

**IOWA AREA 18
SPRING ASSEMBLY MEETING
JUNE 13, 2009
CLEAR LAKE, IOWA**

Chairperson Janine J. called the meeting to order at 2:50 PM with the Serenity Prayer. Total attendance was 93, 56 of which were voting members.

Secretary's Report: Dilly P. read the secretary's report from the March 22nd AWSC meeting. The report was approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Bonnie J. reported the following totals and balances: Balance Brought Forward March 31, 2009-\$9,245.65, Total Receipts-\$1,434.74, Disbursements-\$1,006.86, Balance Brought Forward May 31, 2009-\$9,673.53. The report was filed as read.

Delegate's Report: Lorraine R. shared her journey of the 49th WSC with us. On Saturday I participated in a "thought force" on Conflict Resolution. A thought force has a short term focus, prepares itself with information by reading and conversation, it takes no action, though it does send on its information to a group who might take action which is called a task force. The general fund had a loss of \$71,000 compared to an income of \$8,000 last year, income from literature sales were down 4% from last year, contributions were \$1,000 less than last year, and *Forum* subscriptions income is about 8% less than last year. Operating expenses increased by \$34,000. Iowa's group contributions were up; I was thrilled to see contributions by Iowa were 61.5% in 2008 compared to 44.3% in 2007.

Regional Service Seminar update, the new title is TEAM, Together Empowering AI-Anon Members. They can target smaller audiences, no longer on a three year rotation, possible to share cost and program with other areas, more flexibility to target specific needs of the local interests, and better use of resources. More information is in the DR's packets.

We went to the World Service Office; it was great to go there. Our WSO is filled with the energy of AI-Anon and Alateen. The walls are loaded with history, and the architecture is symbolic of the AI-Anon triangle with the hole in the center.

We voted to amend the World Service Conference Charter. The Alateen Traditions were not recognized in the AI-Anon World Service Charter. The World Service Conference Charter is found on page 152 of our AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. The motion carried.

We discussed AI-Anon's participation in the 2010 A.A. International Convention in San Antonio, TX which will be July 1-4, 2010. The 2013 AI-Anon International Convention will be July 3-5 in Vancouver, BC. Linda B. from Dubuque was affirmed as Chairperson for the Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM) and Debbie G. Past Delegate from Des Moines was affirmed for a 1-year term on the ECRPM committee.

Alternate Delegate's Report: Maddie P. reported:

Conference Coordinator Report: Maddie thanked District 3 for all of their work on hosting two assemblies in a row. She also thanked our speakers for sharing their stories.

2009 Fall Assembly: Theme: "On the Broad Highway" Date: October 9-11, 2009 Place: West Des Moines Marriott, District 7 Speakers: AI-Anon – Judy K., Alateen – Alex P., Sunday morning – Sandy B. Co-chairs Katy P. and Kim H. will be bringing you up to date details in their report.

2010 Spring Assembly: Where: Buena Vista University Storm Lake, IA. When: June 11-13, 2010. Thank you to our planning co-chairs Becky F. and Dorothy K.

Forum Report: Bob S. – WSO Director of Communications and Julie M. – Communications Manager-Member Content, organized another Forum Coordinators Conference Call. I attended the Saturday May 2nd call with voice and also the one on May 4th as a listener only. We had two key points of discussion: Subscriptions and Readership. Subscriptions are still declining, from 60,000 in 1989 to 19,000 today. Surveys indicate this is not due to cost but a change in interest. Bob turned most of our discussion from increasing subscriptions to increasing readership. How do we encourage members to feel that *The Forum* is needed as a vital part of their personal recovery? How do we show them how special, contemporary, and different it is from our other literature? I found this quote where Lois shares her feelings on the importance of *The Forum* to personal recovery. “We foresee a constant increase in the growth of Al-Anon and one very important stimulus to such growth stems from *The Forum*. Many groups tell us that *The Forum* subscribers are their backbones: they steadfastly stay with the group and keep very active.”

Bob and Julie liked our idea of RAP, Remind, Ask, and Pass. GR's are *The Forum* representative for their groups. Ask them to report back to me how they are using *The Forum* as a group or personally, likes and dislikes. I will compile and pass this information back to the groups and WSO. Watch for Bob's personal article in the July Forum with more information on how to further engage the fellowship in *The Forum*.

Did you know...The idea for *The Forum* was not conceived by Lois W. The first “members newsletter was called “*The Family Forum*”, started by Ruth G. of San Francisco, CA in 1947.

