

Area World Service Committee Meeting Minutes  
AFG of Ohio March 23, 2013

Meeting started at 12:30 PM with the Serenity Prayer and our Statement of Purpose. Chairperson, Sandra F. welcomed everyone to the AWSC Meeting.

The Traditions were read by Carol P. DR for District 31, the Concepts of Service were read by Cheryl from District 9 and the General Warranties were read by Amy from the Budget Committee.

We went around the room and introduced ourselves. There were 27 in attendance

**Secretary, Karen McK** - Sandy asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes from the August 10, 2012. Susan W, DR District 26, made the motion to accept the minutes as reported. Rose R, Alateen Coordinator. Seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer, Theresa M.** - Due to health issues, our elected Treasurer was unable to prepare the Treasurer's Report. It will, however, be available for Spring Assembly. Carol R, DR District 48 move to have the 2012 Year End report moved to the Spring Assembly. Sharon B, DR District 51 seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Alternate Delegate and Al-A-Notes Editor, Ginny C** – In early November, 2012 the Fall Al-A-Notes was edited, printed and folded. The process is becoming more streamlined with folding and labeling being the most time consuming. A survey regarding electronic vs. snail mail was sent out in the Al-A-Notes. The next issue is about to be sent to the printers.

Last weekend, Rex, Sandy and I piled into my van for a nine hour trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the North Central Regional Delegates Meeting. Now some of the faces and names are beginning to become familiar. Everyone was friendly and helpful. After I found out the Alternate Delegate for another area will be filling in for the Delegate, I became a little nervous and took profuse notes on what it means to be a Delegate. They even demonstrated how to vote electronically with a simulated controller wrapped around a mini candy bar. They reviewed the structure of the World Service Conference and introduced the Panel 53 Delegates.

Love gifts and notes of encouragement to Rex can be sent beginning 4/9/2013. The address is:  
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 5700 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Three Trustees - At - Large will be chosen this year. Resumes need to be submitted to WSO by August 15, 2013.

Al-Anon (members) are encouraged to complete the Unlimited Abundant Resources Skill Inventory.

We brainstormed on a topic as a practice for the World Service Conference Chosen Agenda Items (CAI). I was in a group that discussed how can we get Districts, without DR's and few GRs, to become re-involved in participating in Assemblies and AWSC. I came away with many great ideas that I hope to be able to implement in the next year. Look for something in the next Al-A-Notes.

Next year Ohio will be sponsoring the North Central Regional Delegates meeting. The committee is in the process of deciding on a location but the weekend will be March 14-16, 2014. All Officers and Coordinators will be encouraged to come and attend as well as past delegates.

**Delegate, Rex M.** – I am Rex McV - Delegate, Panel 52 - Ohio. I don't have a lot to report. Will save most until Assembly meeting. I attended North Central Regional Delegates Meeting last weekend in Milwaukee. It was a long drive and lot of talk .

I received a letter from Connecticut thanking our Area for letters and cards received on behalf of the incident that happened in Newtown, CT. I read the letter for those attending AWSC.

There were few things from NCRDM such as ways to "Keep Newcomers Coming back". Newcomer packets too much literature for the newcomer.

### **Thought and Task Force Reports**

**Thought Force for Criteria DNR**-Susan W Thought Force on criteria for DNR newcomers to groups who do not follow Al-Anon principles:

As a committee we have been studying the commentaries from the following World service summaries:2008, 2009, 2011 & 2012.

Members from across the country and Canada are sharing about this issue and weighing in on the need for a criteria, interpreting the traditions, concepts steps and general warranties as to how they pertain to handling this issue.

The committee has had several email communications regarding the discussions in the summaries and interpretations of the steps, traditions, concepts and general warranties.

We are waiting on feedback from other Areas in regards to whether or not they have created a criteria for the DNR and if so what criteria did they formulate.

I've also contacted WSO and requested any information they have from other areas who have submitted their criteria for DNR and am waiting on a call back.

