

Minutes of South Carolina Area Assembly

SC State Museum, 301 Gervais (Corner of Gervais and Huger Streets), Columbia, SC

Saturday, – June 9, 2012 10:00 A.M. Chairman – Jeri W

Welcome – Opened with the Serenity Prayer - The Traditions were read by Richard.

Approval of Area Assembly Minutes – Minutes from January 21, 2012 were presented for vote by Jeri W. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Dale C. and seconded by Susan E. and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Fran B. – In Fran's absence, Jeri did the report. Beginning Balance is \$7,578.39. Income for the period was \$4,516.66 and total expenses were \$5,639.21 with an ending balance of \$6,455.81 as of April 30, 2012. As of June 6th we have a balance of \$9374.19 which includes income from the 2012 Convention and approximately \$1200.00 from group contributions. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as submitted was made by Eileen R. and seconded by Mary M. and unanimously approved.

Chairman - Jeri W. – Today is an opportunity to serve one another and the world-wide fellowship of Al-Anon, but particularly the state of South Carolina. Business is at hand and I am looking forward to the discussion, questions, and experiences of each Al-Anon/Alateen member. I never know what to expect, but I know that each of us has a common purpose – to let our Higher Power (whomever/whatever that may be) guide us with listening ears and open hearts.

This brings me to our Service Manual and Warranty Five: That though the Conference serves Al-Anon, it will never perform any act of government; and that, like the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups which it serves, it shall always remain democratic in thought and action.

On page 217 it states: "Because we set high value on our liberties and cannot conceive of a time when they will need to be limited, we enjoin our World Service Conference to abstain from any act of authoritative government that could curtail Al-Anon's freedoms. To maintain these freedoms the Conference must remain democratic in spirit and in action."

"Therefore we expect that our Conference will always try to act with mutual respect and love, one member for another; that no action will be taken in anger, haste or recklessness; that care will be observed to respect and protect all minorities; that no action will be personally punitive; that whenever possible, important actions will be taken in substation unanimity; and that our Conference will ever be prudently on guard against tyrannies, great or small, whether these be found in the majority or in the minority."

"The sum of these several attitudes and practices is the very essence of democracy. Our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live and have our being."

I find it so cool that these are the closing statements in our Service Manual. As we begin doing the business of Al-Anon and Alateen, may we remember that it is a privilege to serve and that we do so with dignity, honesty, and integrity. Yes, Warranty Five applies to the Conference, yet it applies to each and every one of us as we label ourselves with the title "TRUSTED SERVANT". I am grateful for the work that each of you is doing, whether the tasks are large or small. May we continue the freedom we have obtained through working the steps, traditions, and concepts by remembering that we all have a job to do – to work these principles in all of our affairs – not in haste, anger, or resentment, but in love, thoughtfulness, harmony, respect, and equality.

Alternate Delegate - Joyce H. – *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* - It has been such a joy to see the changes that are happening in Area 50. At each Area Assembly there seems to be more and more smiles showing up. All the District Representatives have been so helpful in rounding up their GR's and obviously encouraging them to attend Assemblies.

My hat is off to our Delegate and Chairman for the great job that they are doing. It has been a pleasure and also great learning experience to be on Panel 51

Delegate's Report – Jan R. - This year's World Service Conference was just as special to me as last year's. Although in a new and different arena (Stamford, CT) it was good to see old friends and make new ones as well. It was bittersweet seeing some of the Panel 50 delegates and knowing that this was their last year at conference. Many of these delegates have been friends and resources for me over the last year. This year we

actually had some time after we arrived to have a chance to sit and visit with the delegates we knew and were trying to get to know. I was able to have a couple meals with the delegates from Alabama, West Virginia and Puerto Rico. We discussed the theme for this year's conference: "Our Spiritual Journey – we get as we give." We remembered that we were there to listen and to lead our worldwide fellowship as we gave of ourselves and got from others. To quote the Chairman of the Board of Trustees welcome letter, "It is not about our individual agendas; it is about the group conscience as guided by our Higher Power."

On Sunday, delegates worked on their assigned thought force, task force or committee assignments in the morning. I worked with my group from last year on the presentation we would be making from last year's thought force. We had taken costumes and props to Connecticut with us to act out our presentation. The Thought Force I was on was How to Utilize the Service Manual. In the afternoon, we worked on new assignments – this year I am on a Thought Force on Strategies to Strengthen Personal Connections. We have begun the Knowledge Based Decision Making process and will be working over the summer to send info to the Executive Committee. Hopefully we will make a presentation at the next WSC in 2013.

Shared Area Highlights were held late on Sunday afternoon – every delegate is given the opportunity to share something positive and some struggle that their area is facing during their one minute presentation. I found that our area is like a lot of other in that it is difficult to keep service positions filled. Several areas had some interesting activities and ideas going. Several areas have guidelines and policies for their area and for service positions.

