

Missouri Area Assembly
April 30-May 1, 2011

Holly D., Alternate Delegate, opened the Assembly with the Serenity Prayer. Mary Jo read the Steps, Marian read the Traditions, John read the Concepts of Service, and Holly read the Warranties.

Kathy R., acting Area Secretary, read the summaries of the minutes from the November 2010 Assembly and the March 2011 AWSC meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Mary L., Area Treasurer, gave her report. The checking account balance is \$15,394.06 and the reserve fund balance is \$8383.84. The report was approved as given.

We voted to approve photos being taken at this Assembly.

Geneva D., Panel 51 Missouri Area Delegate, gave her report. The Conference goals were:
a. The spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct as its members presume goodwill. b. Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference and the relationships within the structure. c. Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, Conference members will be able to support and communicate Conference decisions.

After fifteen years of trial, we now have permission to own our World Service headquarters. Many safeguards are built into the decision, to protect us.

The South Central Region does not have a Regional Trustee. If someone is interested, they could be approved by the GRs at the Day in Service.

Bids for the 2018 Al-Anon International Convention are due at the 2012 World Service Conference. We need to act immediately if we want to submit a bid from St. Louis or Kansas City.

I have been assigned to a thought force, "How to Utilize the Service Manual". It is a **spiritual** book; fifty-one group consciences are represented in this book.

TEAM events were discussed. They have been going on about three years now; they're learning as they go.

Do Not Refer list was originally brought up as a Hot Topic and referred to a thought force. Discussions are ongoing to determine the criteria for going on the list and the criteria for being taken off the list.

The updated website went "live" on Wednesday of Conference. Geneva explained the process to get to the member page. The website is a public outreach tool, it is designed to get the person information that applies to them—there is a professional link, a parent link, a child link. The site is designed to get a person to his first meeting.

We have a new book and we have a new version of an old book. *Many Voices, One Journey* is now available, and a soft cover version of *How Al-Anon Works* is only \$5.00.

There were three requests for new literature; only one was given conditional approval—about sexual intimacy. If we want to have this, we have to write it. Send sharings for it to WSO.

Geneva discussed the Newcomer Survey with Ric B. at dinner one evening. She told him her objections to the survey methods.

There was a speaker on diversity at the Conference this year. She asked how we include people in our groups that come from different backgrounds, even different cultures. There is a fear of those perceived to not be "just like us". We need to be aware of barriers (language can be one).

Holly D., Alternate Delegate conducted new GR orientation and Joe led a session on "Opportunities and Challenges for Panel 51".

Missouri Round Robin Editor's report: Check with Penny H., Group Records Coordinator, to verify your group's Current Mailing Address. If your group is not receiving the *Round Robin*, one of several things could be the reason: The *Round Robin* list simply does not have your group's

information. The person receiving the *Round Robin* is no longer a member of your group. The person receiving the *Round Robin* is not bringing the newsletter to your meeting. The *Round Robin* list has wrong or old information.

The May *Round Robin* was twelve pages and had fourteen reports, articles, and sharings. More personal sharings are needed. Sharings on the Legacies, Slogans, and insights gained at a meeting or from some Conference Approved Literature are always welcomed. They are due by the tenth of the month before publication. The *Round Robin* will eventually be online. Two issues are on the website now. The Internet version does not have member contact information.

We have 100 paid group subscriptions, 146 unpaid group subscriptions, 69 personal subscriptions, and 5 complimentary subscriptions, for a total of 320 subscriptions.

Web Page Coordinator's report: Since last fall we've updated the website with a new program that was secure. Recently, an audit was done to ensure that the website's database was accurate and matched the Area's Group Records database. Prior to the audit, there were 292 individual meetings listed in the website database. 15 groups were deleted and 15 groups were added; in addition, there were many updates within existing meetings. Each month updates for the website are sent from our Group Records Coordinator. Since this audit, four new meeting requests have been entered.

Two new categories have been added to the Meetings (Where & When). They are LGBT (lesbians, gays, bi-sexual and transvestites) and Foreign Languages. We are still waiting on the Alateen side to make sure all the Alateen groups are correct and updated based on their information. Once I have received this information, the meetings database will be current.

In light of the soon-to-be closing Borders stores, I purchased an additional program in hope that someone will be able to step up as the Alternate Web Page Coordinator.

Please note that throughout the website a note "*Under Construction*" has been posted. I have been updating the database and several pages while getting ready for the fall rollout of the new version on the website. I have been working on the website's upgrade in the background to learn of the new features of the new website program.

Please use our calendar to post meeting and group event information.

Literature Coordinator's report: At the March AWSC meeting I passed out the WSO Guidelines for Literature Coordinators. The Literature Coordinator (separate from the Literature Depot Coordinator) is a new position in Missouri—a work in progress, if you will—and I look forward to your help in developing ideas for the *Missouri Procedures Digest* as to how the position may best serve the Area.

