an important time to consider service going into the Fall Election Assembly next month.

Group Records Coordinator, Flemena B:

A reading of the explanation of Warranty 3, as it applies to guiding our decisions during the meeting, was read by Flemena

Roll Call and establishing of Substantial Unanimity:

Total voting members present: 23

Motion for establishment of substantial unanimity: Charles moved 2/3 for substantial unanimity.

Motion passed (16 members) will serve as substantial unanimity.

Secretary, Paul C.:

Approval of minutes from the Spring 2023 AWSC Meeting.

Motion to approve Spring 2023 AWSC minutes, as published in the June 2023 Al-Anon-Cer.

Motion approved.

Paul also thanked everyone for submitting their reports prior to the meeting today.

Delegate's Report: Phil B.

Phil shared a recap of the 2023 International Convention, a Literature report, and updates from the WSO since the WSC earlier this year. This included a review of a 3-page letter received by Delegates from the WSO Chairperson, covering literature sales, budget highlights, and a review of the very successful 2023 International Convention in Albuquerque NM. Phil noted the swing of a budgeted deficit of \$388k changed to a surplus of \$ 324K! A sellout of the new daily reader "A

Little Time for Myself™ occurred. The printer vendor has experienced issues in running a 2nd printing. Contributions also on track to be about \$200k over budget.

Phil provided a list of literature that the WSO is interested in hearing your experience using any of the items on this list:

The WSO is seeking sharing's for these items for the Forum-how many of these have helped members. These sharing's appear in the CAL Corner of the Forum. If so moved, please share your experiences of how the following literature items have helped your recovery:

A Little time for Myself B34

Lois Remembers B-7

Alateen 4th Step Inventory P-64

The Al-Anon Family Groups Classic Edition B-5

Moving On-From Alateen to Al-Anon P-59

Many Voices One Journey B-31

Alcoholism A Merry Go Round of Denial P-3

2023 Area 24 Fall AWS Conference September 23, 2023 (virtual)



Phil Beauchamp
Area 24 Delegate

Delegate Agenda

1. 2023 International Convention Recap
2. Literature Update
3. Latest Reports Provided by WSO:
 - * Conference Leadership Team Report (CLT)
 - * Chairperson of the Board Letter (COB)
 - * Finance Update
 - * All 3 reports available on www.Al-Anon.org

❖ *This report excludes topics I included in my Al-Anon-Cer Report*



2023 International Convention

1. **2023 Recap at:** <https://al-anon.org/blog/recapping-the-2023-al-anon-international-convention/>
2. **2028 Location will be identified at 2025 AA International Convention with Al-Anon Participation**
3. **Location is established after proposal submission review and extensive evaluation**



Literature

- **A Little Time for Myself (B-34):** Vendor Mechanical breakdown delays 2nd printing. Currently unsure of availability.
- **Just for Tonight Alateen Bookmark (M-82)** Currently available. Contains thoughtful, kind ideas that can assist anyone, Alateen member or otherwise.
- **CAL Catalog (S-15), CAL Order Form (S-16), and 2023 Conference Summary (P-46):** These should be available sometime in October or November.
- **Sharings needed for "CAL Corner":** WSO could especially like sharings from:
 - * A Little Time for Myself (B-34),
 - * Lois Remembers (B-7),
 - * Alateen 4th Step Inventory (P-64),
 - * The Al-Anon Family Groups Classic Edition (B-5),
 - * Moving On! From Alateen to Al-Anon (P-59),
 - * Many Voices, One Journey (B-31), and
 - * Alcoholism, a Merry-Go-Round Named Denial (P-3) - 50th anniversary.See the writing guideline at: al-anon.org/p40/CALcornerwritingbook#20231018.pdf



Conference Leadership Team Letter

- CLT includes:
 - Chairperson & Co-Chair of WSC (both Trustees)
 - Associate Director—Conference
 - Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
 - Executive Director
 - Director of Programs
 - Events Planner & Senior Assistant (operatively, see office, norvoting)
- CLT has reviewed the 2023 WSC survey results.
- 2024 WSC – In person Thursday, April 18 - 21 2024
- Founders Inn in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- Board of Trustees (BOT) approved 3 year trial for 4 day WSC: 2024 WSC is 2nd year of trial to see if shorter WSC would attract more participation due to decreased amount of time off.
- Some topics of discussion at 2024 WSC
 - * Shortened duration of WSC
 - * Thought Force to consider Delegate participation in CLT