- Arizona has roving area workshops that are presented by area officers on topics selected by the districts.
- Alaska has a meeting by teleconferencing to reach remote areas.
- Kansas has their guidelines and policies on line in a searchable format.
- North Carolina has computer-based, virtual training for Alateen Sponsors and AMIAS training.
- Oklahoma has set up a QR scanable public outreach flyer that people can scan with their smart phone and get info on WSO and their area.
- Washington State has weekend long service seminars.

Al-Anon is staying busy and up-to-date across the world. Some of these ideas might not work in South Carolina but it is exciting to hear about them and imagine what might be possible for us.

We had our opening dinner on Sunday night with the first of our spiritual speakers.

Monday was spent in hearing the various reports on the audit, the budget and from the Executive Committee on Real Property Management. These were the time when it was often hard to stay awake. Although I knew all the presenters and love them dearly – their subject matter was very dry. We discussed the idea of Concept 5 – that we have mutual love and respect for one another; that there be no anger, haste or recklessness; that no action be punitive; that we be on guard against tyranny. The more information we have, the more informed our conscience will be and the best decision will be made.

We learned that the average meeting contribution is \$109 each. WSO spends an average of \$248 per group. We have saved approximately \$550,000 by owning the WSO property versus leasing. Literature sales were up this year. Contributions and Forum subscriptions were down.

We learned that if each group contributed only \$13 more per year than last year, budget minimums would be met. If each group gave \$26 more per year than last year, it would fulfill budget expense and cover any deficit. If each member gave \$17 per year it would equal \$3 million/year in contributions.

Our area has 67.9% of our groups contributing at an average of \$122 per group. Our contributions were up this year.

We each received a copy of the new Al-Anon Birthday/Group Birthday envelopes as part of the finance presentation.

During his Annual Report, Rick updated us some of the new things coming from WSO. The Parent of Alcoholics reprint is now out as well as the new Conflict Resolution card. There is a Task Force looking at working a new look for the Newcomers Packet. There will be a new look in the Service/Outreach/Recovery pamphlets that brings them up to a new, more modern look.

Rick made amends to the conference about the process that was used to do the Newcomer's Survey. There will be a task force looking at the possibility of surveys that we can participate in and making sure that it fits with AI-Anon policy and guidelines.

WSO is 90% finished with the new DVD for outreach. Shipping costs have increased to ship literature – minimum \$10 or 10%.

Bob Schneider introduced a whole new idea – we have been asked to come back and energize our fellowship to produce a multitude of posts with the tag line “Is Someone Else’s Drinking Tearing You Apart?” WSO will select multiple posters which will be put on the public side of the website. They will have the 1-800 number along with space for local numbers. We will be able to download posters and use in our area without written permission. There will be multiple choices to print our own posters. If you have a poster idea it can be sent as an attachment to an email at WSO@ai-anon.org with the subject line: Poster.

We continued to hear from the outgoing delegates in their 3 minute sharing’s. All of this information will be in the Conference Summary that should be available in August.

Instead of the regular chosen agenda items on our schedule, we had several sessions on e-literature. Many pieces of the process were discussed. Some of the questions considered where:

- Do we know if licensing/sublicensing is available or financially feasible? **It is being looked into and various options are being discussed.**
- What level of interest is in electronic literature? **There seems to be a great deal of interest in electronic literature primarily from people who already own the books.**
- What percentage of AIS/LDC revenue is from book sales? What are other revenue sources? **LDC/AIS placed 4, 276 literature orders in 2011. Although some AIS and LDC’s are not stand alone business, but run out of homes/cars, etc., there is not a lot of support other than from literature sales and area financial support.**
- What additional roles do/could AIS/LDC’s provide in the Areas? **Some provide public outreach, house meeting space, hold archive storage, etc.**
- Does your AIS/LDC currently sell on-line? Do they accept credit cards? Do they restrict sales to the geographic area of the groups that support them? **South Carolina does not currently have an LDC but many groups support the one in Raleigh. This LDC accepts credit cards, but does not sell on-line. It is currently struggling to survive and is outside our geographic area.**
- For calendar year 2011, sales of books/booklets was \$1,911,795 (72.5%) and other literature was \$723,291 (27.5%)
- Many delegates feared that AIS/LDC’s would be detrimentally affected by the loss in sales if we move to electronic literature. It was made clear that there would still be the sales of regular books, but that electronic literature would be in addition to regular book sales. Hazelton experienced a 10% loss of revenue due to electronic literature. Current literature sales produce an income stream to sustain WSO. Electronic literature would cut costs for readers but hurt WSO in the long term.
- Contributions are not enough to sustain WSO and service arms would lose their revenue stream as well. The other service that LDC’s/AIS’s perform (i.e., marketing support, distribution, public outreach) would be reduced. It would also require more marketing costs from WSO. An affiliation with outside entities (Amazon, Barnes and Noble, etc.) is a concern. We (AI-Anon) do not sell books to be selling books but to sustain our primary purpose.

There is a licensing issue regarding other than the WSO selling the books (i.e., LDC’s etc.) 65% of AI-Anon income comes from literature sales.

