

Area World Service Committee Meeting

August 1, 2009

Geneva D., Area Chairperson, opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Janet F. read the Traditions, Daryl S. read the Concepts of Service, and Jean M. read the Warranties.

Kathy R., Area Secretary, read the summary of the minutes from the March 2009 Assembly. There was a clarification: The \$100.00 mentioned in the minutes was for the 2008 AWSC meeting room. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Holly D., Area Treasurer, gave her report: I have included several reports that I hope you will find helpful. I have the June financial report, as the July will not be complete until next week. We began the month of June with a balance of \$13,872.68; the ending balance was \$10,497.88. The current checking account balance as of this morning is \$14,058.18, and reserve fund balance is \$7,603.40. The convention financial report shows that we had a net profit of \$216.00. There is a quarterly report showing totals for the past four complete quarters and on the back I put a two year comparison showing quarterly totals for the past year and the year before. I also have copies of the complete year to date detail report if anyone needs more specific information on the finances.

Geneva asked us to review the Procedures and Duties that apply to our positions and if there are any changes that need to be made, please send that information to Carolyn W. and Donna E.-H. They are the ad hoc committee to update the Procedures and Duties.

Geneva gave a review of courtesy considerations and introduced the discussion topics and their presenters. Carolyn W. led a discussion on ownership of property and also discussed protecting the Al-Anon name and purpose. Lori A., District Representative for District 17, led a discussion on competition and her District's thoughts about it.

Richard B., Missouri Panel 48 Delegate, gave his report:

This report updates the report that was presented to the Missouri Area Convention, May 18, 2009. Some information is new and some information that is especially important is repeated or updated. The May 18 presentation included just some of the total report. The total report is on the Missouri Area Website, members' page.

Attached to this report are details regarding a new book about Al-Anon's history. The 2008 World Service Conference (WSC) approved the development of the book which is to cover Al-Anon's first sixty years (1951-2011). Each decade of Al-Anon's history will be represented. Send sharings to the World Service Office (WSO) by October 31, 2009. This will be entirely different from the book, First Steps, which came out in 1985 or 1986, and was about the first 35 years of Al-Anon. It had a lot of the beginnings, with letters, etc. reproduced. It's no longer in print.

"Writers Reaching Out" is a new project. If you want to write for Readers' Digest or some other book about an Al-Anon experience and be anonymous, this tells you all about how to do that. There have been some "Dear Abby" pieces recently that get the message out. Magazines have personal stories and it would be nice to read something about Al-Anon.

Regional Service Seminars are being replaced by TEAM events. That's an acronym for **T**ogether **E**mpowering **A**l-Anon **M**embers. It's a way for an Area, a District, two Areas, or a metropolitan area to get together and add WSO participation for an 8 hour, 2 day, or a 3 day session on whatever. They'd like 100+ people.

At the November Assembly Mary G., Trustee at Large and member of the Policy Committee, will share her story Saturday morning and give a workshop on Leadership in the afternoon. It would be nice if we could get 150-200 people there to hear her.

I was privileged to be asked to work with a Trustee to co-develop and co-present a workshop at Conference on Shared Leadership. Approximately 45 Conference members attended the workshop. We had four little skits. I have the workshop materials if you are interested. It can be done in an hour, it takes two people. We developed it totally by e-mail.

Have you read The Forum article "Will The Forum grow—or fade away?" in the July 2009 issue of *The Forum*? My May 2009 report asked "What is the future of The Forum?" Our *Forum* Coordinator has raised the question in her *Round Robin* article in the June 2009 issue and will have articles for upcoming *Round Robins*. In Missouri there are about 1.5+ Forum subscriptions for every group. That's above the average for Areas. At one time there were 30,000 paid Forum subscriptions. There's now less than 20,000 paid subscriptions. The Group Representative serves as the local representative of The Forum by acquainting members with its usefulness, suggesting personal subscriptions and submitting group subscriptions, and encouraging members to write articles. Each group receives a Forum subscription.

The 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 1-4, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme "A Vision for You". A. A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A. A.'s 75th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday morning in the Alamodome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the San Antonio Convention Center and local hotels. I am sure there will be Al-Anon participation. More information will be available after September 1st on their website www.aa.org.

Last year I was on a Membership Contribution Thought Force. This year I'm on an AIS Thought Force (Al-Anon Information Services). The committee includes WSO staff, Trustees, and Delegates. We have been busy with a flurry of e-mails and two teleconferences. One of our plans is a fact-finding survey to Al-Anon Information Services and Delegates.

I encourage all AWSC members to join the AWSC Yahoo Group; there are currently 15 members. It is a place for sharing of ideas via e-mails and postings of information. Posted information is secured to approved members. I have written a detailed report on "Knowledge Based Decision Making" and posted it on the AWSC Yahoo Group. More on how to join the group is available from the Web Page Coordinator Sharon S.