Part of my job as LC is to address your questions and concerns. One question covered in the April 4th Literature Coordinator Conference call was the cost of A. A. literature compared to Al-Anon literature. The bottom line was that since it was first published in 1968, The ODAT has sold about 5 million copies. In that same period of time, over 40 million copies of the Big Book have been sold—almost a million a year. As we all know, most things cost less when ordered in larger quantities; the same goes with printing costs. Also, A. A.'s annual contributions are significantly higher than Al-Anon's. A portion of A. A.'s contributions is used to offset the sales price of the Big Book. So, that's just one of the kinds of questions that I can pass along, look up myself, or discuss on the new discussion thread on the LC e-community page.

The new AFG book, *Many Voices, One Journey, Al-Anon Family Groups*, is now available. Page 122 has a sharing from Eledia S., one of our past Delegates. WSO should shortly have a workshop available for this book. There are currently workshops available for "As We Understood", "Alcoholism and Loss", "Loss of the Dream", "Everything You Wanted to Know about Sponsorship", as well as a writing workshop. If you'd like me to present any of these at your District meeting, please let me know. WSO asks that we keep the focus on the content of the book, not on the fact that it has quite a bit of Al-Anon history in it. It is a history, but there are also personal sharings as well as topics and questions for discussion. WSO suggests the book for meeting and personal use. WSO has a link on the member's page of their website for a preview

of the book. Karen P. (Website Coordinator) and I have discussed adding this link to the Missouri website so we can all access it. Karen also had the idea of having a Literature Page on our site. I haven't done anything with this yet, but plan to soon, perhaps showcasing some of the older, less used literature. Another new idea is to have an Al-Anon literature table at the A. A. conventions around the state since lots of Al-Anon members, as well as potential Al-Anon members, attend. It was also noted that many A. A. members pick up Al-Anon literature for their friends and family members. Marilyn M. and Holly D. have already started a dialog about this possibility and we'll keep you posted.

During the conference call we also discussed the responsibilities of the LC relating to his/her Area and to the WSO. One issue is that some LCs have a hard time getting information to the groups. I shared that we have a monthly newsletter that is mailed to each group in the Area, and that this is where I share information with the membership. Other Areas have Yahoo! Groups at the District and group levels for sharing and discussion. Another Area LC has a list of the Literature Coordinators for each District within the Area. I'd like to ask each District to contact me if you have one.

Tom, the Associate Director of Communication-Literature at WSO, hinted that there would be an important announcement concerning getting literature to newcomers, but he couldn't give details before WSC. That announcement is that a soft-cover edition of *How Al-Anon Works for Family and Friends of Alcoholics* is now available for \$5.00 per copy (plus shipping & handling).

And, finally, I'm happy to announce that Debra McC., Alternate Delegate for the previous Panel, has volunteered to serve as Alternate Literature Coordinator. Debra and I look forward to hearing from many of you in the future to present workshops at your upcoming District functions.

Registrar's report: This was the first registration event I've done and I was very glad to see so many people getting their registrations for the Assembly in early. It makes planning and check-in so much easier. The total number of pre-registrations for this Assembly was 63 and our total attendance count is 121. The next Area event that has pre-registration is our Convention in September at the Country Club Hotel and Spa. Flyers are available here and I am already accepting registrations. Please get yours in early and encourage your group members to do the same.

Kansas City Liaison's report: The Kansas City Information Office has been surviving by the barest thread the last couple of months. Yet, it still amazes me how the generosity of our local groups can come through at the last minute to meet all of our needs. In the Kansas City area, we have a combined District meeting that helps to support the Office along with the Board of Directors. We meet quarterly each year and our last meeting was April 15th. We discussed how to support the Office at length. There are only a few groups that participate in supporting it, and we are trying to get other groups involved. A group of volunteers has created an appeals letter, reminding everyone what the Office has to offer the groups. They will then go to all of the groups in person and talk to them about the Office and also find out what other services we could provide to the groups.

Literature Depot Coordinator's report: I completed an inventory on the weekend of April 3rd. The total amount of inventory I had on hand was \$5914.66. With the new book that came out and one last order the amount is now \$6961.77. As of April 28th the total income for 2011 is \$4516.34. That is from 52 orders.

I am stepping down from this position. After much thought, prayer, and talking to my sponsor, I am unable to continue after this weekend.

Forum Coordinator's report: In the Missouri Area, 472 subscriptions were sold as of February 1st. This averages out to be 1.95 subscriptions per group, which is a slight increase over the report from August. As the *Forum* Coordinator for our Area, I would like your assistance in helping to increase our subscriptions per group to 2.00 by the end of this year. I am asking all DRs to brainstorm with your GRs on how we can share the benefits of incorporating the *Forum* into our recovery program at the group & individual levels.