### **Task Force report- Ohio Area Convention Study**-Buffy N

1. Purpose- Gather information from Al-Anon members to determine if improvements/changes of the Ohio Convention are appropriate and/or needed.
2. Complete information received to determine what improvements/changes might be implemented.

We have been requesting comments regarding conventions likes and dislikes for discussion,  
We are planning a meeting in April to share and discuss information we have received.

### **Task Force – Possible Workshops to take to remote locations in Ohio** – Carol R.

**As Chairperson for the Task force on Remote Area's Workshops, I have connected with the other two members of the committee via e-mail. We hope to connect at the spring assembly so that we might make some plans as to moving forward using the KDBM. The two other members of the committee are Lynn M and Kristi B.**

**Electronic Vs. Snail Mail Task Force** – Phil H --The returns on our survey have not been as many as we had hoped for. If you haven't filled out a survey, please do so and drop them off in the box with the Change Forms for the Group Reports.

So far, snail mail is either first, or last, depending on the survey. Website posting has been consistently second, to this point. Email is third and password protected is last.

I've asked the members of the Task Force to also see if the groups they attend are getting the Monthly Newsletter from WSO brought to their group meetings. CMA's that have an email listed receive those by email and we'd like to find out what the response to this has been as well.

I'd like to enlist the help of the DR's as well. For the meetings you attend, see how many have the WSO Monthly Newsletter available. You can find out if the Group's CMA has an email or not in your District group report from WSO.

The Task Force will meet prior to the Spring Assembly and we'll have an update at that time. We plan to present our final report at the Fall AWSC & Fall Assembly meetings.

People do not appear to be receiving the surveys sent in the Newsletters. There will be a box at Spring assembly for surveys to be filled out.

## **Coordinator Reports**

### **Group Records Coordinator, Phil H.-**

Welcome to our new DR's! If you haven't gotten online with E-Communities yet, please see me after the meeting. There is a lot of information available there.

The main thing available is access to your District Al-Anon AND Alateen Group records. You have "read only" access, which means you can't make any changes, but you can print off the specific group records for the groups. It's a big help for you and your groups.

The new GR-1 Group Change Form is on the table, along with instructions on how to fill out the form and how to email it. Please remember this is for Al-Anon groups ONLY! Alateen groups have a different form.

As of 9:00 PM last night, here are the statistics: We have a total of 452 active groups holding 503 meetings. This is an increase of two groups since October, 2012. Please keep in mind that groups with multiple meetings and beginner's meetings are counted separately.

Of those 452 active groups, 282 have a GR listed. Last October, we had 450 groups with 289 GR's listed.

There are a total of 6 groups in "No Mail" status, down from 10 groups in October, 2012. We're doing better with this, but we still need to get in contact with these groups to see if they are still meeting.

And, there are 110 "Inactive" groups, compared to 131 last October. These are groups that have either disbanded (and notified WSO), or groups that have been on "No Mail" status for two years. DR's, again, please check over your district reports and ensure that this information is accurate.

Finally, DR's please check your district reports for "missing groups" – that is, groups that you know are meeting but aren't listed anywhere. They may have already been deleted and we need to get them re-registered.

Thanks to all of you for your service!

**Public Outreach Coordinator, OPEN POSITION** Sandy F report on the ASI. Addiction Studies Institute is July 31, August 1-2, 2013 at the Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. Once again, I am asking the Al-Anon Information Services in Cleveland, Akron, Cincinnati, Miami Valley and Youngstown, as well as, Districts of Toledo and District 48 (Canton) to bring 100 meeting schedules to Spring Assembly for this event. All remaining Districts are asked to bring 50 schedules. As for Districts of Central Ohio, 500 meeting schedules are requested.

Al-Anon contact information has been requested from Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

Schedules are given to professionals during the event for their corresponding location.

I look forward to receiving the contact information from your location.

### **Literature Coordinator – Shirley M**

Sandy F reported for Literature Coordinator Shirley M, announcing that the first e-book is now available from WSO. "Having Had A Spiritual Awakening" is \$9.95. The hard cover edition has been out of print for several years.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Budget Committee** – Robin R

The proposed operating budget for 2013 was presented and discussed.