Chairperson of the Board Letter (COB)

- Thank you to members for donations that help WSO staff provide the many services mentioned in the Quarterly Appeal letter.
- The BOT approved a revised budget for 2023 with net income of \$64,770.
- The next Road Trip is being hosted by California South (CA-S) on October 28, 2023. Registration opens sometime in September. BOT agreed to postpone for one year the trial of Road Trip! as a hybrid event, originally scheduled for 2023.
- Book sales at IC2023: Members purchased 8,015 English copies of A Little Time for Myself—A Collection of Al-Anon Personal Experiences (B-34), 584 Spanish, and 29 French. The fourday sales figure was \$152,421.
- The IC2023 member registration totals were: 3,387 Al-Anon, 42 Alateen, 293 A.A., and 54 guests (3,776 total in-person participants) plus 741 virtual registrants. A new record was set at 4,517 registrants!



Chairperson of the Board Letter (COB)

- Seven professionals attended as well.
- WSO is providing a replay of IC2023 for our virtual participants as well as those who paid and cancelled because they were unable to attend.
- The BOT is evaluating the cost/benefit of hosting the WSC in NY every three years to facilitate the visit to Stepping Stones. Trustees considered two topics also raised at the 2023 WSC:
 - * Increasing Delegate involvement in the WSC agenda
 - * Delegates want more involvement in WSC, are talented at organizing.
 - * Lower travel costs are possible if travel times are increased.
 - * Visiting Stepping Stones prior or after WSC would decrease cost
 - * Therefore, the 2025 WSC will be in NY or surrounding area as a trial.
 - * Delegates will attend as to form a Delegate team.
 - * Delegate Team will organize, coordinate registration, logistics
 - * Visit will occur either immediately prior to or after WSC.



Chairperson of the Board Letter (COB)

- The Board continued a generative discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) by reflecting on the Trustees' participation in the 21 Day Challenge, a program of various resources to gain insight into Trustees as individuals and our biases. The program focuses on the following actions: read, listen, watch, notice, connect, and engage. We are committed to continuing these conversations. Trustees made several suggestions for next steps for our October Board Meeting.
- An update on the Alateen Feasibility Strategic Plan Strategy was presented. A motion passed to approve the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) identifying next steps for a project to create an Electronic Alateen Safety & Behavioral Requirement (EASBR) for Areas within the WSC Structure and an intentional EASBR for international structures.



Chairperson of the Board Letter (COB)

- A guest speaker presented their Ph.D. dissertation topic, titled "Does it Work if You Work It? The Therapeutic Elements of Al-Anon Participation"
- Their research relied upon anonymous data from Al-Anon's 2018 Membership Survey.
- The speaker focused on what other professionals would need to know about Al-Anon Family Groups.
- Speaker discussed in their research that longevity in Al-Anon was a key component of better mental health. The presentation ended with a Model of Effective Al-Anon Participation:
 1. Attending Meetings
 2. Spiritually Motivated
 3. Working with a Sponsor
 4. Engaging in Service
 5. Serving as a Sponsor
- This presentation was well-received by the BOT; they hope to see them at the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention with A.A. participation as one of our professional speakers.



Finance Update

- Signed by BOT Treasurer – Anne Marie Z.

Year to Date (YTD) June 2023		
	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Revenue		
Literature Sales—net	\$1,381,119	\$1,078,613
Contributions	\$1,407,775	\$1,183,436
Other income	\$364,755	\$279,300
Total Revenue	\$3,153,649	\$2,541,349
Total Expenses	\$2,828,928	\$2,930,215
Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$324,721	(\$388,866)

Quote from Lois W., "Al-Anon is a program of love, and love is the primary motive in all our activities." (p 230 Many Voices, One Journey [B-31])



World Service Office



Thank You



Area Alateen Process Person- Lynne K.

Please see the report "Area Alateen Coordinator- Kristen O. and Area Alateen Process Person- Lynne K." later in the minutes

Treasurer's report: Charles L.

Presentation of the 2024 Budget

Charles shared slides comparing estimates for the current year vs proposed 2024 numbers. We are in healthy shape, despite some expenses expected, but not submitted.

2023 Fall AWSC Treasurer's Report:

The status of the budget as of August 31 was reported. Income and expenses have continued to be significantly below the pre-Covid levels. There is net income of \$6,980 and a bank balance of about \$37,000 as of August 31. However, some major expenses have not been paid. The remaining expenses are estimated to be a \$11,900 donation to the WSO, \$440 for website expenses, \$360 Al-Anon-Cer expenses and \$420 in possible Alateen expenses.