In February, I was asked by the Care & Share group in Affton to share my story and how I personally use the *Forum* in my own recovery program. I was warmly welcomed and there were approximately 20-25 people in attendance. I told the group how I like to use the *Forum* when chairing a meeting because it has an article for the Step, Tradition, and Concept for each month. I also mentioned how I am inspired by the articles since they are written by Al-Anon members just like you and me. I like to keep a copy with me in my car or purse, so I can take advantage of any down time while I am waiting for a doctor's appointment. It is also how I can be prepared to share our program with someone I may come into contact with who perhaps has never heard of Al-Anon. I also plan to give a *Forum* subscription to my sponsees as a gift for their Al-Anon birthdays.

I will be conducting a *Forum* writing workshop for District 17 on October 8th. If your District would like for me to do one, please contact me so I can reserve the date. These workshops will be no more than 30 minutes and ideas for writing topics will be provided. This can be an easy and fun way to let others know how beneficial Al-Anon has been in your life and to pass on your experience, strength, and hope.

Alateen Coordinator's report: The MO Area Alateens held CBAT (Come Be A Teen), their Camp/Conference, on April 1-3, 2011, at Bear River Ranch in Rolla. This was the fifth CBAT. We had 33 in attendance: 25 Alateens and 8 sponsors representing six groups. It was another very successful CBAT. Many thanks go to the committee: Kathy W. was the adult sponsor chairperson; Chandler, from Springfield, and Isaac, from St. Louis, were the two Alateen chairpersons. We had an incredible weekend of recovery. And it didn't rain!!! Also, I am happy to report that with registration and fundraisers, CBAT covered its expenses in excess of \$291.00.

The Alateens will be having their business meeting, Super Sunday, tomorrow after Assembly adjourns. On our agenda will be one of the main orders of business for the Alateens, to decide to have CBAT in 2012. And if they do, then electing chairpersons and a committee would follow.

I have taken a few calls regarding interest in Alateen or starting an Alateen Group. I answer what I can and then direct them to our Area Alateen Process Person, Marilyn M. I'm thrilled to announce that an Alateen meeting is starting in Blue Springs in May.

I participated in a new Alateen Coordinators' conference call, facilitated by Mary Lou from WSO on Feb. 5th. Topics included: how WSO communicates with Alateen Coordinators (e-mail and e-communities); the Alateen Coordinator's role in Area Requirements, including working with the AAPP, conventions/conferences, and maintenance/education; and the PowerPoint modules used for sponsor training workshops (updated with references to the 2010-2013 Service Manual, including the new "Alateen Policy" section). Some of the questions from the Coordinators were about declining numbers, anonymity and the Internet, chat rooms, and transporting Alateens.

Archives Coordinator's report: This weekend we are displaying from the Archives the history of Day in Service, since that day is coming up soon. Loretta Ross, Alternate Archives Coordinator, and I continue to meet every two weeks at my house in O'Fallon, the Missouri Archives home since 2005.

In 2010 we worked on researching the Day in Service, and notebooks of the Missouri Area Delegates. We still need some interesting key items from past Delegates to complete this project. We are now on Volume II, and are finished with John Papa, Panel 33. His term ended in 1995. We were given a large file from the Area Secretary after the March AWSC meeting to store/file or discard. So, we have spent the last few working sessions going through these items. Some items were filed by Districts so each Panel would have at least one DR report in the file.

St. Louis Liaison's report: This past fall, Lauren R. resigned from the Speakers' Bureau chairperson position, and we welcomed Pete S. to the position. One of his goals is to recruit more speakers, and so far he has succeeded in recruiting at least a handful of new speakers. Then in January, Sharon J. announced her intention of resigning from the Answering Service Chairperson position. At the March IR meeting, we were very pleased to have Chuck M. volunteer to for the position. Our Public Outreach committee continues to be very busy

extending the hand of Al-Anon and carrying the message. The Visiting Committee is continuing to visit meetings with no IR representation, with the goal of raising awareness and encouraging participation.

We now have the new book, *Many Voices, One Journey* in stock. We have placed an order for copies of the paperback version of *How Al-Anon Works*, and hope to have them in stock soon. We are grateful to Bonnie, Louise, Shirley, Evie, and Loretta for volunteering at the Office during the past six months. Our call volume remains steady, but we do find that more and more people are accessing meeting information that is posted on the Area website.

Speaker Coordinator's report: The Missouri Al-Anon/Alateen Convention will be held on September 23-25, 2011 at the Country Club Hotel and Spa at the Lake of the Ozarks. The theme for this year's convention is "Sailing the Winds of Change". The speakers are in place for this year's Convention. The Al-Anon speakers will be Carol C. from St. Clair, MO, Sandy F. from Jenks, OK, and Pati S. from Fort Worth, TX. The A. A. speaker will be Doug F. from Jenks, OK. At the Convention Committee meeting we will discuss the Alateen speaker time slot. Ideas are being considered to allow more Alateen participation.