We have had some interesting discussions at the end of previous Conference reports. Best would be for lots of questions or comments to come to me at least two weeks before each Missouri Area meeting. Here is a starter list of questions that you may or may not be interested in discussing. Many of these topics have come up time-and-again. All that this means is they may still need to be discussed. They include Al-Anon Promises, Al-Anon Structure, combined meetings, conflict, dual members as G. R.s, group problems, Knowledge Based Decision Making, leadership, property ownership, trusted servants, and WSO contributions.

The next World Service Conference is April 11-15, 2010. The theme is "Celebrate! Embrace the Group Conference to Expand Our Circle of Hope".

Geneva announced Penny H. is willing to serve as Group Records Coordinator. Penny gave a summary of her service in Al-Anon, and why she would like this position. She was unanimously approved.

Geneva read the report from Debra M., Alternate Delegate:

The AWSC meeting is being held in Columbia, MO this year. Therefore, I am unable to attend since there is a conflict with the Missouri State A. A. Convention in Jefferson City the weekend of July 31-August 2, 2009.

Being Alternate Delegate for the Missouri Area, one of my responsibilities is to serve as the Al-Anon Liaison for the Missouri State A. A. Convention. I am responsible for finding willing Al-Anon members to speak and chair meetings as working in cooperation with A. A. at their convention. Several Al-Anon members have volunteered to facilitate Al-Anon breakout meetings during the weekend of the A. A. Convention. It was a challenge to find Al-Anon members to participate but volunteers were willing and all meetings are being chaired by our Missouri Al-Anon members.

If you're available to go to the Convention tomorrow, Irv R. will be doing a workshop in the morning on "The Love and Peace of the Program", and then Ellie H. will be giving a workshop on "A Grateful Heart".

Since the Al-Anon literature display was a success last year at the A.A. Convention, the Al-Anon Information Center is providing free pamphlets plus books and a literature rack on consignment for the convention weekend. (Geneva's note: This may have a problem attached. There was a flood at the hotel last night and the table with the literature was under the ceiling that collapsed. I'm not sure how much of the literature may have been damaged.)

There will be another possible conflict with a scheduled Al-Anon event again in 2010 since the Missouri State A. A. Convention will be the weekend of August 6-8, 2010.

Please mark your calendar to attend our Area's Day In Service workshop in Troy. Diane S. and District 25 is making plans for our Missouri Area members to share some wonderful fellowship and service fun. So, 'Get In the Car' and bring your home group members to this service-filled event. (At this point nobody has come forward to volunteer for the Day In Service for 2010.)

Shirley M. gave her report on District 5:

All 5 groups seem to be experiencing slow growth. But this slow growth is good growth because most of them keep coming back. In April the District had a booth in Warsaw at the J. & D. Pharmacy Health Fair. It was well-attended and a lot of literature was handed out.

We hold our meetings on a quarterly basis and rotate from group to group. At our April meeting we made and sent Richard some little "love gifts" for the World Service Conference. He sent us a postcard from there.

Daryl S. gave his report on District 8:

We have 9 meetings plus one Alateen meeting. The Alateen group is a wee bit sluggish right now hopefully due only to the school's summer vacation period. We have replaced our Where and When Coordinator who moved to Sedalia and, hopefully, has found a home group there. At our last District meeting, which was on the

15th of July, we thought we had a replacement for our long vacant Public Outreach Coordinator, but the person who was interested didn't show up for the meeting, and our policy is not to elect someone to fill a position until all the Group Representatives have had a chance to meet and talk to the nominee or volunteer.

On July 24th I was the first volunteer to talk to the inmates at the Cremer Therapeutic Center in Fulton for inmates addicted to drugs. They are there on a 120 day turnaround program and are aware that their loved ones need Al-Anon. I took what we call library Where and Whens with me; these have no contact names or phone numbers. We only list the website address, the 800 number to WSO, and our local Columbia Hotline number for the families to contact. I advised them that for those who did not live in District 8, they could contact the website address and get a list of Al-Anon meetings in their area. We can go in only twice a month – the 2nd and/or the 4th Friday of every month. So far we have 6 other volunteers interested in performing this service work but I'm not sure how far along they are in their individual requirements to the D. O. C. We are looking forward to continuing this program as long as the interest is there. I would like to take this time on behalf of District 8 to thank Karen L. for bringing this request from the WSO to our attention.

If the D. O. C. meetings work out, we are also renewing our commitment to talk at the Columbia Phoenix House for alcoholics and their families, and going to an establishment called the "Sole House" to talk to children of alcoholics. The "Sole House" will be a new experience for us but we are resolved in Step Twelve work as long as we can. Once we get a Public Outreach Coordinator, we are thinking of expanding meetings to the Valley Hope Rehabilitation in Boonville during the family week for the alcoholics there.

Our Fling Coordinator is back from Australia and she is looking at getting up another Fling and perhaps a workshop as well. She has a huge committee helping her and the last couple of Flings have gone over quite well so we are happy to have Dianna O. back with us.

Sharon S. gave her report on District 10:

District 10 currently has 6 groups. We have 5 active G. R.s. We have our District meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at Church of the Master in Florissant.