The projected result for 2023, based on expected expenses and hoped-for contributions, is a deficit of about \$100. The projected bank balance at the end of the year is projected at about \$30,000, which is about \$6,700 above the 2023 prudent reserve. Contributions from groups and districts are projected to continue to be down significantly. There have been generous individual contributions.

It seems likely that more groups will be meeting in person before the end of the year. Groups, whether meeting in person or electronically, 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 have one. Individuals can also contribute directly to the WSO, Area 24 and their AIS at their web sites.

There are two budget adjustments to be presented to the assembly. The cost of printing and mailing the Al-Anon-Cer is projected to exceed the budgeted amount by about \$100. At the beginning of 2023 the money in the bank was \$6,920 above the prudent reserve, so we had projected that we would be able to contribute that excess to the WSO. As we come to the end of the year it is clear that we are able to make that contribution, so the assembly will be asked to raise the contribution amount to the WSO by \$6,900.

The budget proposed for 2024 has five changes from the original 2023 budget:

- The budgeted amount for insurance will be about \$330 higher than in 2023. This is to pay the premium for our Crime Theft Insurance, which we pay every three years.
- The budget for the literature chair will be reduced by \$50.
- The budget for Archives will be reduced by \$100.
- The budget for printing and mailing the Al-Anon-Cer is increased by \$100 because of higher anticipated mailing and printing costs.
- The budget for legal and professional services has been reduced by \$250 because we are able to file our tax documents for free.

Charles suggested that the excess of approximately \$6600 be sent as an additional contribution to the WSO. A motion at the Assembly will be made.

Dolores commented (for newer attendees here today), that committee chairs need approval at the Assembly, for increases\adjustments to their budget.

A motion was made by Charles: I recommend to the Assembly that we increase the Al-Anon-Cer budget by \$100, and send an additional contribution of \$6900 to the WSO. Dolores broke the voting into 2 separate motions. Al-Anon-Cer motion passed. WSO Contribution motion passed.

Idalia spoke of the tricky position of electronic meetings making contributions. Members need to hear a consistent message of where contributions should go. Lucinda also echoed the idea of DR's reaching out to groups to form a methodology of moving contributions from members of electronic meetings to their District.

Ed E asked about the Insurance amounts increasing. Gil L spoke of why the increase. Insurance is not based on the number of members attending, virtual or in person. A significant portion of insurance cost is for Directors and Officers Liability and Employment Practices Liability, and 2) Commercial General Liability.

Al-Anon-Cer Coordinator and 2024 Fall Convention Chair Report- Joe D:

Newsletter update-over 800 electronic and 24 in paper form. Joe has one more issue to publish. Please have anyone interested in taking on this service opportunity for the next 3-year term, please have them contact Joe D directly. Please continue to make your submissions to Joe D, and include contact information so Joe can clarify items where there might be any confusion.

Joe spoke of the possible restart of the Fall Convention. A meeting was held to explore the possibility. 12 people came forward to volunteer for most of the committee chairs. Treasurer, Secretary, Chair, Program, Registration were filled. The members present at the meeting felt confident that attendance will be healthy. A search for a site has begun. A lot of experience is present withing those who attended. The next planning meeting is scheduled for October 7th.

Q: Suzy M-is there a Co-Chair yet? A: No

Q: Charlie S-Is it going to be Hybrid or in person? A: In person only

Q: Marie M-Who to contact if interested in service? A: Please contact Joe D via the Al-Anon-Cer mail address.

Chairperson: Dolores

Calendar for 2024:

Spring AWSC Meeting: March 16 or 23? *March 16* was suggested

(World Service Conference-need time to meet prior to Delegate attendance of WSC)

Spring Assembly: *May 18, 2024*. This gives the Delegate time to prepare a presentation. May 18 was suggested.

Fall AWSC Meeting: September 14 or 21? *September 21* was suggested.

Fall Assembly: October 19 or 26, 2024? *October 19th* was suggested.

These dates will be taken to the Assembly for voting.

Lunch- 30 minutes

Reconvened at 12:33 with the Serenity Prayer

Area Alateen Coordinator- Kristen O. and Area Alateen Process Person- Lynne K.