Group Records Coordinator's report: As of this report, we currently have 229 registered Al-Anon meetings and 20 Alateen meetings. Please see me for a group survey. It is specific to your group based on the records that I have in place. As the letter included states, this is different from what the groups got in October 2010 from WSO. This does include some additional information that the annual update form did not access for. This information will be used to update my records, as well as pass on some of the information to the website, WSO, AIS Offices and the newsletter—where appropriate. In February, I had the opportunity to participate in a conference call with other Area Group Records Coordinators and with the WSO group records department. I learned quite a bit from the conference call. It was helpful to hear how other Areas interact with the District Representatives in their Area. Out of that conference call, came a message board that we (the Group Records Coordinators) can use to exchange information—questions to WSO or each other, and what has or has not worked for us.

WSO has also published a new Al-Anon group records change form. The only change to the form is that it used to indicate to send the form to WSO and then to the Area Group Records Coordinator, your District Representative, and the AIS Office. Now, groups no longer have to send the form to WSO. I have the ability to update WSO's database with the changes directly. Regarding new meetings, these can be submitted electronically by the Coordinator, however, it does not update the WSO system. It is basically the electronic version of the group records change form. WSO will not reject changes or forms that are sent to them directly. I will still get a copy of anything that is sent to WSO directly at the end of the month. Also, I cannot process Alateen changes. These still need to be sent through the normal Alateen channels and I will eventually get them sent to me.

In February, the Web Page Coordinator and I performed an audit of the website. We worked together to get the most current information available to the website and for the most part, that is complete. I still need to work with the Area Alateen Process Person to ensure that the Alateen information is accurate on the website and in the records that I maintain.

Public Outreach Coordinator's report: It's time to place our orders for *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012*. This is one of our most valuable public outreach tools and is published once a year for this purpose. It is also available in Spanish and French. Order forms can be downloaded from the WSO website. They must receive your order and payment by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) July 6th. Orders will be shipped before September 1st.

Al-Anon and Alateen once again are in the national media. The May published and electronic editions of *Oprah* magazine contain a list of books that made a difference to actress and author Ashley Judd. In her autobiography she describes the book *How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics* as a life saving book for her. The published edition shows a colored image of the book cover. "General Hospital" had a story line on their April 28th episode that dealt with a fatal DUI car accident. The character that caused the accident and the

father of the fatality victim participated in making a public service announcement about Al-Anon/Alateen that aired at the end of the program. Our program was recommended in the March Reader's Digest "Ask Laskas" advice column. In a podcast "Dear Abby" acknowledges that Al-Anon/Alateen and A. A. are the resources she references most often in her column. It can be heard at www.Al-AnonFamilyGroups.org.

Does your local radio station have a copy of our PSAs? Let's try to flood our airwaves with the message of hope and recovery. As our public outreach project we are giving each District Representative a copy of the PSAs and hope they will take them to their GRs to take to their local radio stations. DRs, please keep a record of where they were taken and let me know so I can include this information in my reports to the Area and WSO.

Area Alateen Process Person's report: I continue to collect paperwork for certification of LAPs and Sponsors. I am also tying up some of the loose ends of technical information on some of our groups. Since Debbi's computer crashed and I did not have information, other than what Penny and WSO gave me, I am trying to wade through the lists to consolidate the information. If you would like to help me out, please submit a new LAP or Sponsor form and an AMIAS form to me for my records.

Debbi M., Alateen Roilee B., and I attended an Alateen information and training session in Cape Girardeau for District 22. It was very well attended with lots of good questions, good food and good fellowship. They were going to discuss starting an Alateen group after we left. I look forward to hearing from them.

I estimate there are 15 Alateen groups in our Area. I am still making contacts to be sure the information that I have is correct. Once I have everything correct, I will supply the Website Coordinator with the information.

Each Al-Anon group can mention the Alateen meeting in their group announcements. They can also include some Alateen CAL in their Al-Anon welcome packets. It is suggested that every Al-Anon group that has teens in attendance because there is no Alateen group, may want to register a couple of people as LAPS for compliance with Alateen Safety Guidelines.

Motion: Change the Missouri Area Procedures Digest section II. D. item 2 from "The Missouri Al-Anon Day in Service will be a Saturday in August." to "The Missouri Al-Anon Day in Service will be held in the month of June whenever possible." **PASSED**

Motion: Change the Missouri Area Procedures Digest section II. U. items 3 and 4 from "The names of District Representatives will be published in the *Round Robin* prior to the March, May, and November meetings. 11/08" and "A listing of Area Officers and Coordinators will be published in the *Round Robin* every other month. 11/83" to "The AWSC lists will be published in the *Round Robin* in the February, April, June, August, October, and December issues." **PASSED**

Motion: Change the Missouri Area Procedures Digest section II. "U. *Round Robin*" to "U. *Missouri Round Robin* (a. k. a. *Round Robin*)". **PASSED**

Motion: Change the Missouri Area Procedures Digest section II. W. item 3 from "The Meetings (Where and When) list may include all Al-Anon and Alateen meetings that meet all of the following criteria: a. Meetings are registered or in the process of registering with the World Service Office (WSO)." to "The Meetings (Where and When) list may include all Al-Anon and Alateen meetings that meet all of the following criteria: a. Meetings are registered with the World Service Office (WSO)." **PASSED**

Richard B. read the motion about changes to the Alateen procedures that was tabled at the November Assembly, and gave background information about it. He is chairing an ad hoc committee to work on the motion for the next AWSC meeting or Assembly. Debbi M. and Sarah P. are on the committee.