We will be having a potluck August 15th. Phyllis K. from District 17 is going to come and speak. We will again be having our raffle, probably not as many baskets as our last potluck, but I am sure we will still have fun. I hope everyone can attend.

Joe O. gave his report on District 14:

District meetings are every other month. The next one is Thursday Sept. 11th at 6:30pm at the Buder Branch Library. Area Delegate Richard B. will give a Delegate's Report at the Sept. Meeting. District 14 has about 24 active meetings.

District 14 held an Al-Anon/Alateen Picnic on Saturday June 13th in Tower Grove Park. In past years, this was an Alateen picnic. This year we have added Al-Anon and A.A. speakers. Attendance was increased, and the Alateen message was given to a broader audience. We are looking for a larger pavilion for next year.

Our Fall Festival Pot Luck will be Saturday October 17th. This year, we have a new location, First Congregational Church on Wydown. This will offer a larger room, an elevator, parking lot, and most importantly for me, lighter plastic tables.

Groups in District 14 have committed to send representatives to the Harris House Treatment Center once a month for their family night. Friends in Al-Anon will do August, and Hampton Group will do September.

District 14 will have an Al-Anon information table at the Walk For Recovery St. Louis in Tower Grove Park on Sat Sept 5th. This event offers a half of a table for free to 12-Step groups, but we opted to pay for a table in order to not appear to "affiliate" and also to be able to display the Area banner. Southside Al-Anon will coordinate people to work the table. Info: www.walkforrecoverystl.org.

Save The Date business cards, which include all of the 2010 Area Events, were made and distributed at our District meeting and at the picnic.

Southside Al-Anon Family group has participated in two literature projects, using How Al-Anon Works and Alateen--Hope for Children of Alcoholics. In each case we chose a passage from the book, discussed it, and created five questions about the selection that could be used in an Al-Anon or Alateen meeting. Some of the suggested meeting programs received will be placed on the WSO website. The second project, using the Alateen book, runs until the 15th of October.

Mary A. gave her report on District 15:

The District is made up of 22 Al-Anon groups and 1 Alateen meeting. Our District meetings are held every other month beginning in January 2009, and they are posted on the Missouri Website. They are on a Saturday from 10–noon.

We have had a busy year thus far. We have updated our meeting service checklist which let our groups know about service work, mailings and newsletters from Al-Anon, information about Al-Anon events, and informing them about Al-Anon resources on the internet.

We hosted an open house for professionals on April 25, 2009. The purpose of the event was to bring awareness to professionals in the community about Al-Anon. Organizers of the event mailed invitations to counselors, therapists, physicians, churches, hospitals, law enforcement and attorneys within the District 15 area inviting them to a Saturday morning program. We sent out approximately 300 e-mails and/or snail-mails. Meeting started with an intro by the chairperson who gave participants a handout, introduced 2 speakers who each spoke for approximately 20 minutes about their personal experiences in the Al-Anon program. It ended with a Q & A session. Although the turnout was light, any time we are able to carry the message and plant the seed of help and hope that is available, it is positive. If we do it again next year, we feel a day other than a Saturday would work better for professionals. We also have an article that we want to put in the *Round Robin*.

We are having a District 15 summer potluck on August 8th. I have brought flyers for you to make announcements at your meetings. It is on Saturday, August 8th, from 6-9 p.m. Our speakers are Pat D. from A. A. and our own Geneva D. The Alateens may be doing a 50/50 raffle. We will also have a registration table trying to capture name and contact info of attendees in District 15. We will also be giving away 3 Forum subscriptions at the potluck so even if you have heard Pat and Geneva, please come and support our fellowship.

Every Day Grace did their annual potluck on April 8th and it was well attended. Once a week they have a birthday night for Al-Anon birthdays and give away a Forum subscription.

Our Alateen meeting, Dreams Become Reality, has been doing well since moving to Sunday evening at Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood. However, attendance has been down. One of our main Alateen sponsors, Barbara, will be stepping down effective October 1, 2009 so we will need some help to keep this meeting going. Barbara has served her 2 years and some of the feedback she has given me is extremely important, and I want to share it with you:

1. I feel the teens could benefit from a new voice, a new perspective.
2. We talk in Al Anon about no one person dominating any one position. Well I feel that I am beginning to dominate the scene as a sponsor and that is not healthy.
3. This reason is probably the strongest. I feel discouraged. Helga and I have done all kinds of things to make the program interesting and convenient for teens but after a few meetings they don't come back. We don't know why but it is disheartening. There is always a reason--a ball game or a sleepover or they just disappear. Sometimes I think the program could use some updating. There could be more activities or art work or games to get the message across. Teens today are used to rapid action and to sit and discuss each week just does not work. We have done many of the above kinds of things and it helps. If other groups have ideas for how to run an exciting meeting, why not share them.

Lori A. gave her report on District 17:

District 17 has 16 groups. We have one Alateen meeting, a Parents meeting, one Al-Anon Adult Child meeting, and 13 Al-Anon meetings. Our District gathers bi-monthly for business meetings on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Most groups are represented. Notice for the meetings is sent out by postcard reminders and e-mails. The business meeting precedes the weekly Blueprint for Progress Al-Anon meeting at St. Peter's Wesleyan Church on Salt Lick Road in O'Fallon.

Our District sponsored a Family Picnic on June 13th at Klondike Park. Events included a three legged race, a Trust Walk sponsored by the Alateens, and fishing and hiking. We had barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers. Throughout the day we had speakers from A. A., Alateen, and Al-Anon.

Our District is always open to carrying the Al-Anon message to health fairs and weekly meetings at a treatment facility called Bridgeway. We have 12 of our District's groups committed to be responsible for Al-Anon informational meetings held for the family and friends of those in Bridgeway. One of our newest meetings is held Monday night in Warrenton, and the group has signed on for coordinating Al-Anon informational meetings the 4th Saturday of the month at a nearby Women's Domestic Violence Shelter.

In between District meetings the G. R.s and D. R. communicate regularly by e-mail and calling to pass along information on upcoming events and anniversary/potluck meetings. Flyers are also given to the Area website for publication.

Libeth T. gave her report on District 19:

District 19 is pleased to be able to say that we have an Alateen group that meets on Wednesday night at 8:00 PM at the North Oak hall on Broadway near 72nd Street. This is due to the work and persistence of Chris H. who has gotten together a group of sponsors and is finding teens. Our thanks go out to him.

We continue to meet as a district on a quarterly basis. Our new meeting place for the remainder of this year is the North Oak Fire Station at the corner of North Oak and Nashua in Kansas City. We are scheduled to meet on the fourth Monday at 6:30 pm, August 24th and November 23rd.

District 19 went through a period of change in which a number of meetings were ended. This was discussed at district meetings as being a way to consolidate the viable meetings by pruning the ones that were being

held together by anywhere from no members to very few members. This was not encouraged for the meetings in small towns because that might mean that the only meeting in town would disappear. However in the metropolitan area of Kansas City the small meetings might mean that a beginner could have gone to a meeting only to find there was no one there. Sometimes that is our only chance to help them. As a result the existing meetings are better attended. We are getting new members both as only Al-Anons and dual members. The only new group recently is the Alateen meeting.

The Park Hill Al-Anon Group continues to work together with the Miracles A. A. Group in putting together a 9:30 breakfast and 10:00 Al-Anon and A. A. speaker meeting. Attendance has been up this summer. There has been a renewed effort to bring attention to The Forum magazine and the need for more subscriptions to keep it going. We also continue to support the efforts of the Combined District.

There has been an ongoing problem with the Area records keeping that Geri W. and I are working to correct. Apparently the District 19 records were restored with the previous panel information. I appreciate all that Geri is doing to get this straightened out. In the mean time despite reports in the *Round Robin* to the contrary, I am still D. R. for District 19.

Ginger S. gave her report on District 21:

New Day AFG meets in Raytown, has one meeting each week on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. Their meeting is small, averaging about 6 in attendance. They recently put an ad in a local newspaper regarding their meeting time and place in hopes of getting newcomers. Most of their members have from ten to forty years in the program; they stick with Al-Anon principles and have very good meetings

Recovery Plus group in Raytown has two meetings a week, on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. and on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. An additional Al-Anon meeting is held on the fourth Friday of every month at 7:00. This special meeting is often a birthday or speaker meeting. The Friday meeting explores the Steps on the first Friday and the Traditions on the Third Friday. The other Fridays are topic meetings. A large group typically goes out to lunch follow the meeting, which lasts approximately 90 minutes. The Friday meeting has about 20 attendees; the Tuesday meeting is usually fewer than 10. All Al-Anon meetings are non-smoking. The group celebrates its birthday with a potluck in combination with the A. A. group which was founded at the same time.

Raytown #1 AFG meets Mondays at 7 p.m. They are averaging five in attendance each week. They have recently elected a new G. R., Veronica H. It is exciting to see their group start to grow again and becoming involved in our Kansas City Area Combined District activities.

Willow AFG meets in Drexel, MO on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. They now have 5 to 7 people, with newcomers occasionally. They do not have any officers, but they do make a monthly donation to the church where they meet. Our contact person, Nancy, has about 30 years in the program.

Lifeline AFG meets on Tuesday 6:30. They no longer have Friday meetings and they have dropped their babysitting service as they were unable to support it. Their meetings usually average 5 or 6 people and they now are more structured than they were for a time. They utilize The Forum and have step and tradition meetings each month. They do not have a G. R. at this time.

Harrisonville AFG meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., and Monday and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. I have made numerous calls to their contacts, but have been unable to get in touch with anyone. They do not have a G. R. and seem to have no interest in activities within our Kansas City Area Combined District.

Lee's Summit AFG meets on Monday at 12 noon and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. They are pleased to be able to offer babysitting at no charge to the parents or grandparents during both meetings; it is funded by the group. The meetings are both well attended and are very healthy. The Monday meetings are step and tradition meetings, Thursday meetings have one step meeting and one tradition meeting each month, with topic meetings on the other weeks. This location is excited to have chosen to be the site of the Kansas City Area Information Office Fund raiser on October 3, 2009.

Although District 21 has lost a couple weekly meetings over the past year, I feel that the groups overall are healthier than they were a year ago. We are having more participation at the Kansas City Area Combined District level which is very exciting to see.

Julie R. gave her report on District 23:

We will be having our next District meeting on August 15 in Cassville. My goal between now and then is to get out a quick report about the AWSC meeting to all groups with an invitation to attend. We are still struggling with members willing to serve as Group Representatives. We only have about 3 active G. R.s. Hopefully, if we

could at least get one member from each group to attend, they can get the information back to their groups. Now that my personal life has settled down from a rather crazy past year, I'm hoping to be able to visit more meetings.

A member in my home group in Joplin stepped up to become certified by Alateen, so we can have Alateens in our meetings and follow the Guidelines.

Diane S. gave her report on District 25:

We have District meetings every other month. This year we have been busy planning for the Day In Service, which will be held at the First Assembly of God Church in Troy, MO Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Presently we are meeting monthly with great attendance and enthusiasm. Please save the date and plan to attend for fantastic fellowship and fun. The two meetings in Troy continue to be active. I recently was informed at our last District meeting that the Bowling Green group has not had any attendance for quite a while.

Kathy R. read the report from Laura R. on District 26:

District 26 has had two District meetings since the March Assembly. At the July 27th meeting, Alternate D. R., Virgie M., called the meeting to order after a shared covered dish meal. The Groups represented at the meeting were Waynesville Friday Night AFG, Lebanon AFG, Monday Lunch Bunch, Waynesville Friday Night Alateen, and Pathway to Serenity Alateen.

Virgie asked for topics for the Group Services Action Committee to consider at the August 1st AWSC meeting. Suggestions included Area-wide support of the Pathway to Serenity Alateen Group, the billboard outreach projects, and the role of the G. R., especially relevant to voting.

Barb H. distributed copies of the "Welcome Format" the Waynesville Friday Night AFG and the Monday Lunch Bunch are using after Group Conscience discussions.

Debbie B. reported on the Pathway to Serenity Alateen Group. In August this group will celebrate its one year anniversary. Each teen who has come through the Pathways program in that year has received a personal copy of the Alateen daily reader. Weekly meetings have average attendance of 12 teens. Contributions have been received from groups and individuals.

In June billboard #1 was erected on Highway 54 between Camdenton and Osage Beach. According to MODOT, 26,000 cars drive that stretch of highway daily. The \$1300.00 was totally funded by District 26 Al-Anon members. Contracting for billboard #2 was approved by members at the meeting. It will be located on I-44. Look for it to be erected during August or September. Funds will not be accepted from non-Al-Anon members.

Virgie shared about the CAL Sponsorship Bookmark and a bookmark from a U. K. newsletter citing what a sponsor can and cannot do. She also shared the "Pass-the-Football" technique as a possible way to curtail crosstalk at meetings.

Ellen A. gave her report on District 28:

District 28 has had some meeting changes. The Pacific Al-Anon meeting has changed from Wednesday night to Thursday night. We also have a new Thursday night meeting in Sullivan called Unity in Recovery. We are working on an updated Where & When.

District 28 is working on its two fundraisers for the year. The first one will be a Spaghetti Dinner in September or October, and will have speakers. The second potluck dinner is toward the end of November to start the Christmas season. It is an ornament exchange. Our fundraising chair, Teresa A. is working on locations for both fundraisers.

Our District meetings are held every other month on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 at our county library. Our last District meeting was held July 11th when I stepped down as D. R. due to added responsibilities at work that have given me a heavy travel schedule and some personal changes in my life. Judi D., my Alternate D. R., has graciously accepted the challenge of taking over the remainder of my term. I am grateful to all in District 28 who have supported me as D. R.

Donna E.-H., Convention Coordinator, gave her report:

Convention 2009 is almost three months behind us. Two days before this Convention Kathy B. discovered that JAMB Taping would not honor the contract that we did indeed have in place and signed with them. A member stepped up to the plate and saved the day and the speakers were taped.

After Convention 2008 I personally had two goals that I wanted to meet this year. The first was to have the Convention be self supporting. As the Area Treasurer reported earlier today the convention realized a profit of \$216.00. Expenses were cut by decreasing the cost of speaker gift baskets and by eliminating a Friday night dinner which included all speakers, their hosts, and the Speaker Coordinator. I had hoped to increase attendance over that of 2008. This year there were approximately 35-40 more attendees.

One of the Missouri Delegates brought to my attention that many of the District Reps were not present at Convention and perhaps we could do something to arouse your interest in the Area Convention. I'm not sure what I could do to accomplish that so I will simply remind D. R.s that your leadership role and what you do

attend has a huge impact on the general population. To attend Convention is certainly not a duty of a District Rep but I believe you can lead others to Convention by participating in support of the Area Convention.

The banquet registrations stayed favorable and many compliments on the Saturday night meal were expressed. The speakers were a huge hit. There was a panel of three speakers in the afternoon on Saturday that was a nice change from the way we've done things in the recent past. The Talent – No Talent Show entertainment was awesome. The participants' acts ranged from pathetic to hilarious to show stopping. It was great fun and laughter filled the room. There were fewer mini-meetings this convention due to the panel of speakers but what was offered was thought-provoking. As always the hospitality room met the needs of many and provided a place for members to chat. The baskets for the raffle were awesome. The Alateens' help was greatly appreciated. Many attendees mentioned that they'd be back next year and as I find myself facing 2010 I'm going to be counting on them.

At the assembly in November I will be presenting at least two bids regarding location for future Assemblies. These bids will be from hotels in Columbia or the Lake area. Per our Area Procedures we are to meet in what is considered the middle of the state.

As you know we begin a new Schedule of Events with the onset of 2010. After November's Assembly we will meet in March (the second Saturday) for AWSC Meeting. If this location works out well for us today I will book it again for March 2010. With the new schedule the 2010 Convention will be held the last weekend in September at the Country Club Hotel and Spa at the Lake area. I have been speaking with a member that has a Blues and Classic Rock Band about playing music for us on Saturday night – but have not made any commitment to him as yet. Some of the members of the Convention Committee will be spending a night at the new location in November prior to Assembly. At that time we will begin planning for a Convention to remember in 2010.

Karen L., Public Outreach Coordinator, gave her report:

We set a record for May for PSAs (Public Outreach Announcements)—4575 airplays. In my report I have a list of Missouri TV stations that were sent PSAs in 2009. Only 2 of the 24 stations played them in the first 5 months of the year. There is a list of 121 radio stations. Only 1 of them played the PSAs during the first 3 months of the year. I have TV PSAs in front of where I'm sitting. Please take these to the TV stations in your areas.

I have materials for Public Outreach projects, not for individual groups' use. I brought a lot of school stuff since schools will be starting soon. If you think your schools would be interested, take them.

2009 orders for *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* (the U. S. English version): I have totals for all Areas and Missouri and we were number 11 for total orders, and number 17 for total number of copies.

Also from WSO, there are two Public Outreach newspaper releases that I have listed here. If you want it in a format so that you can download it from your computer, I will e-mail it to you.

I have listed seven places who contacted us since January. I encourage each District to look at this list and check out this information. Follow up these inquiries and ask them, "What else can we do for you?"

Linda K., Alateen Coordinator, gave her report:

We are once again going to have Super Sunday following Day in Service. Please encourage any Alateens and Alateen Sponsors in your district to attend both events! Super Sunday will be held September 27, 2009.

Three years ago a counselor from University City High School called me and wanted to start an Alateen group after school. I so appreciate her patience as we searched for the last three years for a sponsor. Kaye K. called and was interested in doing this! Debbi M. and I met with her and told her some of our experiences with Alateen. I am happy to report that she is now a certified sponsor and is working on getting another sponsor for a meeting that will begin in the fall after school resumes.

I have the free 2009 *Alateen Talk*. It has a sharing from an Alateen in Missouri.

Linda K. read the report from Kathy B., Speaker Coordinator:

I am working on getting the speakers for the September 2010 Convention. I have gotten some feedback from some of the AWSC members about tapers. After some discussion from the Convention Committee, we are asking Greg (the taper from the last Convention) to be the taper for the 2010 Convention.

Debbi M., Alateen Sponsor Coordinator, gave her report:

We were recertified by the July deadline and have several more members registered as AMIAS here in Missouri. We also have a new Alateen group in the process in the Kansas City area.

I would like to remind all members that the qualifications to be an AMIAS, whether as a Sponsor or a LAP are the same, and YES you can be a dual member. If you have any questions about this, look at our Procedures & Duties. If you would like more clarification, see myself or Linda, our Area Alateen Coordinator.

KBDM: In the term prior to the enforcement of "Motion 51", Joe B. our Alateen Coordinator (an Alateen) put into motion the creation of our Missouri Area Alateen Event Bylaws. This was created by a group of sponsors and Alateens, with the Alateen Coordinator and Alternate Coordinator sitting in on the meetings. Thanks to those teens' awareness of the importance of the behavior and consequences, we in the Area of Missouri were

ahead of the game. Next a committee was created to see how to fit the "motion 51" into our Area. This committee's decision, voted on by the Assembly, modified the duties of the Alateen Coordinator and created a position of Alateen Sponsor Coordinator. This was done for two reasons. The creation of a new position was done to handle the additional work load from Motion 51. The modification was so that we could continue to have a teen Alateen Coordinator when deemed appropriate by our Area, and so we didn't have double headed management with both Coordinators doing the same thing. All of this paperwork was sent to WSO for their approval. After receiving their approval, we changed and modified our Procedures and Duties and added to them the position of Alateen Sponsor Coordinator.

At our last election we found that even though we had made provisions for a teen Alateen Coordinator, this was no longer acceptable by WSO. Here's why I am bringing this up again. I am entertaining the thought to submit a motion to undo the modification of the Alateen Coordinator, put it back the way it was, and change the Alateen Sponsor Coordinator to just an AAPP, a term WSO uses for the person who processes the Alateen paperwork. Processing the paperwork would be their only duty.

John D., Literature Coordinator, gave his report:

Literature sales since I last reported in March are approximately \$8,200.00. This includes the March Assembly, the convention in May, and represents about 55 group orders.

As Richard mentioned, please help us gather sharings from members for the new history book planned for 2011 to celebrate Al-Anon's first 60 years. There is a handout that includes questions to encourage members to share about how specific events in Al-Anon's history had a profound, positive affect on their recovery. I will email Sharon the form to put on the web.

This year's World Service Conference ended the three-year trial for e-CAL and disbanded the e-CAL Committee. During its trial run, e-CAL generated very little interest.

Sharon is currently posting the Chapter Projects. The next Sample Chapter Project handout, using How Al-Anon Works (B-22) for meeting topics, is due back on July 15th. Selected topics will be posted from October through December. Also available for distribution is the handout for using Alateen—Hope for Children of Alcoholics (B-3), due October 15th. Check the Website. The sheets will be on it to download. Pick a paragraph from the book, come up with a few questions, and use it as a meeting topic. Submit it back to WSO so they can post it.

Participants in the March Literature Coordinator conference call discussed the need to spread the word among their members about certain books and pamphlets that usually receive little or no attention at meetings. One such book is As We Understood... (B-11). One Area asked for your ideas for a workshop on the book for an October event. If you have or know of someone who has done a workshop on As We Understood..., please let me know.

The Alateen Newcomer Packets are still on backorder from WSO. And I've not received any Crying House bookmarks in at least 6-9 months and haven't heard when more will come out.

Sharon S., Web Page Coordinator, gave her report:

D. R.s, a list of all the meetings in your District is in your packet. I still receive e-mails from people telling me that certain meetings haven't been there in a long time. Hopefully we can work in correcting this. I am looking forward to working with Penny our new Group Records Coordinator.

If you have a potluck, workshop, District meeting, I can put it on the Website. We have the Delegate's Report and the Assembly and AWSC meeting minutes on there.

In May at the Convention Richard asked me if it was possible to set up an online group that the AWSC members could go to and share information. Since then, as many of you know, I have been able to do this. The group is completely safe. No one is able to access the group without the link to get to it. There is no way to find it by just typing Missouri AWSC in the search bar. No one can join the group without permission from me. So I believe it is completely safe for us to share information such as contact information and newsletters. I currently have the St. Louis, District 14, and Kansas City Newsletters in the group. I would like to also one day include the *Round Robin*.

Geneva read the report from Trudy S., Round Robin Editor:

We will not have a *Round Robin* issue in August. I broke my left ankle real good, the doctor said. Maybe this is our combined Higher Power pushing us into an e-mail newsletter. Hopefully there will be a September issue with the help of an occupational therapist and a physical therapist coming to my home and helping me to figure out how to live with this unusable ankle while it heals.

Geneva read the report from Karen S., Forum Coordinator:

In recent *Round Robin* newsletters, I have given a little information from communications with WSO regarding the feasibility of The Forum. I've asked for feedback from members here in the Missouri Area. I've gotten input from two groups and one individual to date and will forward that, along with any other input I

receive, in future *Round Robin* articles. Thanks to everyone who has discussed this in their groups and provided their thoughts.

I'd like to share some of the information that came from the last Forum Coordinators' call in May. Subscriptions to The Forum have dipped below 20,000 for the first time in almost 35 years. Subscriptions currently sit at about 19,000, which are less than 1.4 subscriptions per group. Ten years ago there were 30,000 subscribers and five years ago, there were about 27,000.

WSO sells The Forum at cost – the cost of printing and mailing. Not included in the cost is staff time used for collecting the stories, editing the content and designing the publication. Yes, The Forum is a net loss for the WSO but the challenge more so than just “getting more subscriptions” is – How do we make the magazine a more integral part of the fellowship?

The challenge, I believe, is trying to figure out if The Forum is still a valuable resource. If so, what changes need to be made to make it more meaningful for members? And if not, what is next for the publication? One member told me that she thought that The Forum was more valuable when we didn't have so many books and other resources for Al-Anon members. Maybe that's a part of the puzzle. Please talk about this issue within your groups and forward your thoughts to your G. R., your D. R., Richard, or myself.

And by the way, the Missouri Area has 256 groups and a whopping 389 Forum subscribers. That's 1.52 per group, which believe it or not, beats the average. But not by much.

Regina M. gave the Fellowship Communication Action Committee report:

So far we have seen just a few sharings in The Forum from Missouri. Our committee is always enthusiastic at our Assembly meetings, but as life intrudes, communication ceases. Please encourage your groups to renew our challenge to submit sharings to The Forum.

Loretta R. gave the Group Services Action Committee report:

An e-mail was sent to all the members of the committee asking for ideas to be reported at the AWSC meeting, or what we can discuss at the Fall Assembly. In the e-mail I asked if the Alateen Coordinator and Alateens thought about submitting a bid to host the Alateen Advisory Committee Meeting at our Spring Assembly. Linda K., the Alateen Coordinator, responded that at the last Alateen business meeting they discussed this idea. They felt they did not have enough Alateen participation to undertake this project at this time.

In my e-mail, I reported a G. R. called me about a problem that occurred in their group conscience meeting. She was informed by a member that she could not vote in her home group unless it was to break a tie. I asked if other members of our committee had a similar situation. Every home group member has a voice and vote. (“Members share as equals...” page 38, Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.) I am hoping to hear from members for the Fall Assembly discussion.

Laurie K. gave the Public Outreach Action Committee report:

Since the Committee met at the Assembly in March, there has not been very much contact among members of the Committee. We had hoped to improve that, so perhaps a better effort can be made before the Area Assembly in November.

Our Public Outreach Coordinator, Karen L. suggested a project for our Committee, which would be a good starting point for statewide action. There are many facilities which are locations of Substance Abuse Traffic Offender Programs, known as SATOP. The programs are required for reinstatement of an offender's driver's license. It was suggested that Committee members make contact with the SATOP offices in their area of the state to see how Al-Anon information could be supplied. The Kansas City region has already made contact with SATOP locations, so Committee members are asked to share their stories of success, or problems they may have encountered with this outreach.

The Committee did request ideas about where Al-Anon literature could be distributed. Some more interesting places to leave the professional publication, *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*, were career centers and unemployment offices, halfway house, social and neighborhood events, and university student lounges. For The Forum magazine, Women's health centers, and mammography imaging departments were some places not frequently mentioned, The Crying House bookmark could be left inside books donated to charity, and auto repair or body shops. Books with Al-Anon references in libraries or in bookstores could have some AFG information cards “forgotten” in them. Also information such as the cards could be left at tourist information centers. The summer months mean travel for many people, so why not “forget” some Forum magazines in rental cars, hotels and airports. Old Forums are always a good way to share the program with others. A complete list of the places our committee members mentioned will be included with this report online.

Shirley M. gave the Membership Outreach Action Committee report:

At our committee meeting at the Spring Assembly we discussed things we could do at the Convention. We will honor a first time attendee and a person who brought a first time attendee with a speaker tape. The

committee took a slot at Convention for a workshop, "Are We Having Fun Yet". We brainstormed about achieving more interest for Alateens; making them feel a part of what we are doing at Assemblies and Convention and service work in general.

Motion: That all procedures previously voted in place by the Missouri Area Assembly be documented in the Missouri Area Procedures Digest by date of only the most recent vote, using the exact wording of the motion as it was passed at that time. **PASSED**

Motion: Change item T. 2 on page 8 of the *Procedures Digest* from: "The Missouri Area will contribute 50% of any excess funds realized from the Convention to WSO when financially feasible as determined by the assembly and deposit the other 50% in the prudent reserve fund." to "The Missouri Area will contribute 50% of any excess funds realized from the Convention to WSO when financially feasible as determined by the assembly and deposit the other 50% in the reserve fund." **PASSED**

Motion: Omit the reading of the summary of the minutes at each Area meeting. Instead ask for additions or corrections to the minutes and let those be heard. **FAILED**

Motion: Change the date for the Day In Service to a Saturday in August. **PASSED**

Motion: The Hospitality Chair will be given an advance to purchase food, drink and items for the Convention and Assembly hospitality room just prior to the event. Receipts for expenses and all unspent money will be submitted to the Area Treasurer. **PASSED**

Motion: Delete item A. 7 which states "All Action Committees will host workshops at Assembly." **PASSED**

Motion: Delete item D. 3 which states "The badge maker will be housed with a member of the Convention Committee." **PASSED**

Motion: Delete the following words from item J. 5: "including the Area Delegate." **PASSED**

Motion: Delete item P. 10 which states "The Area will offer to pay mileage and registration costs for the Alateen Coordinator to attend the Annual Midwestern Alateen Conference." **PASSED**

Motion: Change item D. 1 to "Vinyl banners with the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service with Warranties are to be displayed at Assemblies, AWSC meetings and Conventions." **PASSED**

Motion: Change item E. 3 to "All motions are to be submitted in writing to the Area Chairperson." **PASSED**

Motion: Delete item J. 1 which states "AWSC meetings are to be taken out of the annual convention in May and be replaced with the Delegate's Report and workshops." **PASSED**

Motion: Approval for \$75.00 disbursement to pay for ½ page ad in the program for the Annual Conference of the Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies. **PASSED**

Motion: Approval for \$150.00 disbursement to pay for ¼ page ads in 2 quarterly issues of Missouri School Counselors' Association's publication "The Counseling Interviewer". **PASSED**

The meeting closed with the Al-Anon/Alateen declaration.