

**IOWA AREA 18
FALL ASSEMBLY MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2009
WEST DES MOINES, IOWA**

Chairperson Janine J. called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM with the Serenity Prayer. Total attendance was 92, 58 of which were voting members.

Secretary's Report: Dilly P. read the secretary's report from the August 9th AWSC meeting. The report was approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Bonnie J. reported the following totals and balances: Balance Brought Forward July 31, 2009-\$10,023.20, Total Receipts-\$12,110.00, Disbursements-\$9,184.69, Balance Brought Forward September 30, 2009-\$12,948.51. The report was filed as read.

Delegate's Report: Lorraine R. shared more information from the World Service Conference. The WSO has been looking into hosting an Alateen Chat Room. The software is now available for the Associate Director of Group Services – Alateen and Special Services to be able to protect the Alateen members involved in an on-line chat. A teen would not be able to enter a chat unless a Moderator (two Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service Moderators) per meeting has already opened the Alateen Chat. The Alateen's would pick a topic and share on it. The Moderator's screen would see the message and view it before sending it on to other Alateen's in the chat room. If necessary there is a "gag" feature which the Moderator can use to block any message even to the Moderator and an individual can be blocked from the meeting. The safety of the Alateen members is important. Safety guidelines are still to be created.

The discussion continues about the division/consolidation of Areas. If you have questions or concerns please let me know so I may take them to the 2010 WSC. The current policy is stated in the 2006-2009 Service Manual on page 128. The WSO always needs competent members who represent the diversity of the fellowship. Some states have more than one Delegate. What will happen if there are states that have many Delegates? That voice would Iowa have at the WSC since it only has one Delegate? Pros: More groups/districts would be able to participate in Assemblies, The Delegate would feel more connected to the districts/groups, and Delegates with large geographical Areas would not feel so overwhelmed in their ability to connect with the group. Cons: Dividing Areas could make the WSC larger – is this what we want?, Cost of making the WSC larger, Separation rather than unity (ethnic, cultural, etc.), Can the fellowship support divisions financially and with adequate member participation?, A rushed decision could harm Al-Anon, Would solving one problem create another problem?

The purchase of property was for a trial period of fifteen years contingent on several conditions. In 2010 the fifteen year trial is up. Here are some pros and cons: A savings of \$250,000 a year has been realized by owning property in Virginia vs. leasing it in Virginia. The need for the WSO office staff to concern themselves with the search for office space or the day-to-day maintenance of a commercial property has been removed due to the ECRPM doing its job. The BOT (Board of Trustees) reviewed the last twelve years of real property ownership and has seen no negative impact. Any questions you would like me to take to the 2010 WSC please let me know.

Alternate Delegate's Report: Maddie P. shared with us:

Conference Coordinator Report: Maddie thanked the speakers and District 7.

2010 Spring Assembly: Theme: "Keep Comin' Back" Date: June 11-13, 2010 Place: Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, District 14 Speakers: Al-Anon – Zelda R., Alateen – Dan L., Sunday morning – Linda Z. Co-chairs are Becky F. and Dorothy K.

2010 Fall Assembly: Where: Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, Davenport, Iowa. When: October 8-10, 2010. Co-chairs are Shirley N. and Jaki P.

Forum Report: “*The Forum Challenge*” was set with a goal of 2 new subscriptions per GR. I am already hearing of 3-4 new subscriptions from groups using your *Forum* Cans and many other fun ideas. Sadly subscriptions continue to decrease in some states. Iowa subscriptions have increased from 260 to 337, bringing the group average from 1.4 to 1.76, we are aiming for 2. Please let me know how I can help as you continue to support your *Forum* with increased subscriptions and readership. GR’s, please turn in your new subscription lists to your DR’s, to be passed on to me. There is a prize for the winning District.

I had the privilege of leading a *Forum* Writing Workshop during the Fellowship Communications Action Committee Meeting this morning. I would like to encourage your group or district to hold its own writing workshop. Or ask me and I’ll come to your district. It’s your *Forum*.

Did you know...When submitting articles to *The Forum*, authors must give permission to have their sharing used on the Internet. Only then can articles be reprinted on Web sites or newsletters along with a “credit line”. If you are willing to share your article on the Internet, please indicate this when mailing or emailing your submissions.

Coordinator Reports:

Alateen: Brenda C. asked if anyone had seen the September’s issue of *The Forum* with excerpts from the Alateen Serenity Weekend writing session. A new Alateen meeting started in Davenport, District 9. Our Alateen speaker for the Spring Assembly in Storm Lake will be Dan L. from Cedar Rapids.

KISS will be the theme for our next Alateen Serenity Weekend May 13-16, 2010. It will be at Camp Wesley Woods in Indianola. I recently participated in an Alateen Conference Call with other Coordinators and staff from the WSO. There were a few thoughts I will bring to our Alateen committee.

Archives: Geri G. reported that brought the History Notebooks for Districts 5,9,10 and 12 for these Districts and Groups. I also made a couple of sheets of what could be in the History Notebooks for Districts and Groups. Do not limit yourself to just the list if you want to put more in it. I am still working on the start date for Monday night Ankeny AFG with ID #4450. I still need to do front sheets for new groups in 2008 through August 2009 for Districts 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15.

Group Records: Lori R. sent out the September printout sheets to each DR. I have heard back from nine of our DR’s, but am waiting on five others to get back to me on any changes. I also sent a list of Group Reps and Alternate Group Reps to each District Rep. Please try to keep the Group Records person in the loop whenever a Group Representative, or the Alternate, changes. There is a new meeting that registered in Algona, District 2. I continue to have the dream that we will have one Area Newsletter with no returns!

Literature: Janine J. read Lila D.’s report in her absence. Next Sample Chapter Project, you still have time to submit a sharing, Alateen – Hope for Children of Alcoholics, for meeting topics it is due back October 15th. Now is the time to pass out the handout for Discovering Choices for the Sample Chapter Project that is due January 15th. WSO is accepting sharings for a new history book, Tracing Our Growth; I suggest writing sharings for the new History Book for a meeting. I recently shared the procedure for literature to become Conference Approved Literature; it was followed by a writing workshop. I sent eleven sharings to WSO; some of the members sent their own writings to WSO.

Newsletter: Becky V. sent out 236 newsletters and she had six returns. My expenses were a total of \$266.18. Please remember to note the mailing label on your newsletter as it will indicate when your subscriptions will expire. It is always fun to get the newsletter in your own personal mailbox!

Public Outreach: Jean L. participated in a Public Outreach Conference Call on September 30th. One suggestion was to approach your place of worship and ask to put something in the bulletins as more people attend during the holidays. It is a good time to ask those TV stations to run the PSA's they have received, it helps to share a little of how the program has helped you to encourage play of the PSA. The PSA "Sketches II" was again in the top 10% of PSA airplays. The United States has only an 8% usage (out of every 100 stations that receive the PSA only 8 play it). Canada has 12% usage. How about stopping to drop off some literature with the request? Imagine if 1 person would approach every station in our area. Sketches III will be available at the end of October and be sent out to 1,000 stations. As soon as it is available I will let you know which stations in our Area get it. The second printing of 2010 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is available now for order. The order closes at 5:00 PM ET on February 10, 2010. During our conference call we were asked to encourage members to fill out the 2009 member's survey. It can be filled out until October 16, 2009, and is available online in the member's website. They stressed how they share this information with professionals and the media and it may make them more receptive to our message if they know who we are.

Web Page: Connie H. shared that at the August AWSC meeting the Web page committee met to discuss the future layout and information for the Area website. We discussed how to best make use of the web site and also think about who uses the web site. One item for discussion was the posting of District functions on the website. It was the consensus of the committee that District flyers should be posted but it would not be feasible to post Group flyers. If a District has an event that they want posted on the Area Website the DR needs to make certain the web page coordinator receives a copy of the flyer. The flyer must have the town, location, date and time of the event. The Alateen committee also requested some changes to the site in the Alateen area. They requested that there be further information on the Alateen page that would include Alateen flyers, upcoming events, and the Alateen section of the Area policy booklet. Those changes have been made, and I also added a link to Alateen Talk, the Alateen newsletter from WSO. Continue to visit the WSO members' site (www.al-anon.alateen.org/members). A current survey is the 2009 Membership Survey. The Al-Anon Family Groups Membership Survey has been conducted in the US and Canada every three years since 1984. The site also has two PowerPoint presentations (Responsibility and Understanding Anonymity) and one skit (Understanding Anonymity) available for members/districts or Areas to use. I appreciate the DR's continuing to send me their meeting updates, if I fail to get your District updated, please notify me.

District Reports:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

AMIAS Workshop Report – Brenda reminded the Alateen Members Involved In Alateen Service about the workshop that was going to be held after the Assembly business meeting today.

Fall 2009 Assembly Report: Katy P. reported there were total of 520 attendees, 353 – AA, 161 – Al-Anon, 6 Alateen. We have enjoyed having you in Des Moines and hope that you have found everything satisfactory.

Spring 2010 Assembly Report: Dorothy K. reported that the Conference plans are moving forward. Dicobe contracted the taping of the meetings, if they can make it possible, and they will be taping the Al-Anon Sunday morning Spiritual speaker. The next meeting will be Oct 26, 2009, at 6:30 in Sioux Rapids, Iowa.

Serenity Weekend Final Report: Lorraine enjoyed being part of the Serenity Weekend; the chair people did an excellent job. Thank you to all. The total profit was \$2,189.00. The basket silent auction had a profit of \$1,113.00.

Jan 2010 Service Workshop: Janine reported she has flyers available. Please change the date to be Saturday January 9th instead of the 10th on the flyers.

2010 Area Calendars: Becky V. and Deb B. reported they may make the squares bigger. The deadline for orders and payment will be Dec 15th. The deadline for the information to be put on the calendars is December 1st.

2010 Love Gifts: Lorraine asked each District to make any type of love gift; they need to make 10 of them. Get them to Lorraine by the March AWSC meeting.

TEAM Event Update: The Ad Hoc committee is looking for topics, if you have something you would like suggest contact one of the Ad Hoc committee members Lila D., Avita M., Mary R., or Katy P.

Inventory Ad Hoc Committee: Helen W., and Lori R., reported. Helen shared that once every three years an inventory is done in the Area to see what's working, what's not, we are always trying to improve.

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.

NEW BUSINESS:

2010 Serenity Weekend: Sonya K. made a motion "I move that the location of the 2010 Iowa Area Serenity Weekend be moved from the Newton Christian Center to the Twin Lakes Christian Center in Manson, IA." Seconded by Ann H. Discussion followed. Since a contract was signed at Newton would it look poorly on AI-Anon? Not if we notified them in a timely fashion. Why do they want to change? Because everyone enjoyed the facilities, they were nice. Suggestion to try both facilities. Twin Lakes is very handicapped assessable. What's best for the Area? We had more people at the last Serenity Weekend than we have in the last several years. At Newton some of the buildings will require a lot of walking. Facilities for lodging are closer at Manson than Twin Lakes. Regarding distance, people are willing to go the distance for Serenity. The motion passed. The Serenity Weekend in 2010 will be held in Twin Lakes.

Lorraine let everyone know there will be a planning meeting at the Best Western in Marshalltown, IA, on Saturday Jan 9th, 2010 at 9:30 AM. Bring your ideas! The 2010 Serenity Weekend will be at Newton.

2010 WSC Chosen Agenda Item: Lorraine asked that if you have thoughts on what Iowa Area is interested in to email her and she will take this information to the WSC.

2010 Fall Assembly: Shirley N. and Jaki P. reported that the AA group is very organized. We have volunteers to be greeters, do registration, help in the hospitality room, and pick up the AI-Anon speaker. The theme will be "I Am Responsible". Amy P. will be the Sunday Spiritual Speaker.

We adjourned the meeting at 4:36 PM. Members closed the meeting with the AI-Anon Declaration.

Learning in Service,
Dilly P.
Area Secretary

Iowa Al-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.ia.al-anon.alateen.org / www.al-anon.alateen.org / www.al-anon.alateen.org/members

DATES TO REMEMBER:

2009

November 1 Iowa Reaches Out deadline

2010

TBA	North Central Regional Service Seminar (TEAM)
January 9-10	Service Workshop & AWSC Meeting, Marshalltown
February 1	"Iowa Reaches Out' deadline
March 21	AWSC Meeting, Marshalltown
May 1	"Iowa Reaches Out' deadline
May 14-16	Alateen Serenity Weekend Wesley Woods
June 11-13	Area Spring Assembly, Storm Lake
August 1	"Iowa Reaches Out' deadline
August 8	AWSC Meeting, Marshalltown
September 1	Registration Deadline for Area Serenity Weekend
September 24-26	Area Serenity Weekend, Twin Lakes
October 8-10	Fall Assembly, Davenport (election Assembly)
November 1	"Iowa Reaches Out' deadline