Lynne K presented the below report

AWSC 9/23/23 Alateen Report Kristin O. - AAC & Lynne K. - AAPP

There are still currently 4 Alateen meetings. Monday night zoom, Tuesday night in person (New Market), Thursday in person (Arnold Asbury), and Saturday morning. Each meeting hosts 1-2 teens per meeting over the last six months. Ages range from 9-19. The Saturday 11am meeting will continue having an in-person meeting on the first Saturday of the month. They are considering moving the meeting to St. Luke's in Silver Spring at the same time. Originally Saturday's Alateen meeting was previously connected with a Takoma Park meeting that continued to be 100% virtual since COVID. A meeting in Baltimore is in the planning stage. We have trained several new AMIAS in the area that have coordinated with each other.

We are still having very low turnout. Many weeks of our meetings have zero Alateens participating. We have exhausted our ideas and resources on outreach ideas. My request to the area is to create a working committee of Al-Anon members that could temporarily help cover more areas and come up with some fresh ideas. The AMIAS are spread thin running meetings and doing our current level of outreach outlined below. We are risking burnout related to service from our members, if we ask them to take on more.

Budget

- No Changes

Outreach:

- Baltimore AMIAS' have organized an open house event on Oct. 14th at Terrapin Adventures. We currently have low registration (only 6 so far) and would like help from the area members, reps, etc. to get the word out. We have changed the

registration to be free for anyone who has attended an Alateen meeting and their parents. We have openings for a total of 24 teens and 10 parents under our current listing with Terrapin Adventures, but that number can be adjusted before Oct. 4th.

- AAC has been reaching out to local school psychologists with Alateen information and flyers. Most recently Calvert and Howard County.
- Distributed Alateen pamphlets to Westminster Boys and Girls Club. Will gauge interest of the organization for hosting an Alateen event or meeting upon next visit.
- Carroll County Health and Humans Services website now has information linking to Alateen and Al-Anon resources.
- Baltimore AMIAS' have organized an open house event on Oct. 14th at Terrapin Adventures. We currently have low registration and would like help from the area members, reps, etc. to get the word out.
- Many AMIAS members have been to health fairs and recovery events throughout the area to help spread the word.
- Alateen will be participating on Oct. 13th "5th Quarter" at Broadneck High School with a table for Alateen.
- Please coordinate with AAC or AAPP for much needed outreach assistance. This can come from any Al-Anon members, not just AMIAS.
- Please also spread information to any AA meetings that members participate in. We tended to get more teens coming from parents in AA than Al-Anon.

AMIAS Training:

- We have about three AMIAS in the queue to become AMIAS after getting background checks.

Suzy M mentioned a possible meeting at Liberty Grove Methodist, Burtonsville. Wed night at 7:00. An active AA and Al-Anon meeting meets there. Lynn or Kristin will follow up.

Patty K: She knows of a recent AMAIS who has transferred from another state. Does she need to attend training? A: Likely she will need to have a background check, but Patty will contact Kristin.

Theresa C-mentioned that a meeting in Parkville has an AA and Al-Anon meeting-this is another possible site for an Alateen meeting.

Gil L: Is the Terrapin Activity the same as the "5th Saturday event"? A: This is the same event-he wanted to know the insurance impact. He reminded attendees that if any activity vs a regular meeting is planned, an insurance certificate should be sought.

Q: Maria M-who to contact if there is interest in forming another meeting. Please contact Kristin, via the Alateen website (for contact info)

Comment by Sue N. Perhaps coordination of geographically similar groups consider an activity every 6 months. Kristin should be contacted. This may be a good outreach tool.

Flemina B: Sue's comment sounds like an overlay district function. Please bring this to the Area, if it comes to fruition. Dolores M noted that activities that overlay districts may possibly occur even if no overlay exists. Lynne encouraged consulting with the AAPP and Co-Ordinator before planning these activities.

Kristin requested a working committee to be formed for assistance and ideas for increasing Alateen meeting participation.

Alternate Delegate and Liaison to the AA Convention- Suzy M.

Suzy is grateful for the Alternate Delegate experience. As a member of the Steering Committee, she has learned a lot. She encouraged DR's to suggest reading the Forum. She also encouraged getting "The Loop" by contacting the WSO to get this electronic communication. Also, please encourage members to get the electronic Al-Anon-Cer.