What about ratings and other options on some of the electronic book websites – will we attract newcomers?

How would the fellowship maintain service of digital sales adversely impact the WSO’s revenue structure?

What other issues should the Board of Trustees consider in reaching this decision?

Is this the true business model we want to take into the future?

Electronics tend to be obsolete quickly.

WSO is not a publishing house because we can't be sustained by contributions.

A \$1 donation back at the beginning of WSO is equivalent to about \$8 today. We are not supporting ourselves with our contributions. The gist of this and other conversations that were held during the week is that electronic literature is inevitable in this changing world, but we don't have a start date yet – logistics are still being worked out. We continued these discussions for several days at different times. We also have to consider the impact of electronic literature in other countries that publish in their own language. As you can see it's a monumental task!

Other information we received talked about modifications to the AAPP process that gets packets out earlier with a checklist of required paperwork, etc. I am sure our AAPP person will be in contact with any details. Susan Outen now has access to Group Records page to input Alateen group info.

Work continues on the CMA Newsletter. Some issues were discovered in having proper email addresses to send them to. The first issue was sent to 6558 addresses with 1083 coming back as bad email addresses. In March they sent out 6583 and only had 32 come back. The goal is to send it out every 30 days. They are looking for ideas for a name for the newsletter. Please send your suggestions to WSO. They have completely revised the update form for group records that will allow for multiple meetings, email addresses. The first ones will go out to the NE and SE regions. DR's can go on to "read only" forms and they hope to set it up for one additional person to have access (i.e., Alternate Group Records person).

Work is being finished on an audio recording of How Al-Anon Works. It will be presented to the Executive Committee and then they hope to have it available on the Public Outreach webs.

The idea of a piece of literature on abuse was brought forward by the Literature Committee. After much discussion at conference it was decided that the committee should go back and do more research before presenting it as a motion at WSC. We will hear more about it next year. There was some great concern about us getting away from our primary focus and trying to define abuse. But others felt that some piece was needed. The Literature Committee will be looking at all these questions and more.

We discussed the 2013 International in Vancouver, British Columbia. You will need a passport to get into Canada. Registration information will be available this fall on the WSO website. Picture yourself celebrating worldwide unity with 4500+ Al-Anon's from all over the world! Information about the International will be available this summer. There will be a special service day on July 4, 2013 and the International runs from July 5 – 7th, 2013. When you register for the Convention, you will then be able to register for your hotel on the same site. Registration will be \$115 by 12/31/2012, \$140 before 5/31/13 and \$165 after June 1st including onsite. I hope you are all looking forward to and planning on attending the International. I am!!

We will be nominating a Regional Trustee from the Southeast next year. If you are interested in standing for Southeast Regional Trustee – please let me know as soon as possible. I can get you the resume form that must be filled out in order to get you on the slate for nomination. Resumes are due to WSO by August 15, 2012. I must be the one to submit them. I am currently the Alternate Chair for the Southeast Regional Trustee process. Grace, delegate from Tennessee, is the chair. We must nominate someone from our area prior to August 15th if we have someone interested in the position. These resumes will be received and scored by the Regional Committee for Trustees and the Nominating Committee by 9/30/12 and then a summary is sent to WSO by 10/15/12. At October board meeting, 2 candidates from each region will be selected and presented at the 2013 WSC. Election will take place on 4/13/13 at the Board meeting. To be eligible you must have at least 10 years in Al-Anon, not AA, have an Al-Anon service background and a business background is desirable. The districts can put forward candidates and the AWSC/Area will then vote on the candidates to forward to the RCT. So far, I have one candidate that has presented their resume. I would like us to consider her for nomination from South Carolina as our Southeast Regional Trustee candidate.

We saw many Thought Force and Task Force presentations/skits. Some of the topics included:

- Reaching Out to Minority Groups
- Do Not Refer Policy Discussion
- How to Utilize the Service Manual
- Working Together to Strengthen Our Links of Service with LDC's/AIS's, Areas and Districts

- Members Involved in Service Work Who Are Unable to Effectively Fulfill The Responsibility of the Position

I can give you more details of any of these if you are interested in learning more.

For the last 2 years, Al-Anon's radio and TV PSA's have played to a combined audience of 2 billion people, 400 million in 2010 and 600 million in 2011. Nielson has placed our PSA in the top 5% of all PSA's in the last few years. Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is setting sales records every year, but only 10% of groups are buying them. There are still important markets throughout the US and Canada that have not played the PSA's. Use the "Best of Public Outreach" material available on the Member's Website under Public Outreach to find sample scripts for calling radio and TV stations as well as letters to send as a thank you, etc. The DVD "Al-Anon and Alateens Role in Family Recovery: is in its 4th printing. 3,500 copies have been purchased by the fellowship. It has been translated into French and Spanish. Some clips have ended up on YouTube. The potential for this is great. We have a brand new PSA available and I brought a copy home with me on disc. The "Best of Public Outreach" is available to download from the member's website as well as Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism and the Service Manual.