The Ask-it Basket questions were discussed and will be published in the *Round Robin*.

Alternate Delegate's report: On April 16th I attended the District 13 meeting. I would love to visit more District meetings to see all the different ways that groups come together to keep our program strong through a wider circle of shared recovery. I encourage all District

Representatives to invite me and our Delegate, Geneva, to one of your meetings sometime during this Panel.

After the District meeting, we had the first planning meeting for the Day in Service, which will be held on June 18th in Chesterfield. Districts 13 and 28 are co-hosting the event; Judi D., District 28 DR, and her alternate, Diane, drove up for the planning meeting. Sarah P. chaired a very lively meeting with much shared enthusiasm for service! The theme "C. S. I.—Creating Service Interest" was chosen from among many good suggestions. The day will be a lot of fun and fellowship—I encourage you all to come and bring someone who hasn't been involved in service before. We will be exploring the many different service opportunities and helping to find the one that fits you!

Later this summer, as part of my Alternate Delegate duties I will be attending the Missouri State A. A. Convention, as the Al-Anon liaison. My main job as liaison is to get Al-Anon speakers for the convention. Diane S. from District 25 has agreed to share her story. I have found two willing Al-Anons who plan to attend the convention to chair mini-meetings, and I need two more. The convention will be August 5th - 7th in Jefferson City at the Capitol Plaza Hotel.

Convention Coordinator's report: The Convention Committee met and all chair positions are filled. We are planning entertainment, decorations, mini-meetings, hospitality and raffles for the Convention. We will have campfire meetings both Friday and Saturday nights. We have some great workshops planned, so come and join us! The flyer is on the website, so please register early, and book a hotel room before they are gone. The date of the Convention is Friday, September 23rd, through Sunday, September 25th.

The next AWSC meeting is planned for Saturday, August 27th and will be located at Wesley United Methodist Church (same place where the last two meetings have been held) in Jefferson City. Our next Assembly will be here at the Inn at Grand Glaize, so while you're here for this Assembly, why not reserve your room. Assemblies will also be here at the Inn at Grand Glaize for 2012 as well.

Group Services Action Committee report: We discussed developing a "District at a Glance" document that would be used at Assemblies to facilitate intra-Assembly communication. It will seek information about each District such as location, number of groups, regularly scheduled District events, etc. We will use a format that is manageable for this Committee to prepare, and then it will be sent to DRs via e-mail. DRs are encouraged to fill out the brief form and return it in a timely manner. We plan to have a pilot document ready for the Fall Assembly. Our hope is that this resource will be helpful for all attending the Assembly, providing an easy way to see what is going on around the Area. This statistical information should give the DRs more time to share anecdotes and events from their Districts in their reports.

Membership Outreach Action Committee report: We addressed the tabled motion from the November Assembly regarding the Day in Service. Members find the name lacking in clarity. The Committee decided to address the purpose of Day in Service and create a mission statement, working via e-mails with members and Holly D., so we will have a motion prepared for the November 2011 Assembly. Holly will e-mail background information to Committee members and gather more information so we'll be able to make a knowledge-based decision.

Also discussed was the upcoming Day in Service in the St. Louis area June 18th with the theme "C. S. I.—Creating Service Interest". We'll use speakers, skits, and other activities to investigate how service work deepens our understanding of our program and creates interest in other members who may be drawn to service. Districts 13 and 28 are hosting. The flyer is on the website.

Public Outreach Action Committee report: We discussed various ways our committee could be an advocate for public outreach activities throughout the Missouri Area. Since the Action Committees are continuing for one year, we want to find ways to be effective with a new Panel and Public Outreach Coordinator.

Those in attendance signed an attendance list, and with this information, all were requested to share information and experiences that they have had. It is hoped that by this method of

communication, we can all have some input and utilize the ideas of others.

Members from the Springfield area, District 4, reported success with reaching out to school substance abuse counselors and school nurses to establish an Alateen meeting in a local high school. Alateen members, with a sponsor, were allowed to give a presentation to fellow students, and literature was distributed. A second Alateen group is now being formed in another school. The group felt that reaching out to school nurses and faculty was a good place to reach families affected by the disease of alcoholism. We are going to investigate the best individuals in our Districts to contact for this approach.

It was obvious that the work of this group will differ for individuals in urban areas compared to rural areas. For example, District 14 receives few requests for public outreach because the St. Louis Al-Anon Information Office is located there, and that is the contact used by many agencies. However, in rural locations, the groups and District PO committees are much more important. During the time between now and the next Assembly, the group hopes to form a good network of sharing ideas about public outreach in their Districts.