As a Liaison for the AA Convention, she benefitted from her service, despite being a busy person with work and family. There were 4 workshops, and an Al-Anon speaker (Katie C) Suzy was impressed how the AA members in service worked together. She thanked the Literature Depot folks for providing literature. 4 volunteers helped man the sales table. Newcomers were present at every workshop. About 700 attendees were there. The AA committee would like to encourage having an Al-Anon panel so that AA's could understand more about Al-Anon.


Archives Coordinator- Lucinda W.

Lucinda has not been especially busy. She says that the job is not complicated and it's fun. She encourages someone to come forward to take on this position. She suggests that the banners, now numbering 20-30 or more. She has the banners, and will continue to store them, if the new Coordinator would like her to keep them.

Group Records Coordinator- Flemena B.

On June 10, I attended an Area Group Records Coordinator (AGRC) web conference held by WSO Staff. The web conference provides AGRC's a platform to meet other AGRC's, learn with live training, address specific topics, ask questions, and share ARGCS' experience, strength, and hope.

The AGRS web conference primarily dealt with Electronic Groups. My takeaways from this conference.

- Electronic Groups in geographic area
 - "Ad-hoc, temporary electronic, and Zoom meetings only" need to decide as soon as possible to become a permanent Electronic Group. within 6 months or by the end of this year.
- How to find Electronic meetings in your area.
 - Go to: <https://al-anon.org/>
 - Meetings: <https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/find-an-al-anon-meeting/>
 - Go to "Find a Meeting":
 - Select "My Location" button  (initially Al-Anon will ask permission to use your location)

Meeting Language

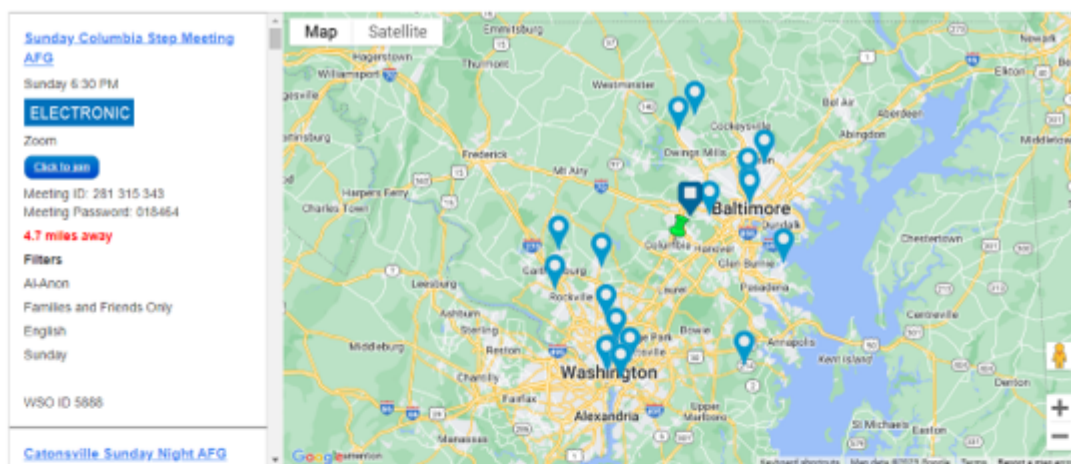
English Español Français Other Languages

Meeting Day

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

- Select "Group Type"

- Select "Meeting Language"
- Select "Meeting Day"



As AGRC, I am humbled by the opportunity this position has afforded me. I have the honor of facilitating the process that makes Al-Anon available to as many people as possible who want and need a meeting. Giving this service has helped me grow while providing hope, help, and recovery for those suffering from the family disease of alcoholism.

Thank you,
Flemena B
AGRC

Lucinda W.

Q: Is there a backlog to process change requests? Some who have submitted changes, are hesitant to publish more locally, changes in their status, virtual or in person, because the WSO might not have updated their record.

A: Please contact her-she notes changes occur constantly. Please include the WSO group #, and host facility. This is VERY helpful to get changes published.

Paul C encouraged using the published (in the Al-Anon-Cer) groups records change form for efficient handling of changes for your group.

Suzy M asked about new groups or new GR's being aware of how to update changes to their groups.

Charles L: He noted on the WSO website, that searching there will show electronic and in person meetings, and the icons next to those groups make it easy to determine the format. There is a change form for Electronic and face-to-face meetings, and it must be filled out completely. If this form is completed fully, the changes will be updated to WSO within a few days. This was his recent experience.