We also received copies of the new envelope for Memorial Contributions. All contributions to WSO are tax deductible. Contributions can be made on-line and forms for automatic deductions are available on the WSO members' website.

- In your groups, how much are you putting in the basket?
- What is your ongoing commitment to recovery?
- How much has Al-Anon given you?
- Is your home group contributing to your district, your area, WSO?

65% of the WSO income is from literature sales – 35% from contributions. If you give 100% participation on the quarterly appeal, WSO will send out a certificate of thanks. It is not about the amount of money, but the participation in the 7th Tradition.

WSO is still looking for sharing's on the Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships piece – they have received around 300 sharing's so far, but need at least 1100 or more to work with. The Legacy workbook is on schedule and should be released at the 2013 International in Vancouver.

There will be no TEAM events from January 2013 until September or after due to the International, then a limited number for the rest of 2013.

Forum sales are down 2%. Encourage your members to share in the Forum. Also encourage members to share in the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism. Encourage your groups to purchase them. WSO would rather have 15,000 orders for 25 copies than 1 order for a million copies. Don't let them sit in the bottom of a box in the meeting – get them out to the public. Right now they are ordered about 1 order for every 10 groups.

The Membership Survey is being updated. I encourage all of you to go to the Members Website and fill it out.

Another big piece of news was the trial run on restructuring. WSO and the Board of Trustees have decided to do a trial run letting Areas decide on how they might like to restructure. The sky is the limit for ideas. Currently areas are allowed to divide once after they reach a certain size. In Areas like California for example, that means over 1200 groups in an Area such as California South. They will be allowed to divide into as many areas as they think necessary with the "new" delegates able to attend conference with no vote and their expenses paid by their areas. Areas can redistrict if they feel the need to or any other structure changes they would like to make. The trial will run for a least 2 panels and then the results will be analyzed.

So many more things were covered that I would be here all day making a report. And I want to make sure I talk about our visit to Stepping Stones. We rode chartered buses to Stepping Stones (and of course, we got lost but finally made it!) It was a true memory of a lifetime to take the time to walk through the house of Bill and Lois Wilson and get a glimpse of their life. I've brought back postcards from there that you are welcome to look at. I sat at the kitchen table where they sat, walked through Bill's office at Wit's End and sat at the desk where the Big Book was written, saw Lois's office and all her collections that she so painstakingly labeled for all of us who come through today. We had our panel stand for a picture on the front steps of Stepping Stones and had a lovely bag lunch on the grounds. Everything was just beginning to bloom when we arrived and it was

a lovely place to see. They led a simple life and the foundation is doing a good job to keep it preserved for us to visit.

Next year's conference will be in Virginia Beach from April 14-18, 2013. It will be my last year, so my panel will be doing a skit at the end. It will be tough to say goodbye to my fellow panel members, but that is the blessing of this program. We will stay in touch and be friends for years to come. And we will see each other again at International!

I want to thank Districts 3, 8, and 9 for all the love gifts they sent and all the cards and letters from everyone in the area while I was at conference. It was an honor and privilege to represent our Area at World Service Conference.

Alateen - Jan H. – SEE LONG Area Alateen Coordinator report in May Reflector for recent notes on Alateen participation at 2012 Convention, Alateen news around the state and detailed instructions for registration (costs and forms) for 2012 SC Alateen Conference.

OUR ATTENTION now is focused on finalizing activities, securing funding and including as many of our members as possible for the 2012 SC Alateen Conference July 13-15 at Camp Kinard. The need for scholarships is great.

The total registration cost per /weekend participant (including sponsors) is \$95/each. And, this covers food and accommodations. Those of you who have been involved with conventions know well, there are many other expenses to presenting a weekend of recovery like ours. From registration packets, hospitality goods and products, speaker gifts, crafts and decorations... to water toys, games and sports for down town. In addition to our individual group fund raising efforts, we could not provide such an experience for and by our teens without AI-Anon support. THANK YOU, to those groups who have made Alateen support a part of your budget.

ALATEEN DRAWING TODAY- One free ticket for PART A registration. Part A is the required one-page registration that provides critical planning details ...head, bed and meal counts. Everyone else wishing to participate in the drawing must pay (big time) to enter. We are giving away CAL Alateen literature and other surprises you can't live without. Stop by the Alateen table to find out how you can support SC Alateen.

Our DROP DEAD 2012 SCAC DEADLINE (to reserve meals) is June 30th however,...we can always find you a place to bunk. All forms are available at the website for download and also find extra... copies at the Alateen table.

ALATEEN BREAK OUT today after lunch. Meeting location is (Blue or Red) room on first floor. Alateens, sponsors and members interested in becoming sponsors, are invited. We will be discussing 2012 agenda, assignments and other Alateen thoughts for 2012.

Area Alateen Process Person - Susan O. – *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* -Recertification forms are due to me by May 16. I have received 21, with an additional 2 requiring more information. There are 19 more outstanding, I have sent 1 reminder and will send another early next week. I conducted Sponsor training in Myrtle Beach on March 31 with 21 attending, I have received 2 applications from that group.

