

Area 13 Al-Anon Family Group – Spring Assembly (May 16, 2026)

1. Area 13 Al-Anon Family Group Spring Assembly Introduction

- Chrissy opens the meeting, notes the date and time, and leads the Serenity Prayer.
- Chrissy explains the order of introductions: area officers, coordinators, district representatives (DRs), and group representatives (GRs). Roll call is taken.

Area Officers:

- **Chrissy** – Area 13 Chair
- **Nicole** – Area 13 Treasurer
- **Marlene** – Area 13 Secretary
- **Lori** – Area 13 Delegate

Coordinators:

- **Cheryl** – Newsletter Coordinator
- **Cindy** – Alateen Coordinator
- **Bret** – Web Coordinator

2. District Representatives and Group Representatives

District 1:

- **Natalie** – DR, sitting in for Rochelle
- **Vivian** – GR, Wednesday Afternoon Delight
- **Mandy** – GR, Friday Courage to Change
- **Kelly** – GR, Friday Book Study
- **Tyree** – filling in as GR, Saturday Sunshine
- **Karen** – sharing GR duties for Monday Noon “From Insanity to Serenity”

District 2:

- **Anne** – DR
- **Carolyn** – GR, Friday Night group

District 3:

- **Mary** – DR
- **Kathy** – GR, Saturday Serenity
- **Barbara** – GR, (Bar Valley group)
- **Laura** – GR, Thursday Night “Journey of the Spirit”
- **Tuesday** – GR, Friday at Noon Downtown
- **Phil** – GR, Wednesday Night Callister Group
- **Elizabeth** – GR, Sunday Morning Family Spiritual Group
- **Sandy** – Public Outreach Coordinator for District 3

District 4:

- **Marlene** – DR
- **Teresa** – GR, Tuesday Evenings “Safe and Sound”

District 5:

- **Theresa** – DR and GR, Friday “Out to Lunch”
- **Judy** – GR, Monday “Out to Lunch”
- **Debbie** – District 5 Treasurer and GR, Monday Step Study Group

District 6:

- (No one present / Idaho Falls area not represented during this portion.)

District 7:

- **Becky** – GR, Monday Night Serenity Group
- **Danny** – GR, Sunday night “Together We Can Make It” group (Nampa)
- **Chris** – GR, Tuesday and Thursday “Path to Recovery” (Tue noon, Thu 7 pm)
- **June** – DR, District 7
- **Mary** – GR, Friday Noon Al-Anon Newcomers Meeting (Hailey)
- **Teresa** – GR, Tuesday Evenings “Safe and Sound” (District 7)
- **Bret** – Web Coordinator, Records Coordinator, and GR for Thursday Night Men’s

3. Secretary Report and Approval of Minutes

- **Marlene** (Secretary) explains that the previous minutes were largely generated using AI, then carefully reviewed with other members and Chrissy before being sent out.
- **Nicole** makes a motion to approve the minutes as recorded.
- **Becky** seconds the motion.
- A poll is launched for GRs to vote.
- **Result:** 21 of 29 vote; minutes pass with **92% in favor** and are approved.

4. Treasurer Report – Nicole

- Nicole shares the **Budget-to-Actual** report for Q1, showing budgeted vs. actual income and expenses.
- Income is ahead of budget in Q1, and the area is not in the red for that quarter.
- Some Q1 expenses reflect late bills from the previous Fall Assembly, so Q1 expenses are not a perfect picture of typical quarter spending.

Key Points Discussed:

- There is a **\$500** item where Marlene's district mistakenly sent money to Area; the area recorded the income and then returned the funds. This technically washes out but inflates the income line.
- Bret's new financial tracking system is praised as more transparent and user-friendly and will be passed down to future treasurers.
- **Donations from groups appear lower than budgeted:**
 - Budget assumed **\$3,000 per quarter** (based on an annual \$12,000 income target).
 - Actual group donations are significantly below that target so far.
- The budget had to be built with incomplete historical data from prior treasurer records, so the current goal is to collect accurate data over 2025–2026 to set more realistic future budgets.

- As of **May 11**, the **checking account balance** is **\$6,153.39**. The **prudent reserve** is **\$6,000** in savings (with a small amount of interest).

\$1,500 Transfer Clarification:

- A **\$1,500 transfer** was made from savings to checking and then paid out to WSO to bring down the prudent reserve.
- Because the transfer had to be deposited into checking, it currently shows in “Donations – Other” as if it were income, which inflates that category.
- Nicole and Bret agree to discuss offline how to record this more accurately so that reports do not treat it as true income.

Transparency and Forms:

- Nicole wants **maximum transparency** and invites districts/groups to schedule Zoom sessions if they want a deeper walkthrough of the finances.
- Some checks still go to an **old Pocatello address**; Nicole stresses the need to use the correct Area mailing address and will post it in the chat.
- She highlights a **District 3 donation form** that lets groups easily split a check among District, Area, Literature Center, and WSO. She plans to adapt and distribute this form area-wide, so checks can be accurately assigned to the correct group and district and matched with WSO numbers.
- There are currently a couple of “**unknown**” or “**homeless**” **checks** (including one labeled ACOA); Nicole will list these and ask groups to help identify them.

5. Discussion on Calendar Fundraiser

- Chrissy leads a discussion on a potential **calendar fundraiser**.
- A poll is used to gauge interest and preferred themes.
- Popular theme ideas:
 - **Scenery and nature- This is the theme chosen**
 - Reflections
 - Places where members feel connected to a Higher Power
- **Mary** volunteers to **organize the calendar fundraiser**, with a plan to:

- Order calendars online;
 - Sell them at the **Fall Assembly**;
 - Use them as a potential fund-raiser and outreach tool.
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6. Webmaster and Group Records – Bret

- Bret explains that the **Area website** is transitioning from primarily **informational** to more **operational**:
 - Accepting donations online;
 - Handling event registrations;
 - Supporting both district and area events.
 - Plans include **integrating group records** with the website to improve accuracy and ease of management:
 - Better tracking of groups, status, and WSO numbers;
 - Providing a clear, up-to-date directory for members.
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7. Delegate Report – Lori (World Service Conference 2026)

- Lori reports on attending the **2026 World Service Conference (WSC)** in **Newport News, Virginia**.
- She shares experiences from:
 - Orientation and spiritual activities (including a spiritual walk);
 - Discussions on policy, service, finance, and fellowship-wide topics.

WSO Financial Overview:

- WSO presented its **audit, budget, and revenue sources**.
- Lori emphasizes the importance of **group contributions** to maintain WSO's financial stability.
- All groups benefit from WSO's services, but **only about 62% of groups contributed in 2025**.

- The budget is treated as a tool of **hope and accountability**, continually reviewed during the year.
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8. Electronic Alateen Meetings (E-AMIAS)

- Lori explains the expansion of **electronic Alateen meetings** and the role of **Electronic Meeting Alateen Group Sponsors/Coordinators (E-AMIAS)**.
- **Areas can opt in or out** of electronic Alateen meetings. We will be voting on this at the Fall Assembly.
- Goal: provide **safe, structured access** for teens who lack nearby in-person meetings.

Key Structural/Safety Points:

- Certification is tied to the **area where the member lives**, even if they help in another area.
 - E-AMIAS in Idaho may serve in other areas' electronic meetings with appropriate permissions.
 - At least **two certified E-AMIAS** must be present at every electronic Alateen meeting.
 - Idaho E-AMIAS must:
 - Complete a **background check every two years**;
 - Complete specific **training for electronic settings**.
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9. Expanding Access and Hybrid Meetings

- Electronic and **hybrid** meetings can help expand access for teens.
- Hybrid Alateen meetings must follow the same **safety and structural requirements** as fully electronic meetings:
 - At least **one E-AMIAS present in person** and **one online**, if hybrid;
 - Verified teen participants;
 - Consistent adherence to WSO safety guidelines.

10. Training, Verification, and Opt-In Timeline

- WSO will offer **training in August** for delegates, area Alateen coordinators, and their alternates.
- **Teen verification** for electronic meetings will be handled by E-AMIAS with guidance from the area Alateen coordinator.
- The **opt-in process** for electronic Alateen meetings begins **September 1**.
- Each area will develop its own detailed procedures that still meet WSC/WSO requirements.

11. Trustee Selection Process

- Lori explains the current **Trustee selection** model and a proposed shift to a **single trustee selection process**:
 - The new process will move areas from directly choosing trustees to providing **feedback and input** on applicants.
 - This is intended to create a more unified and consistent process fellowship-wide.
- **Timeline**:
 - Applications under the new process open in **2028**.
 - First Trustee selected under this approach in **2029**.
 - Until then, the **current process remains in place**.

12. Visit to the World Service Office (WSO)

- Lori describes the WSO visit as a **spiritual experience**:
 - Staff welcomed delegates warmly and personally.
 - An Al-Anon meeting was held in a tent, with a topic around **spiritual clearing**.

- The building's architecture includes triangles and circles, echoing Al-Anon's symbols and principles.
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13. WSO Budget and Contributions

- Lori reviews the **2026 WSO budget**:
 - Supports literature, outreach, group services, and world-wide coordination.
 - Represents hope that newcomers will find meetings and that existing members will continue to receive support.
 - Again notes: **Only 62% of groups contributed in 2025**, though all benefit from WSO.
 - WSO monitors its budget throughout the year for **accountability and effective use of contributions**.
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14. Public Outreach and AI

- The Conference discussed the **impact of AI** on Al-Anon:
 - Need for guidance on using AI tools in a way that aligns with principles.
 - AI is **not a sponsor** and should be used **mindfully**.
 - Public outreach is expanding toward:
 - Professionals (counselors, courts, schools, clergy, etc.);
 - Communities that may not have heard of Al-Anon.
 - Examples of outreach:
 - **Billboards**,
 - Carrying literature,
 - Creative ways of letting people know Al-Anon is available.
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15. Road Trip 2026 and International Convention

- **Road Trip 2026**: an annual event where Board members and WSO staff visit an area to connect with members.

- Areas can **apply to host** future Road Trip events.
 - **2028 Al-Anon International Convention:**
 - To be held in **Minneapolis, Minnesota.**
 - **Registration expected to open September 2027.**
 - Estimated costs shared so members can begin **planning and saving.**
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16. Passing It On and Service Resources

- A task force is working on tools and resources to help **pass on experience** to future trusted servants.
 - WSO service resources include:
 - **Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual;**
 - **Conflict Resolution Kit;**
 - **Safety materials** and other service pamphlets.
 - WSO currently has **two open staff positions:**
 - Member Service Specialist;
 - Associate Director.
 - The book **“Many Voices, One Journey”** is recommended as a history of Al-Anon and service.
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17. District Reports and Outreach Coordinator Vacancy

District Highlights:

- **District 1:** 11 active in-person meetings and 1 hybrid meeting; attendance ranges **8–30** per meeting.
- **District 2:** 9 active in-person meetings; attendance ranges **2–10** per meeting.
- **District 3:** Over 20 active groups, with **11–12 GRs** regularly attending district meetings.

- **District 4:** 6 active groups; some groups have recently closed, while new members are coming in.

District 5: we have 6 in person meetings with 1-12 in attendance. We have new comers lately. We have monthly District meetings and 3 fundraisers per year.

District 7: 9 Active in person groups with only one group struggling with 2 to 3 participants. Most groups report from 6 to 12 participants.

Area Outreach Coordinator:

- The **Area Outreach Coordinator** position is **open**.
- The Area is actively seeking volunteers to fill this role and strengthen public outreach efforts.

Fall Assembly will be held September 18th & 19th in Twin Falls