Please see this link: <https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/find-an-al-anon-meeting/>

Insurance Coordinator- Gil L:

Area 24 has good insurance policies in place to cover our liabilities. Our main policy has two parts. 1) Management Liability, which includes Directors and Officers Liability and Employment

Practices Liability, and 2) Commercial General Liability which includes Errors & Omissions, Directors, and Officers (Claims Made Liability), Abuse and Molestation and Employment Practices Liability.

This policy is with a broker who has worked with Area 24 for many years and is familiar with our activities. It renews Annually on April 1.

Area 24 also has a Crime Theft policy which covers the treasuries of Area 24 and the Spring and Fall Conventions. This is a 3-year policy, which will expire on March 16, 2024.

I will serve my term through the end of 2023, but need someone to take over going forward. Note: You don't necessarily need business insurance experience to fulfill the role of Insurance Coordinator. Please ask anyone in your groups or Districts to contact me if they are interested.

Public Outreach Coordinator- Idalia R.

WSO Public Outreach Coordinators Meeting, August 6, 2023

Attendees: Scott Powers, Director of Communications & Community Awareness, Sarah Cummings, WSO PO Coordinator, 54 Area PO Coordinators from US & Canada

Review of Pilot Program Professional Panel at the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention. It was very well received, very successful. Lots of positive feedback. There were 3 speakers. 7

Professionals registered as part of the convention. The panel discussion was full unfortunately had to turn lots of people away. Standing room was not allowed.

Day of Service workshops were also very well attended.

Best Practices for social media are still being developed. Date will be announced as soon as they are finished.

There will be a 2024 Membership Survey. Date to be determined. Recent survey sent out to those participants that have previously participated with personal code. Please check your personal email.

Currently the structure is set up for the WSO to send updates and information directly the Area PO Coordinator. If someone in the area reaches out to the WSO they will directly send information to the Area PO Coordinator.

There is a new AFG Connects Community. There is a survey/tutorial on how to use this community on the website.

Please note that WSO materials on the website can be used locally. WSO is currently working on expanding logos for use on letterhead. A style guide to make sure we are color consistent will be coming out shortly.

Also working on a PO calendar as part of the PO tool kit. There will be six projects from the best of PO. WSO is currently looking for Area projects that have been successful to include in the list of the best of PO.

Reminder the WSO is fulfilling their role as a clearing house. They want to give the Areas as many tools as they need for them reach out to their communities.

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism AFA is back in stock for September Recovery Month. Currently WSO is only supporting September Recovery Month & Alcohol Awareness Month in April.

Next WSO Public Outreach Meeting will be in February 2024.

Idalia thanked everyone for their service, and notes that our Area is very solid in their coordination with the WSO in their Outreach efforts.

I have contacted the electronic outdoor company regarding a board on Joppa Rd. The board is currently under contract. They will let us know if the board becomes available in the future.

Next WSO Public Outreach Meeting will be in February 2024

Literature – Vicky B.

A brief report. She attended the AA Convention and had a great experience representing Al-Anon there. She is ready to turn over the position, and she is happy to work with a new person, on how the job is done.

Spring Convention 2023 Chair- Jane M\Cecelia M

Jane will be the Chair for the 2024 Spring Convention June 7-9

Finding Our Happily Everafter

All chairs filled, except Hospitality.

A tentative contract for Washington College has been requested. A W-9 request was received from the college: re: Insurance. The next planning meeting will be Oct 7th.

Report from 2023 Spring Convention wrap-up provided by Cecilia M.:

It was an honor to serve in the capacity of Chair for the 2023 AlAnon Spring Convention at Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland.

I was blessed with a hardworking and responsible Group of Committee Chairs that made me look good.

From a Chair perspective I learned that after confirming the dates for the Convention and voting on a logo/theme for the convention, the very next step is to enlist the services of a Speaker Recorder usually "Bob" from B & C's Sober Voices/www.bcsobervoices.com / bcsobervoices@aol.com immediately. I was not aware that his services were automatic and therefore was surprised when I went to enlist his recording skills he was unavailable, and I was then in need of searching for a replacement. Fortunately, asking always makes the difference and prior to the start of the Convention I enlisted Kyle who provided me with two different recorders, one came on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning and the other Saturday evening. The recordings were not on CD's and hopefully everyone will receive a link to download each speaker in the very near future.

Being able to depend on each committee doing their responsibilities showed me how to delegate and not be worried that things would not be completed.

The Committees were Welcome, Decorations, Registration, Program, Entertainment, Saturday Night Dance, Saturday Night Alternative, Hospitality, AA Speaker and AlAnon Speaker.

My main team of Secretary and Treasurer kept me informed and straight both in keeping accurate notes for meetings and sending payments to the College when the time came due.

2023 Spring Convention Chair

Report

July 8, 2023

As Chair I noted that our liaison with the College, _____ was not as cooperative with this Committee as in prior years. She was extremely curt and seemed rushed all the time. At check in things seemed to be quite chaotic as well as check out.

When we arrived at the college to set up, most doors were not even unlocked and a lot of back and forth was necessary for Committees to set up and rehearse.

Any time I mentioned this to _____ she would say "It's not in your Contract" or the times are in your Program." That was extremely frustrating, and it forced me to use my Al-Anon Program constantly.

Because of this type of or lack of cooperation we have received in the past, it was talked about relocating this Convention to a different venue. This will be a Group Conscience at the Area Level, unless we have a different College liaison next year (2024).

As the weekend began the response and enthusiasm was overwhelming and this Committee made it all possible.

THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU. I COULD NOT
HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT AND SERVICE.

YOURS IN SERVICE,

CECELIA MILLER

2023 SPRING CONVENTION CHAIR

Charles L noted the attendance was over 200, and ran a budget surplus, which will be sent to the Area. He notes some troubles with the host facility-no Hospitality room provided, and a few other concerns. It might also be necessary to revisit the Saturday only attendance, as the facility cannot accommodate more than a bit over 200 attendees.

Technology Coordinator- open position

The person (Greg), who assisted with our in-person meetings is unavailable on Saturdays, but would love to assist anyone coming forward. Please reach out to a Steering Committee member to get Greg's contact information.

Website Coordinator- Charles L.

Charles took the position with the intention of maintaining it, and not revamping it. The site is hosted by WIX. He found making changes pretty straightforward. No HTML coding is needed. A benefit of the job-he received messages about joining Al-Anon, so he has a first opportunity to welcome them.

Q: Marie M: How does someone come forward and how are they installed in an Area position? (The question followed the Webmaster Coordinator report, but applies to all Area positions.)

A: Anyone considering a position should attend the Area Election Assembly, to volunteer and be installed, if qualified, by a vote at the Assembly.

Baltimore AIS- Jesse A (outgoing chair) Jessica K (incoming chair)

Mid-Chesapeake AIS:

As AIS Chairperson for Mid Chesapeake Region, I would like to report that as groups have been getting back to in-person, more members are showing up for the quarterly AIS meetings. We selected a new secretary, and that person is getting better acquainted with our group. We have lost some groups since COVID, and we aren't sure if there are any meetings that have exclusively become electronic. We have done some adjusting to our website and

find that it is more prominent when searched. Hopefully we are reaching people that need to find us, based on the newcomers reported at in-person meetings. Our Public Outreach group is active and working to get literature to schools and libraries this quarter.

Submitted,
Lynne F
AIS Mid-Chesapeake Region

AIS-DCSMD-

Brant G spoke. The AIS continues its work virtually. There is no coordinator at the moment, and there is a working group to revise the guidelines and service position descriptions. The leadership continues to meet virtually.

District Reports:

1 Diane S.-no report

2 Katie CS

District 12 has 13 active Al-Anon groups, one permanent zoom and 2 hybrid. All but 2 have GRs, some are new, some will rotate within the next year. We have 1 Alateen group reopened in June. Only 2 teens so far, and only 1x each. Most meetings are represented at the District meetings. We have a free Google Voice District Phone # but very low activity. We will vote in November if we will continue or retire the number. The # is currently posted on the Area website. We also have a D2 website that we created during COVID and are continuing to maintain for meeting and event info: [Area 24 District 2](#). We had our annual picnic in July with Al-Anon & AA speakers. It tends to be so hot for this event that we plan to choose another time of year rather than July or August in 2024. We also had a Workshop on using the traditions and concepts and talked a bit about service. We raffled off 5 of the new daily reader and gave copies of When I Got Busy, I Got Better to participants. It generated a lot of good discussion but was less than 20 participants. We have a hike coming up on 10/7 at Cunningham Falls and our annual Holiday breakfast on 12/2. We had District elections At our district elections this month and voted in a Secretary, but all other positions were deferred to another election in November.

3 Patty K

Their service positions are all filled. Their main concentration is currently getting outreach refreshed, especially Alateen. No Alateen in Carroll County for the last 12 years or so. They are trying to contact AA groups to get Alateen eligible young person's aware of Alateen. 10 meetings, 8 are in person, 1 hybrid, 1 electronic only, but is unregistered. No decision about becoming a registered electronic permanent meeting.

4 none

5 Gail B-no report. Delores stated that they are very active, and she believes they have a workshop planned.

6 not sure

7 Robert W

7 Robert W

Western half of Baltimore City. They have about ½ of meetings represented. 13 active groups. About half of the meetings have elected new reps, and they hope to have a new DR elected.

8 Winston M (outgoing) Teresa C (incoming)

Theresa reported 15 meetings. One new meeting, one meeting is back to in person. Fall workshop "Changing Seasons, Finding Hope" October 7th.

9 Nancy T

3 groups face to face, about 10 each meeting. No new DR yet. Elections in October. A picnic was scheduled for today. They have rescheduled for Sunday, October 8.

- 10 Greg M.-no report
- 11 Donna L.-no report
- 12 Gail KW-no report

13 Brant G

He is the new DR. They have about 20 meetings in Montgomery County. New officers have been installed. They hope to restart the Spirituality Workshop, which was an overnight event prior to Covid. They hope to have a representative at the AIS of MD&DC soon.

14 Charles L

Charles noted that Hannah would be stepping down. There is a tendency to be late for the virtual District meetings and seeing no one, they leave, then another joins, seeing no one, they leave.

15 Marie M.

9 active, one is virtual most weeks. All but one position is filled. They have 13 AMIAS-great. They don't have many teens attending though. She is planning on attending all meetings to get her face out there, and get interest in planning events moving forward.

16 Amanda B.-No report

17 none

18 none

19 Charles L.

1 in person, 1 permanent electronic and 2 temporary electronic meetings.

20. Lynne F.-no report

21. none

22. Sarah R.

Norma W is the new DR, taking over for Sarah R. Attendance at DR meetings was poor. She is trying to find ways to encourage attendance. Her own meeting where she was a GR-they have a lot of out of Area attendees-as it's virtual. She knows there is an Alateen meeting but has not gotten up to speed on what is happening. They have their own website, which is updated, and an active Outreach group.

Idalia mentioned the Baltimore AIS has a meeting that covers using the service manual to assist groups. Please visit their website and the Zoom info for this is: id 89039066938 PW424242

Dolores mentioned the Service Manual is a great resource for new GR's.

23. Kim H.

13 active meetings. No Alateen. Some positions are still open.

24. Pat RB

Pat and the secretary have visited all 9 meetings. 3 are hybrid. All positions filled. One meeting is a discussion meeting, which is a bit different. When attending, it was not as unusual as some people were led to believe. It helps when people see you and you see them.

All District service positions have been filled and begin in January.

The list of current Alateen meetings in our area can be found by clicking the link below. There are no current meetings in our district.

<https://www.alateenmdc.com/alateen-information/alateen-meeting-schedule/>

Also being considered is getting a Google phone number to publish for those who are interested in learning about Al-Anon

Any past delegates' comments:

Charlie S:

Thanks for your service to everyone, but please consider stepping forward for Area Chairs or Steering Committee positions.

Idalia expressed her thanks for being allowed to serve Al-Anon for the last 24 years. She is taking a break, but she plans on becoming active in her new home in Florida, very soon.

Importance of the Fall Election Assembly-Dolores M

Al-Anon still works. We are changing and sometimes change is slow. Let's not abandon our guidelines. Let's not be scattered. Let's keep doing what works while growing and changing to meet our challenges.

This fall, the election assembly is on October 21. We are going into it with a stable, active Area of Officers and Coordinators. We would like to be able to hand off these positions to people who can pick up where the previous officers and coordinators left off, for a smooth transition.

Now is the time to reach out to people in our groups and districts to ask them to consider running for appropriate positions. The jobs don't have to be done Perfectly, but they do have to be done to have an effective and vibrant Area. You will not be alone. You have the experience, strength and hope of people who have done the job previously and the support of everyone who needs Al-Anon and Alateen. Let's work together to keep our program going in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Dolores M.
Area Chairperson

Phil reiterated his willingness to assist anyone considering being the Delegate.

Chairperson- Dolores M. - Wrap-up the meeting, and
End with the Al-Anon Declaration and the Serenity Prayer.

Meeting ended at 2:52

Paul C
Area 24 Secretary