Alateen - Gene W. – The deadline for Camp Kinnard is at the end of June.

Group Services - Joyce H. – *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* I would like to thank all District Representatives and GR's for keeping the changes coming current. It makes things so much easier this way. We have a new change form that WSO has designed and in my opinion much more user friendly. These will be given out to District Representatives today.

On several of the Conference calls that I have been part of, Problems that Area 50 may have are similar to all other Areas inside the US and Canada. I am looking forward to staying part of Groups Records Coordinators Community and listening and learning from others

Archives - Linda R. – Please look at the Area website (member side) and click on "Forms". You will find the group history form. Please have your group complete this form and send it to Linda R. Archives is interested in locating all past issues of the Reflector. Please contact Linda R. to see if you have any back issues that she might be looking for.

Literature – Nan M. – Highlights of E-Community conference call 3/7/12: • Hardcover How Al Anon Works ,pg #18 is a new page; they have returned the 3 C's to the new publication run of the book.

- Intimacy Sharing's - they have #200 sharing's and they need #800 to #1000 more, please talk this up within your district. There is no deadline and it looks as if it may be 1-2 more years to completion.
- Legacy Workbook - it is progressing but it presently needs primarily blogs on using The Concepts in your personal life. It will likely still be ready in time for International Convention.
- Parents of Alcoholics (R-18), Al-Anon Family Groups Reprint, due to an increase in # of parents of alcoholics this service tool was compiled from recent stories from The Forum to address their concerns. This will be printed for 2 years then will be reevaluated to go before WSO.
- Loving Interchange To Resolve Conflict (F-71) , this is a 3 fold wallet card that is a service tool addressing conflict resolution. It is brand new and can be ordered through your Raleigh LDC or the WSO.

Reminder: In any public outreach effort please consider using Al Anon pamphlets and/or literature. Literature is a wonderful and permanent connection with others.

Public Outreach – Dian R. – Please do not miss the deadline for the 2013 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism magazine in July.

Web Page – Mike M. – No Report at this time.

2012 Convention Chair – Janet L. – *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* - The 2012 Convention was held February 16th – 19th at Sands Resorts/Ocean Dunes in Myrtle Beach. Total registration was 380—247 pre-registrations including the 6 speakers and 133 on-site registrations.

We distributed feedback surveys at the final speaker session and received 88 responses. A tabulation of the responses and the written comments are included in the full Convention Report. The Committee Chairs also turned in reports with information and suggestions for future Conventions.

After living and breathing Convention for eighteen months, I find it hard to be objective. It was a wonderful experience, and I loved it. The following are my personal observations.

Hotel: Ocean Dunes was a good choice. I think having a new location sparked interest and contributed to the high attendance. The hotel convention staff cooperated with us fully, and Beth and I both recommend returning to Ocean Dunes in the future.

Signage: With a new location, we needed good directional signs. Our sign maker covered the hotel. The outdoor banner was a new feature; I hope it can be used at future conventions.

Speakers: Everyone loved the speakers. The only negative comments were that people found it hard to hear—sound system inadequate and too much noise from people talking in the back of room.

Workshops: We had 23 workshops scheduled in 9 time slots. There were 7 workshop topics offered multiple times plus the WSO and Alateen Sponsor workshops. People appreciated the variety of topics, but there were complaints that the workshop schedule left little free time. Having some workshops where attendees break into small groups or do an activity would be a nice change and allow people to mingle more.

Alateens: Alateens enjoyed their suite for hanging out and having meetings. I thought the Alateen participation at Convention was great.

Hospitality: Kudos to the Hospitality Committee for making the most of a room that had no sink or running water. They provided plenty of food and drink, but at times the room was just too small for the convention crowd. Having coffee at the speaker meetings was popular and also eased congestion in the Hospitality Room.

Quilt and Gift Basket Raffles: The quilt and gift baskets were outstanding. They generated over \$4,000.00 in ticket sales. We did fail to clearly communicate the times for buying tickets, and that caused some problems before the Saturday night meeting. I've often complained that the fundraising is a distraction from the purpose of Convention, but I'm a convert. It's part of the fellowship.

Convention Schedule: The half-hour breaks between workshops worked well. Our Saturday night session probably ran to long—the sharing on Quiet the Mind, Open the Heart plus the speaker plus the raffle drawings made three hours of sitting. Scheduling entertainment or a general mixer activity after the Friday night meeting or on Saturday afternoon might work better. Also, the raffle drawings could be split up instead of doing one long session.

Convention Committee: We had great participation from all four Districts—3,4,5 and 10. The Committees and Officers all took care of their responsibilities. If I ended up doing a task by myself, it was because I didn't ask for help. I loved working on Convention with this group of Al-Anons and I treasure their friendship. I thank them for the opportunity to serve as Chair.