Coordinator Reports:

Alateen: Brenda C. reported that the Alateen speaker today was Maria M. from Dubuque and there were 7 Alateen present. Our Serenity Weekend, Together We Can Make It was really great. We had 61 participate, 12 sponsors, and 49 teens. This was up from last year about 10%. We had a writing session and sent off a large envelope of sharing's to WSO. Our newest Alateen group, Courage to Change in Oelwein meets on Monday's at 4:00 PM. The AMIAS (sponsor) Workshop for this year will be held at the Fall Assembly October 9-11, 2009 in Des Moines. The Saturday morning presentation is for everyone and I will make time available for AMIAS sharing and concerns. Alex P. from Altoona will be the Alateen speaker at the Fall Assembly in Des Moines. KISS will be the theme for our next Alateen Serenity Weekend May 14-16, 2010 at Camp Wesley Woods. I just finished reviewing and have sent to WSO Iowa's list of registered Alateen groups and current AMIAS. The Final Balance for Iowa AFG teens is \$764.80.

Archives: Geri G. reminded everyone of her sentence for the year ARCHIVES equals Anyone Reading CAL Have Interesting Varying Experience Stories. Another reminder, today we are making our most recent history which gives hope for future generations. Our group history notebook has group front sheets for all groups started before 2008. I am working on New Alateen groups in 2008-2009, and then I will go through districts for new Al-Anon groups in 2008-2009. I am still working on the start date for Monday Night Ankeny AFG with group ID #4540. Districts 11 and 8 have District notebooks. District 3 and 2 will be getting theirs today. I am starting on District 1 now. I am still willing to help groups and districts come up with their history.

Group Records: Lori R. reported she received the Bi-Annual Print Out sheets from the WSO in April and she sent them out to our DR's. So far I have heard from Districts One, Two, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, and Thirteen, so this is seven out of fifteen. I have also received quite a few of the “Al-Anon Family Groups Annual Update Sheets” that the WSO sends out each year. The Groups fill out this form and send it back to the WSO. They in turn up date their records and then sent to me to update my records. This tool is very useful for me as there are two Districts with no Representatives. If your Group receives this form from the WSO, please fill it out and send it back to the WSO. We have opened 10 new meetings so far this year, and re-opened one previously closed meeting. There's only been one for sure maybe two meetings that have closed this year so far. If you would like a new Directory sent by email please let me know. The Directory is only as accurate as the information you send me, so it is very important that you send me any changes within your Districts.

Literature: Sue and Maddie shared Lila's report in her absence. I suggest each of you read and review the pamphlet Why Conference Approved Literature? (P-35). This pamphlet can be used as a topic for a meeting. The WSO supplies one copy of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual without charge to each registered group, to serve as a source of reference. It should be passed along to each succeeding secretary, who will act as its temporary custodian. Every Al-Anon and Alateen member is encouraged to own and study this Manual. It gives a clear and concise picture of the Al-Anon fellowship, its purpose and functions and how it helps us to resolve group problems and maintain unity. Additional copies can be ordered from the WSO or from your

Literature Distribution Center. The 2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Manual is downloadable in pdf format. Read and study your Service Manual – you will find answers to most if not all of questions you have about Al-Anon and service. Al-Anon has a wealth of CAL that meets almost every group and individual need. Take a look at a few that I have found interesting in the past few months: Al-Anon is for Men (P-2), Al-Anon Sharing's from Adult Children (P-47) and Why Anonymity in Al-Anon (P-33).

Newsletter: Becky V. shared that she sent out 235 newsletters and she got five back. I have notified Lori, our Area Group Records Coordinator of all the address changes. My expenses were a total of \$261.43. The post office informed me that with the new postage rate they will no longer allow staples in the mailing of our newsletter, so beware when you open your next newsletter all the pages will be loose. Please let me know of any group or any one personally that is not receiving their newsletter. I just smile each time I go the post office with my big tray of newsletters because I know of all the activity going on in IOWA!

Public Outreach: Donna P. reported for Jean L. in her absence. I have sent out many press releases that I hope have been sent on to your local newspapers. I have only heard back from 1 person who has actually sent it out. To help everyone out I have included in my report a copy of five easy steps for newspaper outreach. Please share this with your groups and districts. Are you ready for Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2010? I have included order forms with my report but you may want to use them just as reminders and send your actual orders on line at www.al-anon.org. If you see a TV or hear a radio PSA note the station and let me know (and thank the station!).

