

Area 13 Spring Assembly (virtual)

"Moving Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance"

May 15, 2021

Attendees:

Cheryl S., D1DR/Area Records Coord.	Sheila M. Area Secretary	Ramona K. D4 alt GR
Becky Y. Area Treasurer	Kathy B. Area Chairperson	Melissa H. D3 GR
Cathy Z. D7 GR	Beth P. Info. Svc/Lit Ctr	Cherie D5 DR
Nancy Jo W. D7 GR/WSO Delegate	Glenn D3, Archives Comm.	Jane F. D3DR
Janice C. D1 GR	Kris S. D1 GR	Ladora Area Archives Coord
Cam Z. D7 GR	Lynn A. D3 GR	Rosemary D4 GR
Cheryl N. D1 GR	John K. D1 GR	Linda H. D1 GR
Nicole R. D1 GR	Susan K. D? GR	*Leah B.
*Ruth B. **	Carol D2 GR?	Cam V. **
*Carrie O.	*Jan	Kirk C. **
*Trish C.		

Spring Assembly began 9:30 am Mountain Daylight Savings Time/8:30 am Pacific Daylight Savings Time
12 Traditions-read by Cheryl S.

Introductions, GRs shared brief update and a problem/question/issue for consideration:

-Ramona K.-alt.GR Friday Serenity Seekers, they meet via ZOOM and will continue for now, paying rent, No DR for their district right now, she would like to email with Kathy B. to help share information with other groups in her district.

-Melissa H., GR Saturday Step Study, money still coming in, still paying rent even though their meeting place hasn't been open, 20-25 people meet weekly via ZOOM, will take group conscience about meeting in-person since their venue is open again

-Kelly M., alt GR, Tuesday Five Mile, meeting in-person only, 30 or more attendees regularly

-Cathy Z., GR, Thursday noon, hybrid meeting: they have a member who brings their iPad to meeting, those ZOOMing have a "place at the table" via the iPad, good attendance, mostly in-person; no DR for this district, they need to disperse some district funds, though, Cathy is willing to be a "point person" in absence of DR for now to share information from Kathy B. and area,

-Beth P., Information Service/Literature Center for Area 13, it's open 6 days a week with volunteers, they take newcomer calls from all over the state; email address is: al.anon.idaho@gmail.com

-NancyJo W., GR7 Nampa has only one active group right now, she has been encouraging members to take on service

-Glenn, wants to know how groups are handling COVID-related issues.

-Janice C., D1 GR Wednesday noon, she is the new GR, the group is growing.

-Kris S., GR Living Fully, "Our Group is growing with newcomers each month. We seem to have a healthy Group text messaging system going on. 5-8 people check in via text if they can't make a meeting and it has grown to include prayer requests, a new baby to one of our members, a new Grandbaby, and one of our members getting married. We were able to help the new Mom with meals and also visits to hold the baby so Mom could fit in a break. Just kind of morphed on it's own. We look forward to seeing all of you in CDA for Area Fall Assembly." (emailed to secretary 5/12/21)

-**Cam Z.**, GR Safe And Sound, meeting is hybrid with more in-person than on ZOOM at present

-**Lynn A.**, GR, group is going well, ZOOM for now, want to figure out how to go hybrid, one of their members will assist

-**Rosemary**, GR Compassion Crew, group may need to find new meeting place as at their current venue they have been required to be combined with AA to share the space/time and it's not working out well.

-**Cheryl N.**, GR Together We Can Make It, it's a new group, started right before COVID restrictions were imposed, currently meeting via ZOOM, going well for now, will be deciding on going in-person or not soon as their venue is open again

-**John K.**, Saturday Sunshine, meeting is well-attended as a hybrid meeting with both ZOOM and in-person attendees.

-**Linda H.**, Friday Courage to Change, currently has a ZOOM contingent and an in-person contingent (meeting in a temporary location until they can resume meeting at their pre-COVID location), they took a group conscience to not be hybrid; What do other groups/members think of Fall Assembly being in-person or virtual?

-**Nicole R.**, Tuesday Serenity Matters, group has 4-12 members, no issues at present.

Secretary's Report:

Fall Assembly minutes were shared by Kathy B. on the computer screen for all to read.

Becky Y. moved to accept the secretary's report as written.

Cheryl S. seconded the motion.

Motion Passed-secretary's report accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

- Becky Y. Showed 3 different documents on the computer screen for all to read.
- See attachments for specific details about Area income/outgo, etc.
- Miscellaneous notes from Becky's report:
 - -The Archives storage space rent has been paid through the end of the year
 - -COVID caused a decrease in expenses due to lack of travel required for Area officers and no in-person Assemblies or AWSC meetings
 - -COVID also caused a decrease in donations due to lack of groups meeting in person
 - -Becky requests that all groups include their group number and district numbers
- NancyJo moved to accept the treasurer's report.
- Carol G. seconded the motion.
- ***Motion Passed-treasurer's report accepted.***

Becky Y., Kathy B. and Area Website coordinator to talk next week about setting up an Area PayPal Account to link to the Area Website to make it easier for members to donate to Area.