2013 Convention Chair – Mike M. – *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* - Meeting was held at the SC State Museum, during the June Assembly meeting. Attending:

First Name	Last Name	Position/Committee
Pat	Cline	Workshop
Carol	Delgado	Registration
Diana	Ekenstierna	
Virginia (Ginny)	H.	Country Store
Tom	Himmel	Hospitality
Mike	Melton	Chair
Marieta	Niess	Secretary
Mark	Overton	Hospitality
Linda	Queen	Hospitality
Judy	Royo	
Mary Ellen	Rathof	Voice
Jan	Rogerson	Delegate
Linda	Ruthven	Speakers

2013 Planning Schedule: Conference planning is on target according to the suggested schedule.

- Registration information and forms are available on the Area website and appeared in the last Reflector
- Mike made contact to obtain an AA district chairperson for the AA speaker
- Speaker gifts were chosen at the last planning meeting. These will be a donation to Al-Anon on behalf of the speaker.
- The Alateen Registration and travel/medical release forms are in the process of being created. New forms are required for each Conference.
- Many workshop topics have been chosen. Hopefully Susan can have more information available to us soon.
- The Secretary needs to ensure that the registration information and forms are in the next Reflector and also provided to WSO within 6 months of the Convention.
- Other activities are covered below

Conference / Committee Positions: Volunteers are needed for the positions of Co-Chair and Communications. Communications is responsible for creating and posting signs to direct participants to Conference event locations.

Assistance is still needed in areas of Registration, Workshop facilitator and Country Store.

Facility: Mike described the facility arrangements and costs to participants. He has assigned most of the suites to be paid by the convention committee and will release the remainder of the suites once the speaker arrangements are confirmed. Participants are able to reserve suites at the present time with the exception of the blocked ones. The group was reminded that ocean front and ocean view rooms are a little way from the Convention Center, and there may not be time to go back and forth between workshops.

Fundraising: The quilt design and preparation is ongoing. Mike suggested getting together at the hotel in Myrtle Beach to work as a group to prepare the quilt raffle packets. This should be accomplished before the next AWSC meeting in August. He will contact hotel to try to get a reasonable rate on a suite with several bedrooms.

The group decided on a light blue color for the shirts. Long and short sleeve t-shirts will be available as well as polo shirts.

The Country Store will carry handmade craft items, shirts, bags and possibly coins with the serenity prayer. Mike is also considering giving a complementary coin to those who preregister for the Convention. This will depend on the cost.

There will be a couch raffle every event in the main ballroom. Winners will be seated on comfortable couches at the front of the ballroom.

There has been a suggestion to have a Memorial Wall in the Ballroom. Participants can purchase a special paper to write and post a memorial to Al-Anon, Alateen and AA members who have passed away. The group was in favor of making this happen.

Hospitality: Hospitality planning is ongoing. A location for the hospitality house has been chosen which is close to the convention center. The hospitality room hours of operation has not been established. Hospitality room worker sign up will be by group instead of by individual. Hospitality information will be sent out with the quilt raffle information in October.

We are discouraging Alateens having a separate hospitality room. The intent is to include the Alateens in all our activities, not to hold separate activities. Alateens have been invited to hold a fundraiser by cooking and selling hamburgers/hotdogs, etc, preferably during lunch. The Chair has agreed to purchase the supplies and obtain reimbursement at the end of the fundraiser. Alateens will be able to keep the monies raised after paying for the supplies. Jan H. is evaluating.

2013 Conference Registration: Participants will not receive conference information in labeled envelopes. This will save time and money. Additional copies of conference schedules will be available for those who misplace them.

Speakers: The taper and speaker release forms are in process. The taper has agreed that speaker tapes for sale will not identify the full name of the speaker.

Most of the speakers have been obtained. Linda R. is working to identify a restaurant for the speaker dinner. We may need to check out some place during our work day in Myrtle Beach.

Linda R. and the Chair are exploring having an Old Timer Workshop after the WSO Speaker. This would allow participants to ask questions of members with many years of experience.

Meeting was adjourned and returned back to the Assembly meeting.

2014 Convention Chair – Barbara Anne M. -Our theme for the convention in 2014 is “Enjoying the Journey.” We have had several meetings; all officers and chairmen/co-chairmen except one have been put in place. We had hoped to again have a convention in the upper state; however, the costs of hotels were all too high. We have been looking at hotels on the Grand Strand and Pam Phillips, Co-Chairman, has been communicating with several places there.

We have a meeting today in which several votes will be taken on different matters, so your next report will have more information!

Our next meeting will probably be at our fall Area Assembly.

Reflector Editor – Diane F. – Deadline is August 29th for the next newsletter.

Forum Coordinator – Susan E. – At the South Carolina Convention In February, four subscriptions to the Forum were drawn from amongst first time Convention goers.

The most exciting thing for me was the “Writing for the Forum” workshop held during convention. It really highlighted the fact that the Forum submissions are sent in by regular Al-Anon Members, not professional writers. At the end of the workshop when those who wished to read their sharings it was obvious that each and everyone of them would be suitable for publication in the Forum. 13 people wanted their sharings sent to WSO and hopefully we will see some of them in print soon.

Any districts or groups who would like me to do a Writing for the Forum workshop please let me know.

The report from WSO on Forum subscriptions says that the numbers are continuing to decline. There are subscription forms and Forum writing forms at the back of the room. Group Representatives please take some back to your groups and encourage your members to subscribe.

Public Outreach – Nancy G. – *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* - It sounds like most of the districts did a good job with passing out literature on Lois’ birthday. Leaving it at public places where they could

be easily found, picked up and hopefully got a person in need of serenity to an Al-Anon meeting. Some put meeting days, times and location labels on the literature so meetings could be found. Materials were left in doctor's offices, Juvenile drug courts, various community and Veteran hospitals, outpatient surgery centers, vocational rehab, car dealership service waiting area (great idea-how long do we wait there??), veterinarian offices, hair salons and alcohol and drug offices.

Some of the districts sent "Thank You" cards to local television stations that aired our newest Public Service Announcement: "Portraits." It has been shown over 10,000 times in the first three months and has reached a broadcast audience of more than 77 million across the United States and Canada. I have included in your packet the list of stations that have received them and not played them. The "Play and Thank You" letters document will help members get started. Also a script is included to help guide members through the process of calling the station. The more people can hear our message and see how we can help them struggle with alcoholism...helps us all!!

One group purchased the movie "When Love Isn't Enough" and offered it to members for viewing, even though this isn't conference approved, they felt it gave great insight into how the disease of alcoholism is truly a family disease.

Encourage your embers to go to the members section of WSO Website to the Public Outreach tools section. There is a new Public Outreach too that is wonderful - *The Best of Public Outreach*, it is called a "How to Do it service tool for Public Outreach Activities." It is 61 pages of great ideas for your membership to spread Al-Anon's message. I am going to ask my District's Public Outreach chair to do the next district meeting's workshop and share some of the activities, there are samples of how to conduct this kind of workshop with activities to get the membership involved. The members are the foundation of our organization and we need their support or those of us in the group, district and state service positions cannot do all the leg work to get Al-Anon's message to those in need.

Once again, we are going to be giving Public Outreach money to the District that gets their report to me one month ahead of the Reflector deadline - \$50 for the first report and \$35 for second. So mark your calendars, the deadline for the next Reflector is May 10... so Public Outreach Coordinators, get your big red pen out and get your report to me by May 1st and get some extra monies for your Public Outreach budget. Let's let South Carolina know Al-Anon/Alateen is alive and how and where to find it.

Business:

Old:

Reserve lunches for Assembly. Do you want this option? This topic was not addressed at the assembly and will be addressed in October.

New:

- District Representatives to give reports - Were not given. We will have them at assembly in October.
- Motion for Nancy G. to be accepted as a nominee for South Eastern Regional Trustee. Motion to accept by Jan R. and seconded by Jan H. Unanimously approved.

Literature Drawing - Nan M. -A drawing was held, but the winner was not documented.

Motion to Adjourn Area Assembly - Close with Lord's Prayer and Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration - "LET IT BEGIN WITH ME" When Anyone Anywhere Reaches Out For Help, Let The Hand of Al-Anon and Alateen Always Be There and Let It Begin With Me

Respectfully Submitted,

Melanie M.
Area Secretary/Area 50/Panel 51

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

DISTRICT 1 -

DISTRICT 2 - Gayle E. - *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* - District 2 has hopped, skipped, and jumped right into 2012!

Our January 22, 2012, meeting was hosted by the Tega Cay AFG at the Serenity Club, Rock Hill, SC. Business that was covered was convention 2012 final details and what was considered adequate District's funds. Julie B. presented a program on how to access information on our Al-Anon/Alateen web site with handout steps to follow. Seven GRs were in attendance with guests.

Our March 25, 2012, meeting was hosted by the Lancaster Co-ed at their new meeting site at 113 S. White Street, Lancaster, SC. The business discussion suggested that adequate District funds should cover the District's expenses. Eighteen District 2 members attended the February 2012 Convention. Groups reported that in celebrating Lois's birthday, members left messages of love in doctors' offices, barber shops, recovery facilities, garages during oil changes, and hospitals waiting rooms to name a few. Seven GRs attended and 17 members.

Linda D. from our Fort Mill AFG has stood for our Public Outreach Coordinator position. We have a new group in Spartanburg, Progress Not Perfection, and Marie H. from our Tega Cay AFG has stood to be Alternate GR. Please welcome them!

Groups shared that they are offering HOW AL-ANON WORKS to newcomers, and the newcomers seem to appreciate it.

There were seven GRs in attendance and nine guests.

Pam P. presented a program on service sponsorship and offered all who attended the "Service Sponsorship" pamphlet.

Our next District 2 meeting will be May 20, 2012, hosted by Mid-Day Serenity AFG at the Serenity Club, Rock Hill, SC.