Fellowship Communication Action Committee report: A new book has been published and is available for purchase at this Assembly. It is titled *Many Voices, One Journey*. Also available are the order forms for the new book and for the soft cover \$5.00 edition of *How Al-Anon Works*. Karen L., Literature Coordinator, is seeking a person from each District who will serve as the Literature Coordinator for their District. She will be working with the Web Page Coordinator to get these out on the website.

Richard B., *Round Robin* Editor, discussed possible issues with using a listserv or other secure means to e-mail the *Missouri Round Robin*. One issue would be that there might be a need for an extra level of security. Another area of concern is that it may take away from the Area in funding. Leeli D. will be contacting other Areas that currently publish their newsletters online to see how they do this and maintain paid subscriptions.

After careful discussion, both Richard B. and Karen P. explained how our Area has three distinctive databases and that it is not double-headed management. The Group Records database, done by Penny H., is the main database for all the Area's groups throughout the state. She receives updates from both WSO and the Area. She forwards these updates to both the *Missouri Round Robin* Editor and the Web Page Coordinator. Richard explained that he has a group and personal database built. The Web Page Coordinator, Karen P., explained that she keeps an online database that consists of meetings throughout the state. Both Richard and Karen concluded that it would be very hard to have one database.

It was asked during the training session for new GRs, "Is there a way to have a message board created for GRs?" This can be accomplished. Currently, there is an AWSC site for the members under Yahoo! and this can also be done for the GRs and DRs. The AWSC site maintains lists, files, and records that can only be accessed by AWSC members.

Business Services Action Committee report: Mary L., Area Treasurer, said that the goal of the Committee at this time is to focus on the following purpose in the Procedures Digest: "At the direction of the Area Chairperson, research business related issues." Specifically, the goal determined at today's meeting is to clarify the existing expenditure and reimbursement procedures to reduce confusion or vagueness. Mary has begun the process by mapping out the existing expenditures and reimbursement procedures on a grid delineated by service position and Al-Anon events. The committee members agreed to repeat this exercise as a way to double check Mary's interpretation and to identify sections requiring clarification, in time for the November 2011 Assembly.

Jamie B. spoke about the Literature Depot Coordinator job that she is stepping down from. Barb G. volunteered to take her place, and was approved by the GRs. Joe then asked if any eligible member was willing to be the Area Secretary, and Diane S. indicated that she is. She also was approved.

Motion: The Missouri Area delegates to the GRs present at the June 18, 2011 Day in Service the responsibility to evaluate and make a decision regarding resumes submitted by candidates for South Central Regional Trustee. **PASSED**

District 4 report: Our District continues to be very healthy with 23 documented Al-Anon groups, two of those being Alateen. We have at least one meeting 365 days a year in our District. The two Alateen groups have a healthy attendance of 5 to 15 teens. We have seven Alateen sponsors and two registered LAPs. We have created two additional treatment center coordinators for areas in Branson and the West Plains area.

We had our annual chili supper Jan 29th with a 50's theme and with Nancy R. from Texas as our speaker; it raised over \$2000 for our District.

We have also had several public outreach successes. The Alateen group I have reported on this last year has been successfully meeting after school in a Springfield High School. The word is getting out in the school district and we have been approached by another high school wanting to start an Alateen group. I also had the opportunity to meet with a representative from The Center for Dispute Resolution who works with juvenile victims and offenders. They want to start a new program for young offenders that would include classes and informational meetings. They would like Al-anon/Alateen to be one of the options that can be assigned for the offender. They would call and coordinate with our public outreach to schedule an Al-Anon member and an Alateen to meet with the offender and mediation counselor to explain what Al-Anon is. They have young offenders who live in homes where drinking is an issue and believe this could be helpful for some offenders.

District 4 still funds a 24-hour Al-Anon answering service and we receive a steady flow of calls every month. We are still bringing Alanon meetings to two treatment centers in Springfield as well as doing informational meetings in the treatment centers in Branson and West Plains. We are also conducting an informational Al-anon meeting at a local hospital for patients in treatment and their families. We supply literature to several places such as treatment centers, Probation & Parole, counseling centers, and school counselors.

District 5 report: In District 5 we have seven active groups. They are in Clinton, Warrensburg, Sedalia, Warsaw, and Sunrise Beach. There are three day meetings: Clinton, Warrensburg and Sunrise Beach. District 5 is going great right now. Sedalia is doing and growing. Clinton, one of our new groups, is holding their own. Sunrise Beach is growing also. Warrensburg has three groups. One group, Good Morning Al-Anon, is starting a new meeting on Wednesday night. All the other groups in Warrensburg are doing well. Warsaw's group is doing well also. We helped Good Morning Al-Anon with a health fair in Warrensburg. I think it went well; we got the Al-Anon word out.

District 8 report: Our District meetings occur every other month. One thing that nearly all the groups are reporting is growth—bursting at the seams in some cases! This is very exciting. There is talk of some new groups forming. One has formed in Ashland, meeting on Tuesdays at noon.