Archives Committee Report:

- Ruth B. presented report, Glenn unable to attend today.
 - See attached PowerPoint presentation for further details (Area Archives report Spring Assembly 2021)
- WSO theme for Archives is, "Preserve the Past to Protect the Future"
- Discussion was held regarding website access to archives-there is a lot to consider with this and it was recommended by the Archives committee to form separate committee for this
- Becky Y. moved to affirm the Archives Committee recommendations
- Melissa H. seconded the motion.
- ***Motion Passed***

Alcoholism and Grief Panel

- Thank you to Melissa H. for moderating, Cam V, Kirk C, and Ruth B. for participating and sharing their experience, strength and hope.
- A couple of “take-aways” noted by the secretary:
 - Grief is a process that doesn’t make sense without a higher power.
 - “I regained some innocence, a sense of wonder and hope as a result of the grief process and my higher power’s support.”
 - “My higher power isn’t going to give me anything more until I am grateful for what I have today.”

Coordinator Reports:

- Outreach-LeeAnn not present, no report
- Literature/Forum-Paula not present, no report
- Website-Laura not present, Kathy B. read the report Laura shared at the March AWSC meeting
 - Kathy B. recommends reading an article in the Forum?
- Alateen-Bret R., Area Alateen Process Person submitted a report to Kathy B. which she read
 - Alateen Coordinator is needed, serves as a point of contact and the “face of Alateen” at the Area level
 - 17 meetings are listed as active but most not meeting due to COVID
 - Only 17 Alateen sponsors at the present time for the entire area
 - Kelly M. was the district Alateen Coordinator for D3, which has 2 meetings, counselors from schools have been reaching out to her
 - NancyJo knows someone who is strong about Alateen and will check in with her about becoming Area Coordinator
- Group Records-Cheryl S.
 - Be sure to send any group changes to her
 - New groups need to be registered with WSO
 - Area Website meetings schedule updates are not part of the Group Records Coordinator duties
 - DRs can more easily update the schedules
 - D6 meeting schedule is 1.5 years old
 - ZOOM meetings are considered electronic meetings *
 - Hybrid meetings are associated with an in-person meetings * (*per Jane F. who contacted WSO)
- Literature Center/Al-Anon Alateen Service Information Center, Beth P.
 - District 3 is financially responsible for this
 - Beth P. has been volunteering for the past 8-9 years in one capacity or another
 - Currently is serving as the Volunteer Coordinator
 - It will soon be open for on-line orders along with phone and mail in orders, both of which are currently available
 - “Pay It Forward” shelf contains many pieces of CAL which are free
 - The Literature Center absorbs the cost of postage for many newcomer items
 - Sales were down by about half during the past year, COVID-related quite likely
 - A display of Archives and Public Outreach Materials is present in the Center

- Looking forward to a better year, post-COVID
- Beth loves volunteering, she is in favor of rotation of service and so will no longer serve as Volunteer coordinator when this term is up, she will move into another position or “regular” volunteer
- Contact Information:
 - 208.344.1661
 - al.anon.idaho@gmail.com

Calendar

- Flyer requesting submissions has been created, Kathy shared it on her computer screen for all to see
- Printing price break occurs with a quantity of 100
- Following an informal poll of those present at this assembly it was determined that there is demand for at least 100 calendars
- Kris S. moved that area order and sell 100 calendars for the 2022 calendar year
- Carol G. seconded the motion
- **Motion passed**
- If a 2023 calendar is going to be created, it is suggested to ask for the Archives committee doing the scanning, “set aside” some of the cool things they find to use on the calendar pages, so sharing some of the area’s history with those who purchase calendars

Fall Assembly

- Cheryl S. reports the District 1 committee is planning 50 attendees for now
- AV equipment will be needed
 - Screen, internet access from site
 - Member to provide a projector
- Block of hotel rooms is set aside, “Area 13 AFG meeting” with the rate of \$139 (plus tax)
- There will be coffee/tea service
- Friday nights meditation meeting will be off-site due to cost, Nicole R. will lead and find a location
- Theme suggestions will be taken to the District 1 meeting for voting, they include:
 - Expectations
 - Courage to Change
 - New Solutions
 - Growth
 - Endless Possibilities
 - The Obstacle is the Path to the Higher Power
 - Coming Together Again
 - Moving Ahead Together
 - Endless Solutions by Coming Together
- Food
 - there are several salad options within the same price range
 - options available for those with allergies/medical needs?

- Becky Y. asks that the committee find out if the gratuity is automatically included in the cost of the meal, 18% is standard, also sales tax
- Registration form
 - Linda H. requests that it include a line about food allergies/medical needs
- Cost: \$20.00 registration, luncheon \$25.00

District Representative Reports

District 1-Cheryl S.

- 21 meetings currently, 8 in person only, several with ZOOM
- Quarterly noon speaker meeting on Monday with a lunch for donation
- Newcomers are still coming to meetings
- Bingo fundraiser will be held Saturday, May 22 with groups providing prize baskets
- 4th Step workshop to be held in June with a couple from Spokane
- Planning has been underway for Fall Assembly, committees formed and plans moving along

District 2- No one present today, no report sent in

District 3-Jane F.

- Thank you to everyone for attending Spring Assembly
- Their district does an event of some sort every quarter, this quarter's is yet to be determined
- The "Steps Come Alive" event which was virtual was very successful
- Thank you to Kelly for her district Alateen service, a new person is needed, though
- District Outreach Coordinator position is also open
- The groups are beginning to transition from ZOOM as COVID restrictions ease
- Literature Center and AAISC, keep spreading the word about their existence and service opportunities

District 4-no DR at present time; Rosemary is a GR and shared the following information:

- Twin Falls has 2 meetings
- Filer has 1 meeting
- Buhl has 1 meeting
- most meetings in the district are remote/virtual
- a DR is needed
- discussion about struggles the district has had with finding a DR was held
- Kathy B., area chairperson suggested that the GRs could meet and elect a DR for a shorter term, such as 6 months to a year to try it out; print out WSO guidelines on the DR position for GRs to share with their groups prior to the GR meeting

District 5-Cherie

- 5 in-person meetings
- 1 in-person meeting
- no GRs are showing up for district meetings when scheduled monthly
- recently the local newspaper ran an article about what Al-Anon is
- will be holding a picnic in June

District 6- no one present from this district

District 7- no DR; Jan is a GR from the district and reports there isn't much going on right now

Delegate Report

- Nancy Jo says this is the most exciting time in her Al-Anon program
- The theme for the coming year is: Moving Forward with Unity and Perseverance
- July 10 2021 is 70th birthday of Al-Anon
- She read a quote from Bill W.'s closing comments at the 1961 WSO meeting
- There will be some new literature for Alateen for the first time in 20 years:
 - Just For Tonight bookmark, adjusted for Alateen;

- a new movie to be released and changes to the Alateen preamble
- Conflict Resolution- a powerpoint presentation is now available from AFG connects, she would like to see if it could be added to our Area website
- Agenda item for the next delegate meeting will be "How can we serve newcomers better?" Discussion ensued with the following suggestions put forth:
 - if virtual meeting, provide names/phone numbers and other information in the chat box; also
 - if virtual meeting, reassure that the meeting is not being recorded, their anonymity is protected;
 - announce early in the meeting that anyone willing to talk individually to the newcomer will stay after the meeting.
 - provide contact information of people who may be called and web address for Area/District websites and newsletters.
 - welcome newcomers at the start of the meeting.
 - when newcomers are present, make sure a couple of attendees share about how Al-Anon has helped them
- Diversity Today
 - How to include people of color and other cultures
 - Elect a "cultural mentor"

2023 Al-Anon International Convention with AA Participation

June 29, 2023

Will be presented by an event planning company hired to do so

- Tri-lingual Project
 - 2019-21 trial
 - English, Spanish, French, Portuguese
 - \$35,000 add this to the equalized expense-
 - Approximately \$800.00 per delegate to try this
- Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage
 - To be reviewed and updated
 - New "gems" to be added
 - Verbiage to be updated
- New Study to be coming out on AFG Connects
 - Longitudinal on how Al-Anon helps (people in 20 + years)
- Virtual and Electronic Meetings
 - WSO working on guidelines for a 3-year trial
 - Geographic boundary lines may be crossed with these meetings
 - Electronic "Areas" will be developed, probably based on existing areas
 - Packets are available from WSO on AFG Connects
 - WSO approval is needed **Becky Y volunteered to call and find out more about this**
 - EMWG (Electronic Meetings Work Group)
 - Working on changes for the service manual
- Road trip to Cleveland, OH
 - Trustees go
 - Meet with members while on the road trip
 - Areas can bid on road trip
- WSO offices successfully moved to Virginia Beach
- AFG
 - Composition is approximately 97% white females 61 or older
 - Diversity coordinator needed to help increase diversity?

- Trustees
 - Need more
 - Al-Anon.org has information on the position and resumes can be uploaded
- More Literature information
 - ODAT will bet a new preface
 - Courage to Change will get a new introduction
 - Diversity
 - Each person is unique

DRAFT