Web Page: Connie H shared with us in 2001 it was Iowa Al-Anon's goal to have a web site available to individuals in Iowa searching for information and assistance to find recovery from the affects of alcoholism on their lives. In 2002 a web page coordinator's position was put into place on a trial basis and a site and page were developed. By 2008 the site had changed and grown and it became necessary and possible to move the web pages to a space rented on the WSO server. Today visitors can see District cards with meeting locations and times. They can also search for towns and meeting days. Various Area flyers are available for members and non-members to download and utilize. A calendar of events allows visitors to see what is happening in Iowa on different dates. A small member's page has been started for members involved in service. What is the future of www.ia.al-anon.alateen.org? Well, with member input, web page committee discussions, the Assembly and AWSC, who knows what things, will be included and how it will look down the road? What is missing? What needs improvement? What are you looking for when you check out our web page? Check out your web page!

District Reports:

1. Judy S., 2. Virginia B., 3. Tranquila M., 4. Kathie W. – not present, 5. N/A, 6. Avita M., 7. Shelley P., 8. JoAnn H., 9. Syd N. 10. Sheila H., 11. Donna P., 12. Carol M. – not present, 13. Mary R., 14. Dorothy K., 15. N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

Spring 2009 Assembly Report: Deb B. shared there were 385 total in attendance, 267 – AA, 104 – Al-Anon, 8 – Alateen, and 5 guests. Thanks Maddie for the information and support. Thanks Becky and Lorelei for your help.

Fall 2009 Assembly Report: Katy P. and Kim H. reported that District 7 held their first planning meeting and they have sub-committees in place to oversee registration, greeting, love gifts, and the hospitality room. We plan to meet monthly until the Assembly. Alateen is participating in our planning meetings. We continue to work with Maddie who is doing a great job addressing our questions. Everything with the venue and planning with AA is on schedule. We encourage everyone to register early if you can.

2009 Area Serenity Weekend: Lorraine shared that Kathy and Chris from District 5 will do the early morning meetings. Bring bedding, flat sheets, pillows, towels, cup w/ lid, and a newcomer. The cabins will be assigned after all registrations are received. If you want to room together send registrations together and you need to register for the same package. Package A - \$90, Package B - \$60, and Package C - \$35.

Inventory Ad Hoc Committee: Helen W., Lori R., and Donna P. handed out sheets and asked everyone to fill them out and turn them in by the end of the weekend.

NEW BUSINESS:

2010 Spring Assembly: Dorothy K. reported the location is Storm Lake, IA at Buena Vista University. The committees have been selected. Becky F has consented to be the AI-Anon chairperson. The theme is Keep Comin Back.

Love Gifts for 2010 WSC: Lorraine asked everyone to bring her ideas for love gifts she can take to the next WSC; she needs a hundred of them.

Archive Notebooks: Geri G. brought gifts for all the odd districts because the odd districts were done first getting their schedules to her and having group front sheets in our history notebooks. She also gave gifts to the first odd and first even districts to complete this. She also gave history notebooks to the DR's from Districts 3, 2, and 1.

District 5 Update: Kathy Corkery has agreed to be the DR for District 5.

District 13 Phone Service: Dave R. shared they used to use a phone service that cost the District \$60 a month and now they use a cell phone service, it is a Trac Phone service for \$10 a month. People can leave messages, the messages are checked daily. They are looking at other options where phone messages will send an email. If anyone has any questions they can contact Dave. They are encouraging the District to use other electronic things to keep things moving on line to pass on to the next person so things don't get lost.

Dave W. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 PM. Seconded by Gail H. Motion passed. Members closed the meeting with the AI-Anon Declaration.

Learning in Service,
Dilly P.
Area Secretary

Iowa AI-Anon Information Service Centers:

(515) 233-6312 - Ames / (319) 365-5955 - Cedar Rapids
(402) 553-5033 - Council Bluffs / (515) 277-5059 - Des Moines
(712) 255-6724 - Sioux City / (319)291-3660 - Waterloo

www.iowa-al-anon-alateen.org / www.al-anon.alateen.org / www.al-anon.alateen.org/members

DATES TO REMEMBER:

2009

August 1	Iowa Reaches Out deadline
August 9	AWSC Meeting
October 9-11	Fall Assembly, Des Moines
November 1	Iowa Reaches Out deadline

2010

January 9-10	Service Workshop & AWSC Meeting, Marshalltown
March 21	AWSC Meeting, Marshalltown
June 11-13	Area Spring Assembly, Storm Lake
August 8	AWSC Meeting, Marshalltown