In January we had our first speaker potluck dinner with A. A. and Al-Anon speakers. We held our first District meeting shortly thereafter. We are starting District meetings this year with "Getting to Know You" questions since we have a mix of newer trusted servants and some more experienced members. In March we had several members of public outreach involved with health fairs at our local high schools. The hope is that this will drum up some business for our local Alateen. Our Alateen group has been inactive for several months due to lack of attendance. Some who learned about Alateen from this event have attended. There are some kinks to be worked out with Alateen sponsor/AMIAS, as there has been a rotation of service.

A Chili dinner and potluck speaker meeting was held April 16th. Attendance was great and the speakers were excellent. Our One Day at a Time Serenity group is hosting their annual trailside meeting in Rocheport on May 14th at 11 a.m. This is a barbecue and is along the Katy trail. It's a great chance to get out and enjoy an outdoor meeting. We have another speaker and potluck scheduled this summer in conjunction with A. A. We also hope to plan a District day in service!

Our public outreach group has been much more active and is requesting materials for several more campaigns. We also have a new Webmaster, our past DR, Daryl S.

District 9 report: We still do not have a DR. June 11th is our picnic. Trivia Night is in August. We continue to do public outreach and talk to the two major schools in the area.

District 10 report: There are five meetings in our District. We have two potlucks each year, one in the summer and one in the winter. We always have three speakers, one A. A., one Al-Anon, and one Alateen. We usually have 50-55 people attend.

District 13 report: We have had four District meetings. We had four groups in attendance at the first meeting. At the last District meeting we had 11 out of 18 groups represented.

On January 29th we had our first District potluck to celebrate our rebirth. We projected the attendance for the event, but we weren't even close—we had over 220 people there! We had a great time. Our panel of speakers shared their experience, strength, and hope, our basket raffle brought in a little over \$400.00, and we had a 50/50 raffle, too.

We recently formed three committees at a District meeting: Alateen, workshop, and the One-Liner committee. We have one Alateen group that struggles with attendance. Albert made several flyers and the Alateen committee will be distributing them throughout the schools in our District. I have recently been informed that another Alateen meeting is starting at another location.

The workshop committee is working on having quarterly workshops. They will be theme based and each will set the precedence for the next. The first series will probably be "How to get a sponsor", "What is step 4?", "Making those amends isn't always easy; the ins and outs of steps 8 and 9", and "Having had a spiritual awakening: working step 12".

District 13 will soon be producing a one-liner calendar. These are desk calendars and every day will contain a piece of wisdom. The price will be \$6.00.

District 13 will be hosting Day in Service with District 26 on June 18th at Chesterfield Community Church. The theme is "C. S. I.—Creating Service Interest". I also want to thank all the GRs of my District for volunteering to host the hospitality room this weekend—that's pretty awesome for GRs who've never been to Assembly!

District 14 report: Our new Panel is off to a slow start, but we are planning a picnic with A. A. participation on June 18, 2011 in Tower Grove Park at the Stone Shelter. That date was chosen last year, as the reservations need to get in early for that pavilion. At that time, we did not know that there would be a conflict with the Missouri Area Day in Service. We are working with local A. A. members to have a joint picnic this year, so it will be a new experience. The details of this event will be discussed at our next District meeting on May 12th. The Group Representative who is the liaison with A. A. for the planned picnic expressed hopes to get informational flyers to all groups with a visit, and at the same time to encourage them to send a representative to the District meeting. Plans are also under way to have our annual Fall Festival in October. Location and speakers are yet to be determined for that event.

District 15 report: So far we have had two District meetings. They have been productive and fun. As we get more meetings under our belt we are getting to know each other better and becoming more organized. The Everyday Grace group had their annual potluck, which is always good. We are having a District picnic in June, a District potluck in August, and planning for a one-day workshop later on this year.

The Alateen group is doing well. They have gone from an average of 2-4 teens to 8-12 on a weekly basis.

Our District needs to be more active in public outreach. The Everyday Grace group sends members weekly to participate in the Edgewood family program for substance abuse to talk about the Al-Anon program. They have done this for years. We have been asked to give them support on the District level, which we will be working on. The greatest challenge our District faces is the number of GRs and GR participation. We currently have six active GRs out of 24 groups in our District and a lot of groups do not have GRs. Our goals are increasing the number of GRs and the group participation in our District.

District 17 report: Our District has twelve Al-Anon meetings covering each day of the week, and one Alateen meeting. We have a wide variety of types of meetings: a beginner's meeting, a meeting that has babysitting, a meeting for adult children, one for parents, some literature and some speaker meetings. We just had our 2nd District meeting in April. Our meeting is on the 3rd Saturday of even months from 8-10 a.m.