Terry N, DR District 39, moved to send the 2013 budget to Spring Assembly. Rose R Alateen Coordinator seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**By-Laws and Handbook Committee Chair,** Barbara W Report held until Spring assembly

**Compliance Liaison and Area Alateen Process Person,** Janice R

**Ohio Area Convention and Two Day Fall Liaison,** Donna K

Asked that when hotels are being looked at for the convention or 2-day fall assembly, please try to use hotels that will allow 3-4 people in a room, without additional charge. That helps keep the cost per person down.

**Ohio Area Website Committee Chair** - Mike K

I have the statistics for the website available. Simply contact me through our web page and I will send them. Mike also passed around an “E-Mail Contact” sheet, asking officers & coordinators to ensure their email address is correct. Mail sent through our website to these people is automatically forwarded to the email address they provide. And, Mike reported that the amount of spam and hacking attacks had decreased considerably since last October.

**Audit & Review Committee Chair**-Louise W

**2012 Financial Report**

The audit and review committee has verified the expenses and income as reported in the bank statements, check register, vouchers and source documents are in agreement. Although the source of a variance has not been determined, there is no indication of any irregularity.

There has been no report submitted by the 2012 Fall Assembly treasurer. If there is anyone present who knows anything about this, please let me know. [There was no response].

Louise W., Chair, Audit and Review Committee

FYI: Closer to the Spring assembly I will send the full report, which will include three other events, and, if I get it, the aforementioned 2012 2-day fall.

**Registration Committee**- Eleanor T. Eleanor reported that a total of 27 people were in attendance today.

**Ohio Area Convention - Two Day Fall Up-Dates.**

**2013 Two Day Fall Assembly**

Alternate DR Cheryl B, District 9, reported on the upcoming 2-Day Fall Assembly in Youngstown. Judi H, DR 9 is the Chairman of the committee. The hotel is the Holiday Inn in Boardman and the rate is \$110 per night for up to 5 people. The flyer for the 2-day Fall will be going out in the upcoming addition of Al-A-Notes.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business**

Motion # 2013 - 1 To roll over the CD's maturing April 19 and 30<sup>th</sup> and the CD maturing August 21 to coincide with the maturation date of the 18 month CD which matures 10/2013. -- Budget Committee.

There was discussion. It was voted, and passed, to roll over three of our CD's so they mature in October of this year, which is when the fourth one matures. That will give the Budget Committee more flexibility in their recommendations for the 2-Day Fall Assembly.

Sandy asked how we felt about inviting a Trustee to assembly. There was discussion. Carol R, DR District 48, moved to invite a Trustee to 2013 2-Day Fall Assembly. Janice R, AAPP/Compliance, seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Discussion was then held on how to fund the travel expenses for the Trustee. Nancy O, DR District 6, made a motion that in the event that a Trustee is able to attend the 2013 Two Day Fall Assembly, the funding for travel expenses come from Excess Funds. Phil H, DR District 24, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sandy reported that the **Public Outreach Coordinator position is open** – anyone can run for this service position!

**District Celebrations and Concerns:**

**Miami Valley – MVAIS** participated in Health fair.

**Carol R,** DR for District 48 reported that the District had a very successful service workshop.

**Sharon B.,** DR District 51, shared that they had meetings with District 25 and had some wonderful suggestions on doing a group inventory.

**MOTIONS FOR SPRING ASSEMBLY;**

Motion # 2013 - 1 To roll over the CD's maturing April 19 and 30<sup>th</sup> and the CD maturing August 21 to coincide with the maturation date of the 18 month CD which matures 10/2013. -- Budget Committee

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Donna K and seconded by Susan W

**Closing** - Al-Anon Declaration. Meeting ended at 3:30PM

**Meeting Schedule for 2013**

Spring Assembly -- May 18, 2013

AWSC – August 17, 2013

Fall Assembly --- Hosted by Districts of Youngstown, October 19-20, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McK

Secretary