DISTRICT 3 - Jane K. - *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* - No Where But Up is hosting our Spring all day on Saturday, May 19 from 10am to 3pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aiken, SC. The flyer is posted on the web. Please come and join the fun that day at our Beach Blast! We will have a district meeting following our all day.

I have visited all our Al-Anon meetings in the Aiken area at least once. I was also able to attend the meeting in Edgefield once. As the district representative I plan to attend the meetings in Orangeburg, Barnwell and Wagener this summer. I believe this is an incredibly important part of my responsibilities; however it is not as easy as it seems. Al-Anon service work has become such an important part of my life. I want to emphasize to everyone in Al-Anon to get into service work. I can say emphatically that "When I Got Busy, I Got Better." Thank you for allowing me to serve.

DISTRICT 4 - Margaret L. - *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* - District 4 has continued our focus on trying to build Alateen in our District, both in additional sponsors and attending members. Unfortunately, we have only the three terrific and dedicated sponsors that we have had over the last year with no new additions. The good news is that all have submitted their sponsor renewal paperwork and we will be administratively fit to continue trying to expand our Alateen program. Our District Alateen Coordinator, Barb H, has contacted school counselors and therapists to make sure they know we are here and can help. We continue to try to spread the word to parents of potential Alateen members to encourage them to send their teens to the meetings. We have already started to plan for the upcoming Alateen Conference in July by spreading the word to our District groups who wish to contribute scholarships and other donations so that any Teens and Sponsors who want to attend can do so.

We had many members who attended the Convention in February. As one of the host Districts, we participated in every way possible. What a fabulously spiritual weekend in recovery that was! 2012 Convention Chair Janet L did such an outstanding job and everyone from District 4 serving on the Committee with her enjoyed the experience so much. Thanks, Janet, for an Easy Does It approach that gave us a great Convention.

Our Sparkleberry group has been "test driving" a Sunday meeting in addition to their Monday and Thursday meetings at 7:30 PM at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia. At our May District meeting, we got the go-ahead to add the meeting to our schedule. We are very excited because it is our only Sunday meeting in the greater Columbia/West Columbia/Newberry area. In addition, Sparkleberry has decided to start a Beginner's Meeting on Monday nights from 6:45 - 7:15 PM, right before their regular meeting. They are forming the meeting using WSO guidelines for Beginner's Meetings, and we are also very excited about this new mini-meeting.

We have been trying to coordinate with Jan R to get our Delegate visit in for the year at one of our District meetings. We are hoping to schedule that for our September meeting, but we await word from Jan as to any schedule conflicts. We look forward to hearing about her second conference experience and all that she learned.

Our 2012 Holiday Party plans are in the works. There is a committee comprised of members of the three host groups this year. They have secured Ebenezer Lutheran Church in downtown Columbia for the evening of December 8, 2012 and invite anyone in the area at that time to come join us. This is a great space for food and fun and a speaker and gift raffle. We will have a great time, especially if you all join us!

From our **District Public Outreach Coordinator**, Maris B, comes the following report:

District 4 made a good showing of leaving literature in public places including laundromats, libraries, drugstores, doctor's offices, fitness clubs and theaters. Many thanks to our member's who left schedules, bookmarks, and Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism booklets. May will be a busy month with 3 events scheduled, they include: a presentation at Lexington LRADAC family night to talk with family members who have a loved one in treatment, staffing a table at the Faces and Voices of Recovery conference (FAVOR), and staffing a table at a FAVOR concert. We have received 200 copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism to distribute to behavioral health centers and therapists, and another 200 copies already distributed to District 4 groups at our May District meeting to use in their individual public outreach efforts. We also ordered literature for professionals to help them spread the word about Al-Anon and Alateen.

That's it for this report from District 4. We wish you all good recovery and look forward to the times when we can be together to share our experience, strength and hope with one another.

DISTRICT 5 -

DISTRICT 6 - Julie H. - *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* - John C resigned as DR and the Alt DR Julie H will be the new DR going **forward**.

DISTRICT 7 -

DISTRICT 8 -

DISTRICT 9 - Dale C. - *Reposted from AWSC Minutes of May 5, 2012* - Exciting things are happening in District 9 this spring. We have begun a new intuitional outreach by holding a meeting once a month at the Phoenix Center, a rehab facility in Greenville. Different groups are taking turns holding the meeting on the second Monday of each month. We are also placing books in the public library and distributing information and *How Alanon Works* books to counseling offices in the area. At our last meeting we initiated plans for our yearly all day, *Seeking Serenity*, to be held in September at Pleasant Ridge Retreat Center again. At that meeting we also planned for the district wide workshop to be held in April and for the participation in the Sphinx wellness fair to be held in May.

We held our first district-wide workshop in many years on April 21 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Our workshop was in "ask it basket" format and some really good information was discussed on crosstalk, sponsorship and other topics. Afterwards we had a "bring a salad" lunch for sharing and fellowship. It was a quite successful time.

DISTRICT 10 -