Our District is participating at the St. Charles Community College Spring Wellness Festival, as part of its public outreach this weekend. We also participate at the Bridgeway Treatment Center. Some groups rotate the 1st Saturday of the month. There are two groups that take a Saturday a month and District 9 helps us out with the other Saturday during the month. When there are five Saturdays, there is a list of people who are willing to speak. These people also help if there is not a group to take the 1st Saturday. Copies of the "Fact Sheet for Professionals" and information about Al-Anon and Alateen were passed out for people to give away in hopes that more people find out about our programs.

Our District is planning picnic on Sunday, June 12th from 1-4 p.m. Freda J. will be the Al-Anon speaker, James P. will be the A. A. speaker, and Eli will be the Alateen speaker. There will be a book give away from each program at the picnic. Everyone is being asked to bring a dish to share. We are also having a *Forum Writing Workshop* on October 8th from 1-4 p.m.

There is still a request for Alateen sponsors, especially male ones. The pamphlet "A Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups and Alateen Sponsorship" was given to each GR to take back to his/her group in case someone was interested in more information. It was suggested that in February of each year all the events the teens will be attending be announced. This way the groups know ahead of time what is coming up and they can help out if they choose too.

There were many suggestions at AWSC that were taken back to the District meeting. One was that all people in service should have a service sponsor if his/her regular sponsor was not involved in service. The pamphlet, "Service Sponsorship", and the sponsor bookmark, were given to each GR. It was suggested that he/she should look around at Assembly to see if there is someone there he/she would like to ask. A couple more suggestions were putting the 20 questions for Alateen in the Al-Anon newcomer packets and contacting school nurses to inform them about Alateen.

At our District meetings we are reading all the traditions, then reading about the tradition that we are on for the month from the pamphlet "The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions", and then someone is sharing about it for just a few minutes. We tried it in April and it went well.

We are working on starting a new weekday morning meeting in our District. Please watch the website for when the meeting is up and running. Our next District meeting has moved up a week due to the date of the Day in Service.

District 18 report: We currently have seven functioning Al-Anon groups and one Alateen group. One of the groups is brand new in Gasconade County in Hermann. We have had one District meeting and it was well attended. We have ordered *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012* for distribution, and are printing a list of all meetings to give to professionals in the community to "pass on".

District 19 report: (A copy of this report was not given to me.)

District 23 report: At this time we do not have a DR and our last District meeting was June 2010. The group in Cassville has 2-4 members weekly. They are using *Paths to Recovery* for meeting topics. The Neosho groups are doing well.

District 25 report: We have two meetings in Lincoln County and one in Warren County. Our District meetings are held the third Saturday of each month. Members have been attending as many other Al-Anon events as we can. We have been getting in the car and having a lot of fun. We try to have a workshop every year. We had one April 2nd on the Concepts and Warranties.

I printed meeting information labels to put on *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* and pamphlets to leave in a variety of places. We are concentrating on more outreach and getting newer members involved at the group and District levels.

District 26 report: Our last District meeting was April 26th. The DR gave a report on the AWSC meeting. The AWSC is requesting that members of Al-Anon go to www.ALANON.org and complete a survey on "The Definition of Family Recovery". The deadline is April 30th.

The group took turns reading from the paper titled "Assembly, What's the Big Deal?" Comments were made on the importance of service as part of our program.

It was decided to authorize contracting with Lamar Outdoor Advertising for a new bookmark billboard to be located on I-70 from 40 miles west of Boonville to 30 miles east of Columbia, between mile markers 66 and 160 at an approximate cost of \$1200.00. The billboard outreach committee will discuss fund raising ideas at the next District meeting.

The local outreach committee gave information on the importance of placing Conference Approved Literature in doctor offices, hospitals and treatment centers. Up to date information on group elected members was also verified by those in attendance. The committee will continue to discuss and strategize new ways and ideas to reach people with a need in the community.

District 28 report: We have nine Al-Anon groups and one Alateen group. Our Alateen group currently has not had many, sometimes not even any, Alateens attending the meeting. Fortunately, Alateen meets at the same location and same time as an Al-Anon meeting, and those members are always ready to 1) open up the Alateen meeting room, since there are several Alateen sponsors as well as LAPS available if more than one teen shows up; or 2) welcome the Alateen into their own meeting if only one shows up.

We have completed two major District projects. The first was the Al-Anon billboard project, and we have so enjoyed seeing the wonderful Al-Anon "Don't Know Where to Turn...?" messages up on billboards along the major highways in our county. Our second District project was the Al-Anon cookbook. This has been such a fun way to experience fellowship, service work, and some really great recipes!

We've been able to share the Conference-Approved public service announcement CDs and DVDs with our local radio stations and Charter Communications, as well as running outreach ads in local newspapers. Both the radio stations and Charter did run the PSAs and we were quick to thank them when they did.

We are looking forward to co-hosting the Day in Service with District 13 in June. A few of our members have attended Day in Service in the past, but many of us have not. We hope this will be a way of getting more members in touch with the gifts our Higher Power sends when we get involved with our larger Al-Anon fellowship.

The Assembly closed with the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration.