

Missouri Area Assembly Minutes

March 14 & 15, 2009

Geneva D., Area Chair, opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Karlene L., the Concepts of Service were read by Josh O., and the Warranties were read by Janet F.

Geneva welcomed everyone and made several announcements. The G. R.s will meet with Debra M. for orientation during the lunch hour. Any D. R.s that want to discuss group problems can meet during lunch in one of the breakout rooms. Kathy B., Speaker Coordinator, has a survey to fill about JAMB tapes. The Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting will be in a different location. The information is on the website, but not everyone has Internet access, so flyers are available here with the information.

The summary of the minutes from the November 2008 Assembly was read by Kathy R., Area Secretary. Karen L. had a clarification about the \$100.00 donation being declined by Coca-Cola, not the Area. Holly D., Area Treasurer, said we didn't send the donation because it was declined in prior years by Coca-Cola. The minutes were approved as read.

Geneva read the Audit Committee Annual Report and recommendations made by Frances Forgue, Shelia Fredrick, and Karen Schroeder, our current Audit Committee members.

We audited the cash receipts and disbursements of the Missouri Area Al-Anon Family Groups for the year ended December 31, 2008. Procedures we performed:

- Reconciled the ending bank balance to the checking account balance as of 12/31/08.
- Traced randomly chosen monthly deposits to the bank statements. All were properly recorded.
- Reviewed internal control procedures.
- Verified that prior year recommendations were implemented.

The Reserve account balance at 12/31/08 was \$7,579.85; interest earned in 2008 was \$143.03.

1. Beginning with audit year 12/31/2009 we recommend that the audit committee be comprised of three members who each will serve a three year term, rotating one member off each year. This method would provide the audit team with at least one or two experienced members each year. Currently we have one member who has served three years and would rotate off in 2009; one member who has served two years, and one member who has served one year. The team would need just one new volunteer for 2009.

2. We also recommend that the current audit team provide the treasurer with a list of audit procedures that were performed in 2008. This would provide next year's team as well as future team members with guidelines to help them complete the audit.

Holly D., Area Treasurer, gave her report:

We began the year in January with a checking account balance of \$5,880.35 and ended in December with a balance of \$7,452.47. The year ended with a net income over expenses of \$1,572.12. The reserve fund beginning balance of \$7,313.65 increased to \$7,579.85 due to profit from the 2007 convention and interest earned. Our current checking account balance is \$7,901.25.

Also, I have copies of the Guidelines for the Group Treasurer for anyone who needs them. It has the current information for sending contributions to the Area, WSO, the Round Robin, and for literature orders to the Area Literature Distribution Center.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all the groups who send donations and let you all know that I appreciate the nice notes and even cards that I get with the donations; they brighten up a sometimes lonely job. The report was approved as given.

Geneva announced that we have an Ask-It Basket. Questions in it will be answered at Assembly, time allowing, and the questions and answers will be in the Round Robin. We then voted to allow photographs to be taken at this Assembly, with permission from anyone who would be in the photos.

Richard B., MO Area Panel 48 Delegate, gave his report:

Combined Meetings As you may know from my recent Round Robin articles, I have mentioned Guideline 3 (Cooperation between Al-Anon and A.A.). This Guideline speaks to the relationship between Al-Anon and A.A. In particular, neither Al-Anon nor A.A. will knowingly register combined groups. Combined groups are those that have a mixture of Al-Anon and A.A. meetings. Recently, after some investigation, two such groups in the Missouri Area, at WSO's suggestion, were removed from our Where and When. The groups are still registered—WSO has yet to determine how to handle the situation—however, WSO may revise the Group Registration/Change form to reflect that meetings are to adhere to the Traditions, be Al-Anon only, and on a weekly basis.

Groups with Problems I have been approached by several groups that have had problems with certain group members, topics discussed, literature used, etc. The Twelve Traditions offer insight into the handling of these problems. As a help to working on working on these problems see especially *The Al-Anon Family Groups Classic Edition*, Application of the Twelve Traditions to Group Problems, pp 165-180.

South Central Regional Delegates Meeting (SCRDM) The South Central Region includes Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas East, and Texas West. This is an annual meeting for Delegates to gather, share, and catch up on news. All Al-Anon members can attend. Attending from the Missouri Area were Geneva D. (Area Chair), Loretta R. (Panel 18 Delegate), Carolyn W. (Panel 27 Delegate), Sarah M. (Panel 30 Delegate), Laurie K. (Panel 39 Delegate and Trustee at Large), Donna E.-H. (Panel 45 Delegate), and Richard B. (Panel 48 Delegate). One of the highlights is being able to welcome newly elected Delegates. New to the South Central Region are Panel 49 Delegates Charla C. (Kansas), Rosie M. (Texas East), and Cindy K. (Texas West).

Doris W., South Central Regional Trustee, gave a report. Doris indicated that the Alateen Advisory Committee will be meeting in the South Central Region in 2010. She hopes that several Areas will submit bids to host the event. She also gave a WSO PowerPoint presentation on *Al-Anon's History—As Seen Through Our Conference Approved Literature*.

The next SCRDM will be hosted by the Arkansas Area and will be held March 5-7, 2010, at the Clarion Inn, Fayetteville, Arkansas. All Al-Anon members are welcomed to attend!

Committee/Trustee/ECRPM Résumés The Board of Trustees is seeking résumés for the following positions:

- a. Trustee at Large
- b. ECRPM Committee (Executive Committee for Real Property Management)
- c. Committee Members (Alateen, Forum Editorial, International Coordination, Literature, Outreach to Professionals, and Public Outreach)

Trustee at Large and ECRPM résumés are due August 15. Committee résumés are due about the middle of April of this year. I have information and copies of these résumé forms for those of you who are interested.

Regional Service Seminars replaced by Special Events Regional Service Seminars have been held about every three years for each region. WSO did much of the planning for these seminars. Seminar attendance has lessened over the years. Also, transportation and hotel expense for attendees tended to get expensive because of the regional nature of the seminars. So a Task Force was formed. The result was a replacement of Regional Service Seminars with Special Events.

Special Events can be held in partnership with the WSO and an Area or two or more cooperating Areas. The event can stand alone or be connected to Area activities. As with all events, there needs to be some basic procedures to facilitate communication and organization between the partners—host Area's/Area's' committee and the WSO:

- a. The more lead-time that is allowed, the more complete planning that can be done. Six months is a suggested minimum.
- b. Request a primary and a secondary date, so that WSO can check both dates for availability of resources, including staff and volunteers.
- c. The WSO will collaborate with the local program committee to provide six to eight hours of program time over one, two, or three days. It's all your choice.
- d. Participation in your event does not have to be limited to the members in your Area(s) only. Invite whomever you choose from wherever you choose.

Planning for the event meeting place will be the responsibility of the Area(s) involved. As a guide, think in terms of at least 100 attendees needed to make such an event viable. A task force of WSO Staff and Volunteers (Trustee or Executive Committee Member) will include at least three members who will be assigned to coordinate and participate in your event. This group will include either the Chairman of the Board, the Executive Director, or the Chairman of the Executive Committee along with additional WSO Volunteers and staff members. The WSO is responsible for all expenses of the WSO Volunteers and staff who attend the event.

Assembly, AWSC Meeting, and Convention Timing I want to thank the Assembly for passing a motion at November Assembly that changes the schedule of Assemblies, Area World Service Committee meetings, and Day in Service. The new schedule will provide the Area with more timely information. The 2010 World Service Conference Delegate's report will be given at the Area Assembly just a week or two week after the 2010 Conference on May 1-2, 2010—which is the weekend before Mother's Day. This timing is so much better than giving the report to the Assembly over six months after the Conference. Thank you again!

Visit from Trustee and/or WSO Staff Member We have discussed inviting a Trustee and/or WSO Staff member to attend one of our Assemblies. There will be a motion presented at this Assembly to invite a Volunteer (Trustee or Executive Committee Member) to the November 2009 Assembly so that they can share their personal story and provide an interactive session on Leadership. These service minded people provide exciting ways to look at various aspects of service. Their personal story shows that they are real people and part of the Al-Anon family.

2009 World Service Conference—Virginia Beach, Virginia—Traveling April 17-24, 2009 The theme of the 2009 Conference is: *Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future*. Sometimes themes seem to have no significance. However, there is a way to develop a good understanding of themes. At the South Central Regional Delegates Meeting last weekend there was a session that looked at each word separately to develop a list of meanings for the word. The end result was a better understanding of the theme. You may want to try that at a Group or District meeting.

Sharing Area Highlights Sharing Area Highlights is a session held for Delegates the day before Conference begins. It is an opportunity for Delegates to share successes/highlights and concerns. I will submit "Come Be A Teen" as a success and rather unique Missouri Area activity and "Contests/Awards" for such things as attendance and best decorated table as an issue. Some feel that contests/awards are fun, exciting, friendly rivalry, and acknowledgement of good work. Others feel that contests/awards are competition and foster winner/loser mentality. The sharings and discussions provide an opportunity to support Delegates and to bring back to the Missouri Area highlights that other Areas have found beneficial and their views on various issues.

Conference Assignments For 2008 I was a member of the Membership Contribution Thought Force. The Thought Force developed a report that will be presented to the 2009 Conference. The report addresses the BIG Question:

Embracing our Legacies, how can we help the general membership of Al-Anon understand that member and group contributions are our spiritual bridges to the WSO in order to fulfill our vision that all people affected by someone else's drinking will find help and recovery in every community?

For the year 2009 my assignment is to be on the How to Strengthen an AIS Thought Force. AIS means Area Information Service—a.k.a. Information Center. The first meeting of the Thought Force will be April 18, 2009, the day before the Conference begins.

Chosen Agenda Items The Conference has set aside two 80-minute sessions for Chosen Agenda Items. Chosen Agenda Items are those submitted by Conference members and voted on. I submitted "How to Approach Unhealthy Meetings in a Positive Way" as a candidate for Chosen Agenda Items. Conference members recently voted on 24 submitted items. The results of the vote will determine which two items will have sessions at the Conference.

Ownership of Property This year will end the fifteen-year trial period for property ownership. The subject will be brought up at the 2009 Conference. Some background information follows.

1991 Conference motion stated that Conference believes property ownership is consistent with the Traditions (73 yes, 21 no, 8 abstention).

- a. Property is mentioned only in Tradition Six. Property can be defined as real estate, but the broader definition is that property is that which can be bought or sold and that which one has legal title to. At that time, leases held by WSO were property in this broader definition. The leases could be bought and sold and WSO had legal title to the leases.
- b. It was mentioned that leases tied WSO to an outside enterprise and diverted us from our spiritual focus.

Motion 12 at the 1994 Conference authorized ownership of real property (79 Yes, 19 No).

- a. Triennial reports are to be given to the Conference
- b. Fifteen-year trial period. After fifteen years the trial period can end, the trial period can be extended, or the property can be sold.

Motion 5 at the 1995 Conference established the Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM) (90 Yes, 6 No). The committee membership includes the Director of Business Services, Chairperson of the Budget Committee, and three persons who are not Trustees but who are otherwise involved in or concerned with the Al-Anon fellowship.

Projected leasing costs in Hampton Roads, Virginia, vs actual ownership costs in Virginia Beach, Virginia, shows that for 2007 projected leasing costs are a little less than \$500,000 annually and actual ownership costs are a little more than \$250,000. Projected 2007 occupancy costs in New York are about \$850,000.

Geneva reviewed courtesy considerations for speakers and listeners: be quiet and attentive, enter and leave meeting room quietly during the meeting, turn off cell phones and pagers, keep comments brief and on topic, don't repeat what's already been said, don't applaud comments, use the mic when you speak, only one time at the mic and a 2 minute limit per topic, be courteous and respectful of everyone and what they say, and get your reimbursements from the treasurer during breaks.

Debra M., Alternate Delegate, gave her report:

Remember to get those love gifts to Virginia Beach, VA for our delegate Richard B. Please have the love gifts arrive between April 19 and 23, 2009.

Please mark your calendar to attend our Area's Day In Service workshop in Troy, MO. District Representative, Diane S., and District 25 are making plans for 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. District 25 has also contacted local hotels for anyone who plans to spend the night. (Refer to the Day In Service flyer on the Missouri Area website.)

Al-Anon members are needed to host our Al-Anon main speaker and AFG breakout meetings at the 2009 MO State A.A. Convention in Jefferson City, MO. This year our AWSC (Area World Service Committee) meeting will be held during same weekend as this A.A. convention at Capitol Plaza Hotel. It will be a challenge to get the Al-Anon members at this convention because most of our members who normally attend this A.A. convention will be attending our Missouri AWSC meeting in Columbia this year. This will also be an issue for 2010 when our AWSC meeting will be held August 5, 2010 and the MO State A.A. Convention will be the weekend of August 5 - 8, 2010.

Please get the word out as the Missouri Area AFG is cooperating with A.A. in their effort to provide Al-Anon opportunities at their convention. This year's AFG speaker is Ellie H. from Minneapolis, Minnesota. There will be an Al-Anon literature display again this year at the convention. If you know anyone who plans to attend this A.A. convention, ask them to call me or let me know so I can give them a call.

The last thing I want to speak about is the Come Be A Teen weekend. I did go last year and had a great time. If you come to it you will be amazed at the leadership of our Alateens. It was amazing how they took care of everything. This year it is April 17th - 19th.

We have 60 GRs represented today.

Michelle T., Alternate Convention Coordinator, announced that there are 104 people here today.

Missy F. gave a report for District 4:

District Meetings are every other month. There is one Alateen group that meets two times a week, and 17 Al-Anon groups.

We had our annual fundraiser in January, which is our chili supper and auction. It was a hit. Dawn C. from Chicago, with 40+ years in the program, was our speaker.

Our groups alternate taking meetings into a treatment center in Springfield. Public Outreach has had an opportunity to start taking meetings into high schools in Springfield. I also had a school in Stone County ask me to come and speak. I talked to 5 classes in grades 7-12. I handed out literature and had open discussions with lots of participation.

Our next District meeting is March 22nd. We are still trying to get a DR.

Shirley M. gave a report for District 5:

We have 5 active groups in our District. Our District Meetings are held on a quarterly basis. We meet at noon on a Saturday and have a potluck luncheon with our meeting following, and then do projects such as love gifts for our Delegate or a basket for the Convention raffle, a speaker or a regular Al-Anon meeting.

In April we will take part in a health fair in Warsaw. We still go to Pathways every 3 weeks to talk with families and friends about Al-Anon and hand out literature to them.

We are experiencing interest in Alateen. Teens have come to meetings in Warsaw and Warrensburg. We need to find a qualified person to sponsor a group. Meanwhile, they attend Al-Anon meetings.

Linda gave a report for District 7:

District 7 has no DR but I am here from St. Joseph and another GR is here from Savannah Bootstraps group. There are 3 meetings in St. Joseph, a couple of meetings in Maryville (but I'm not sure if both are still active), and there's a new meeting in Cameron.

Savannah's anniversary celebration is coming up, and they had a chili supper in November. They have ordered "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism" and plan to distribute those.

Our group in St. Joseph had a Christmas celebration—we have a Christmas party the 1st Saturday of every December. It was quite successful, 21 or 22 people there. We participated in several health fairs in our area. We've also distributed a lot of "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism".

Daryl S. gave a report for District 8:

Sadly our district is not starting out well this year. We have lost two groups, Healthy Living in Fulton and Freedom AFG in Columbia. Freedom had been in existence for over 19 years so it was especially sad to see it fold. Freedom AFG decided to donate all their CAL and storage

unit to the Steps to Recovery group which started some time last summer and were in need of literature, so it became a blessing in disguise.

We are losing our Where and When coordinator, who is moving to Sedalia, and are in the process of finding a replacement for her. So far no one has stepped up to fill that void. Pamela will be missed by everyone in District 8; her honesty about her recovery has been an inspiration to us all, old-timers and newcomers alike.

We continue to stock the Boone County Jail and the Family Health Clinic with CAL but otherwise, our public outreach is at a virtual standstill, what those of us who were in the military call "marching in place". Sometimes it is very hard to live up to previous district achievements and perhaps we need to look at this as a moment in time to rest, recuperate and recharge our batteries for the next major reaching out to family and friends of alcoholics. We are still reaching out for a volunteer or volunteers to step forward and help out our public outreach coordinator.

Alateen is still alive and kicking and perhaps at some time in the future we will have a group representative from Alateen attending Assemblies. Our next district meeting is on the 19th of this month and anything is possible. Hope survives one day at a time.

We had a great Fling in February but, unfortunately I missed it due to illness. It was doubly unfortunate for me as I wished to be there to hear our guest Al-Anon speaker, Sarah M.

Heather R. gave a report for District 9:

We have 8 regular meetings, 1 new comer meeting, and 1 Alateen meeting. We have 5 GR's and contacts for the other 2 meetings.

We started the year with our annual January Workshop with Linda L. from Nashville, TN as our workshop speaker. The Workshop was called Communicating with God, Ourselves, and Others. Linda L. from Nashville, TN did a fantastic job including taking us on a wonderful journey of meditation. Next year Larcine will be our speaker and the workshop will be January 8th & 9th.

We have started planning our second annual Spring Family Picnic in May with three speakers representing Al-anon, Alateen, and AA. The date for the picnic will be May 30th at McDonnell Park. Trivia night was such a hit we will be planning to have another one in Aug.

Our district has been working on public outreach. We have just started with Volunteers that will be contacting the police departments, finding out who is the resource officer, giving them business card and pamphlets to carry in their cars. They will hand them out when they see a relative or friend having an issue with someone's drinking. Then they will check with them periodically to see if they need more supplies. We plan to have people go speak to the departments to educate them further. The police departments that the volunteers will be covering so far are: Woodson Terrace, Edmundson, Breckenridge Hills, Olivette, Overland unincorporated (Hanley Hills, Pasadena Hills, Northwoods, Norwood Court, Vinita Terrace), Maryland Heights, University City, Bridgeton, St. Ann and St. John. We also will be putting posters and pamphlets in waiting areas in police departments.

Sharon S. gave a report for District 10:

We have 7 groups with 6 active GR's. Recently the Road to Joy Adult Children group disbanded. Two other groups in our district are struggling due to low attendance.

We have our district meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM at Church of the Master at Parker and Paddock in Florissant. The Workshop that was planned for March 21 has been cancelled due to the church having another function that took priority over us. We will be talking about this and possibly an upcoming Potluck in our next district meeting.

Joe O. gave a report for District 14:

District meetings are generally the second Thursday of odd-dated months at the Buder Branch Library on Hampton. Next one is Thursday March 26th at 6:30pm. District 14 has about 24 active meetings. There are 10 GR's attending this Assembly, including Ruud H., who is attending his first Assembly. Welcome, Ruud.

Following the example of the last AWSC meeting, we have revised our meeting format. Meeting minutes are sent by mail or e-mail ahead of time and read out in full at the District meeting. We added a sharing of about 5 minutes on one of the Concepts of Service, given by an individual, based on sharing from literature and/or personal experiences. When time allows, we have added an open discussion on a topic chosen by the group regarding issues on our groups or in the District.

District 14 will be having an Al-Anon/Alateen Picnic on Saturday June 13th in Tower Grove Park. In the past, this has been an Alateen Picnic. This year we have added Al-Anon and A.A. speakers. We are hoping to increase participation, and to spread the Alateen message.

Mary A. gave a report for District 15:

We have 21 Al-Anon meetings and 1 Alateen meeting. We have approximately 9 GR's and approximately 13 contact people. Last year we visited most of our groups, and for some of the groups I was still unsure whether there was a GR or a contact person, so I mailed letters and received responses from several people as a result. As a matter of fact, Lorene, who is here for her first Assembly is a GR for an Al-Anon meeting and Tom is here for his first time at Assembly.

We have 8 GR's at the Assembly and I want to give them a big round of applause for taking time out of their schedules and caring about the future of Al-Anon.

Our District meetings are held every other month, and they are posted on the MO Al-Anon website for 2009. We also pass out to the GR's and contact people a list of the meetings for the entire year so they can plan their schedules ahead of time. We have updated our service contact list. We have events planned for different meetings. For example, Loretta R. spoke about Lois at our Jan. meeting. Loretta is keeping Lois' memory alive, and she also talked about the Service Manual.

We have an open house for professionals planned for April 25, 2009 from 10:30-noon. Thank you to Rhonda from Warrenton for talking with me about that and sharing about the event they held. We have volunteers from District 15 who will invite therapists, counselors, probation/parole officers, police officers, medical professionals, and attorneys. The Webster-Kirkwood Times has been contacted. We will have copies of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* on hand for the open house. We will also talk about the Alateen meeting in District 15. We will have two speakers share their experience, strength and hope.

The Alateen group is excited about Come Be A Teen and approximately 4 teens are attending as well as sponsors Helga and Anne from District 15. The Alateen meeting has moved to Sunday night at Eliot Chapel at 6:30-7:45. There is an Al-Anon meeting at the same time and an A. A. meeting that starts at 7:00.

John, our Public Outreach Coordinator, has been busy as always. He contacted St. Louis County Library Grand Glaize Branch and received permission to place 3 Al-Anon pamphlets in their public information display rack on an ongoing basis. He asked about distributing literature at other branches and the branch manager suggested contacting each branch individually. John called the Inter Group Public Outreach chair to bring the suggestion/idea up at the next IR meeting. St. Louis County Library carries 5 different Al-Anon books. There are very few copies and the books are outdated. John contacted their acquisition department head and asked if they would consider updating their inventory and increasing the number of books carried. She stated they would. They will be ordering 4 copies each of Pathways to Recovery, How Al-Anon Works, Discovering Choices, From Survival to Recovery, and Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses.

Lori A. gave a report for District 17:

I have been District Rep for District 17 since December 2008. My alternate is Kathy B. Some of you know her as the area's current Speaker Coordinator.

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 district business meetings on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. Most groups are represented. The business meeting precedes the weekly Saturday Blue Print for Progress Al-Anon meeting.

Currently our district's Activities Committee is planning an Old Fashion Picnic to be held on June 13th at Klondike Park. Plan to spend the day with us! There will be fishing and hiking, bar-b-que hot dogs and hamburgers and fun for the whole family and - in the evening there will be speakers.

Our district is always open to carrying the Al-Anon message to any health fairs nearby. We are an active district with willing members and an abundance of participation.

One of our newest meetings is held on Monday night in Warrenton. The group held an Open House for Professionals in January. The following – written by one of the groups' members gives you the details. I quote ----

"We thought that our community would benefit from a local Al-Anon meeting. We began the group in the fall of 2008. We had a few members from surrounding communities showing support, but we felt that the local area didn't know enough about our program to recognize its importance. We decided to host an Open House that would invite professionals and the community to see what the program was all about. We sent approximately 75 letters to schools, businesses, churches, doctors and lawyers located in the immediate area. We mailed a copy of the letter to professionals and a fact sheet to them. We wrote articles for the local newspapers inviting anyone interested in learning more about the program to the Open House."

"On the evening of January 19th, we hosted our Open House in Warrenton, Missouri at the College United Methodist Church. Approximately thirty people came. At 6:30 p.m. we began with a social time with light refreshments provided. At 7:00, our long-time Al-Anon members, Richard B. and Donna E.H., spoke about how Al-Anon has affected their life. After their presentations, the people in the audience could ask questions about the program. A few had questions and a few had things to say about how the program has helped them in their life."

"One of the local newspapers, The Record, sent a reporter to our meeting. He interviewed Richard and Donna and talked to a few members. He wrote a front-page article entitled: "Is Your Life Unmanageable? Affected By Others' Drinking?" It was amazing! Here's the website if you'd like to read the article:
http://www.emissourian.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20246723&BRD=1409&PAG=461&dept_id=653413&rfi=6"

Barbara R. gave a report for District 18:

We currently have six functioning groups with five of those groups in Jefferson City and one in Marys Home, MO. Attendance seems to be holding steady at most of the groups. We continue to have newcomers.

We have an active Alateen meeting on Monday in Jefferson City. Attendance is improving. The group is planning on attending the Come Be A Teen weekend.

We continue to hold quarterly district meetings. We have a health fair coming up and plan to have Al-Anon represented there.

Libeth T. gave a report for District 19:

The exciting news in District 19 is that as of the past Wednesday, March 11, we once again have an Alateen meeting that is being held at the North Oak A. A. Group Hall at Broadway and 72nd in Gladstone. There is hope that with the more central location and the support of the Al-Anon and A. A. groups we will once again have a viable Alateen program in the Northland.

The culling of groups that was done in the first year as DR seems to have stabilized into a steady number of excellent Al-Anon groups. The thought was that first no one should ever have to show up to a meeting where there is no one or only one other person at a group that was supposed to be an established group. Second, that the people who were trying to keep

these non-viable groups afloat would be valuable assets to other groups. This seems to have been the case overall.

The Combined District meeting was moved to the 3rd Saturday and this and some more announcing have combined to make the 9:30, 2nd Saturday breakfast meeting with Al-Anon and A. A. speakers go to greatly increased numbers of attendees.

The other district events such as the Smithville Group birthday celebration have been well attended. We are looking forward to the Chapter V celebration at the Pleasant Valley Community Center next Saturday.

Overall, District 19 has well-attended and good Al-Anon meetings seven days a week. Our outreach at this time is low key. Besides the celebrations, which allow the people of A. A. to become more familiar with our program, we are putting Al-Anon information cards in books in libraries and bookstores. We are also leaving literature at doctors and other places where the public might see it. This is an area that we have under discussion about what further moves we would like to make.

Janice S. gave a report for District 22:

We tried to have a District meeting last fall but due to several conflicts we still have not had one. Our District is so spread out that it seems to make having a meeting more difficult. Cape Girardeau is the most centralized place to meet. I would like to have a set date on a Sat. to meet at least quarterly. I think if a date was set we might have members be more likely to save the date and show up.

My goal is to visit all the groups in the District and try to motivate the groups into becoming more active in our District. We currently have 6 meetings in Farmington, Ironton, Ste. Genevieve, Perryville, Cape Girardeau, and Sikeston.

Julie W. gave a report for District 23:

We usually meet quarterly on the third Saturday of the month. We held our last District meeting in February hosted by the Neosho AFG. Their group has a wonderful new meeting facility and we were only the second meeting to be held there. This building will also be used for A. A. and other 12 step meetings and they are excited about the opportunity to reach more people in need of recovery. We're also hoping to be able to use this facility for a District fundraiser/public outreach event in the near future.

Our District has struggled a little bit this year with the lack of District participation from all groups. Right now only 3 of our 7 groups have active GR's, but we are looking at ways to get more involvement from the other groups. Due to my work schedule it is hard for me to visit the other groups during the school year. I'm hoping to be able to visit more once summer is here. We've also looked at forming a visiting committee, an idea I heard here at Assembly.

Our District is small, but our members are willing and that is encouraging. There are probably over 100 years of recovery and service experience among our active members. We even have a past Kansas Delegate serving as a GR right now and she brings tremendous experience, strength and hope to our District. Our new District motto is "Back in Line in 2009". Our goal is to get more members to become involved at the District level so that our groups can continue to grow and reach out to others in need of Al-Anon.

Diane S. gave a report for District 25:

We have district meetings every other month. The last two have had low attendance. Our next meeting is next weekend, Sat. March 21. We will be making love gifts for our delegate at the Conference, while discussing plans for this year's Day In Service, which will be held in District 25 in Troy, MO, Sat. Sept. 26. So, save that date!

Geneva continues to bring Al-Anon meetings at the women's prison in Vandalia.

Laura R. gave a report for District 26:

The District has 8 Al-Anon groups and 2 Alateen groups. Since the Assembly in Nov. District 26 met Feb. 24th in Rolla with food and fellowship; 6 groups were represented. The annual white elephant silent auction was held to raise funds for the District. The blessing of a newcomer particularly adorned the District meeting. A short first step meeting was held.

District 26 continues to seek support for the Pathways Alateen Group and the highway billboard project. Recently, the MO Area Outreach Action Committee posed specific questions on these two projects, which were answered. I am to meet with an A. A. representative to discuss cooperation on the billboard project.

Sarah, Pathways Alateen Group sponsor, says that the teens have free time during each day and that many of the teens are reading Alateen books. Districts 15, two groups in St. Louis, and individuals have provided books for each teen at Pathways.

The next District meeting will be held at the Rolla Church of God April 28th, 6:30 p.m. for food and fellowship, and meeting at 7:00.

Ellen A. gave a report for District 28:

District 28 has 9 Al-Anon meetings and 1 Alateen meeting in the towns of St. Clair, Washington, Union, Pacific, and Sullivan. Over Christmas we had a well-attended ornament exchange and the Alateens sold baked goods, which brought in a profit for their group. We are planning to do a spring fundraiser and will begin working on this at our district meeting next week. The Alateens sold baked goods at the Pacific Facility Valentine's dance. We have a very active Alateen group. We now have 10 members and growing thanks to our Alateen sponsor, Shannon.

At our last district meeting in January we discussed new fundraising ideas and ways in which to get more group participation in district activities. One idea was to target the SATOP offices in the county and bring them flyers of our Al-Anon and AA activities. We also want to contact the SATOP offices to have an Al-Anon speaker speak at their family program. We will be discussing this more at our upcoming district meeting on the 21st. Carol S. has been doing her public outreach work with the help of volunteers from each group to pass out literature in their respective towns.

Mary L. gave a report for the Kansas City Information Office:

The Kansas City Information Office is barely holding its own, providing literature and answering calls to the Kansas City Missouri area. Unexpectedly, we lost our paid employee and at this time have not found a replacement. Thanks to Ginger from the Lee's Summit group for working 1 day a week in Jan. and Feb., and to Judy of the Independence TNT group and Rayma of the Smithville group for volunteering to answer and return messages from home. I am hoping that we will have an employee next week; just a few details are left to work out.

We are in the process of sending out our "Busy Bee" letter to ask groups to donate to the Office without having to go to a fundraiser. We ask members just to send the amount of money that they would have spent at a fundraiser. We have used this for several years now and always have a good response making \$800.00 to \$900.00. Financially we are doing okay, but would like to keep the Office in a good financial monetary standing.

We were contacted last year by our local SATOP office to bring 1 or 2 speakers every 2 weeks during their SATOP weekends. We are getting great response from our Al-Anon groups regarding this and hope that we are reaching some family members in our community.

Keeping the office open the last 6 months has been challenging so we have not had a lot of extra activities going on. I know of at least one new group that is sending their registration to WSO right now.

Mugs B. gave a report for the St. Louis Information Office:

Since Evie M. took over as chairperson of the Public Outreach Committee for the Information Center, we have attended several community events to answer questions about the purpose of Al-Anon and Alateen and pass out literature. We are fortunate to have a generous budget. The AIS donated \$350.00 worth of literature. September 18th – 20th we attended the Midwest Social Work Conference and gave out a lot of literature. October 6th Evie went with two other members to St. Luke's Hospital and spoke to a group of nurses and hospital ancillary staff. They told their stories in a general manner and talked about how Al-Anon helped their recovery from the family illness of alcoholism. Over 60 nurses attended.

They have been asked to come back. On October 18th we attended a Community Education Wellness and Education Fair in Wellston. On November 6th we went to the YWCA Teens and Young Women's Leadership Conference. There were 700 registered at this event. There were many who visited our table, took literature and asked questions. Evie has registered for and will attend an event on March 28th presented by Achievers Step By Step. This group will give attendees a resource booklet for the African-American community. She gave them an Al-Anon business card with the phone numbers for the AIS in St. Louis and Kansas City, which will be included in the booklet.

Literature sales have been going very well and in January groups were very generous in donating to the Office. Volunteers have continued to help in the Office. There was a smooth transition into 2009 with help from volunteers with file cards, yearly files, newcomer packs and helping with calls. There were 753 calls in the past 4 months. January and February donations totaled \$4293.74. Lauren S. is the new IR Speakers Bureau Chairperson and the list has been updated. Many thanks to Elaine for the monthly newsletter and to Sharon for continuing to maintain the volunteer list for the answering service. Public Outreach through the IR will be attending functions over the next few months. Thank you to Evie and volunteers for representing the program at these events. The AIC has an e-mail address to encourage members and newcomers to send flyers and questions that the Office may be able to help with. Also, please ask members to send in their names to celebrate birthdays to the Sincerely Al-Anon newsletter.

Geneva spoke about a large contribution that was given for Come Be A Teen. It was returned because it was earmarked for a specific use and because of its size. The Business Services Action Committee will be working on guidelines for contributions. She then asked for questions and comments about this.

Sarah M., Archivist, couldn't be at Assembly, so Geneva read her report:

Loretta R. continues to travel at her own expense, the 70 mile round trip to my house twice a month. We continue work on the compiling of a Delegates' notebook—which is on display this weekend.

Also in progress is work on the "Longtime Member Questionnaire". Please watch for this and fill one out if you have 25 years or more in the program. We will have more about this later as we finish revising and shortening the questionnaire.

Geri W., Group Records Coordinator, gave her report:

Since our November Assembly we have 235 Al-Anon groups with 266 meetings and 19 Alateen groups. There is 1 new group. Three groups have closed or disbanded.

We have 3 groups in District 15 previously listed as Al-Anon, but they do not hold Al-Anon meetings. The Area has sent them letters informing them that we will no longer list them in our *Where and When*.

Trudy S., Round Robin Editor, gave her report:

Without the help of the Alternate Editor of your Round Robin, Karlene, I would not be standing here a year later reporting to you.

I tend to ignore articles that come in before the first of the month for the Round Robin. I'm still resting up from the last Round Robin experience.

If you are one of the District Representatives, Coordinators, and Officers, I expect articles from you once a month or so. Please send them to me. I'm not a very good beggar.

Please pay for your subscriptions if you are a Group receiving a Round Robin. Our income for Round Robin was \$105.00 last month. Guess what; we spent a whole lot more for printing and mailing the Round Robin. Last month we sent out 340 Round Robins. There are 250 Groups, including Alateen Groups. There are 172 unpaid Round Robin subscriptions, as of this moment. There are 79 Personal copies sent out and 10 copies to others given by us.

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

There have not been very many inquiries on the website since November, maybe 10 at most. There was a very good Alateen article in Current Health magazine. It's a Weekly Reader magazine for teens. The title of the article was "The Sobering Facts". We were looking for copies of the MO School Counselors' Association magazine for our archives. I found out the fall issue still has not been printed. I have been trying to find out when to expect it. I have CDs and DVDs for sharing. Please see me to sign them out.

The spring '09 issue of Area Highlights is an excellent source of P. O. ideas. In Quebec a Delegate and Area Public Outreach Coordinator teamed up to increase awareness. In Oklahoma, getting the public library to designate Al-Anon literature in the health, safety, and family categories helps the books remain in the library longer. (John M. from District 15 has already started a program like this with libraries.) Another idea is to contact Wal-Mart, ask for their Community Health Fair Coordinator, and ask if Al-Anon can supply a literature display.

I'm waiting to share more information on the St. Louis Probation/Parole Officers' Resource Fair to be held June 9th with the St. Louis Information Office. Marilyn M. from District 18 was contacted about a MO Drug Court statewide conference to be held in March at Tan-Tar-A Resort. A booth for 3 days (Wed. – Fri.) is only \$100.00. Marilyn's contact was enthusiastic about adding Al-Anon to the roster. We were notified too close to the deadline to participate this year, but will try for next year.

District 9 is hosting an outreach project to all the police stations in their district. District 15 is hosting an Open House for Professionals in Kirkwood in March. District 28 is working on outreach to the Franklin County SATOP program, Family Courts, and parole officers. The St. Louis Information Center had a banner made to attach to the literature display table, and have been busy attending events.

I have a new Public Outreach display. It's made out of lighter materials than the old one and easier for me to transport. Please check it out. There's lots of free stuff on it. Look at our order blank and Al-Anon websites for free materials. You can print out the business cards or the Open Letters to Professionals.

I have a hand out "Where Would You Leave..." Please fill out where you would leave "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism", old Forums, the Crying House bookmarks, and/or MO Area business cards. I'll collect and collate, and share the information in the Round Robin. I have old posters. Let me know where you put them. I have another hand out "I Wanna Serve". Please make copies and take to events in your districts, such as potlucks. Then forward the information to me. Point out that personal information—full name, address, phone number, and e-mail address—will go out to other Al-Anon Family Group members.

John D., Literature Coordinator, gave his report:

Sales for 2009 are at \$1,324.59. Inventory is tracked monthly through a database system that monitors for low inventory to make sure I don't run out of anything too often, and it helps me organize what to bring. Sales have been very good today. We have sold more Alateen literature than all of last year.

E-Cal has not caught on with Al-Anon members like the monthly submissions for the Forum. The WSO reports that they get a least 100 submissions for the Forum to choose from each month. However, in the case of E-Cal there have only been 2 submissions. In case you have forgotten or are not familiar with E-CAL, **Electronic Conference Approved Literature** is a way of sharing your experience, strength, and hope in ways that go beyond what is possible with words alone. It's sharing your recovery using **original** audio, video, song, poetry, prose, images or a combination of media tools. If you are not sure what it is, go to the member site and check the E-CAL submissions there.

In my last report I gave a brief description of how new CAL is developed. This was not just a question from our area but from Al-Anon as a whole. Since then many more members have asked more questions related to new, revised, and future CAL. During a recent Literature Coordinators' conference call with WSO this was brought up. It seems that 6 or 7 years ago, all of Al-Anon's literature was disbursed to members across the world to review

and make recommendations for changes, edits, etc. Some members have noticed that a lot of literature recently has been revised, this is the reason. If a piece of CAL just needs some "cleaning up", like spelling or grammatical errors then the WSO Literature Committee makes the change and the literature is revised. However, if a recommendation is to either change the focus or meaning of the intended purpose, then the piece of Literature goes through a much longer process to determine whether the changes are appropriate or if new CAL is needed. Any new CAL must be approved by the Conference, or any CAL whose original intent is changed.

When WSO started the Sample Chapter Project it was a great success with a lot of submissions, but recently those submissions have been declining. It's easy to do and makes for a great meeting topic. It's a one-page form that asks you to quote a section from the selected book and come up with 5 questions to use as a meeting topic. Afterwards you can fax or email your completed sample chapter project to WSO. The Sample Chapter Project will continue for now and the next Sample Chapter Project uses the book In all our Affairs (B-15) for meeting topics. It's due **April 15, 2009**. A copy of the Sample Chapter Project is in your box and is also available on the Missouri Al-Anon website.

If your District has a newsletter, send a copy to WSO. When they're doing the Area Highlights, those are what they look through to find member sharings from.

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

As of Friday we have a total of 9 new AMIAS, a group in Gladstone ready to be reinstated, and a new group in University is ready to start. I want to remind everyone that if there is a possibility of someone attending your home group who's under 18, please have at least one, if not more, members that are AMIAS certified.

Come Be A Teen, better known to some as CBAT, started in 2007. This event began as a result of not having enough teens to be able to afford a stand-alone Alateen conference. For many, many years, Missouri Alateen had not only a mid-winter "Round-Up", but a summer camp also. In addition, many groups went to a multi-area conference and the spring and fall Super Sunday (Alateen Business Meeting).

When Motion 51 (the Alateen safety and behavioral guidelines and AMIAS certifications) passed, many sponsors of Area 31 were no longer comfortable in attending the multi-area convention. Thus began the dwindling of events. Due to the rising cost of hotels, it was decided by the teens and sponsors to let go of Round-Up temporarily and focus just on Camp. Unfortunately, as camp rolled around there were not enough participants and the hosting group had to cancel camp.

A year and a half later, an Alateen was talking to her group sponsor, asking what she could do to make something happen so the teens could get together again. She was told that there was a possibility that had been brought up at a past Super Sunday but had been voted down almost unanimously. She was told that to do this she would have to be willing to take it on completely without any expectations. After getting the support of her home group, it was a go. And so, CBAT was created. Due to the facility's availability, CBAT is a spring event.

In order to have enough people, Al-Anon and A. A.s were invited to CBAT. They were instructed to follow all Alateen rules and guidelines. They were placed in an Alateen group to report to; given responsibilities to chair meetings, cleaning, and such. They were also invited to bring their teenage children, so they could see what Alateen is all about. While at this event, the adults were instructed that they were not to be parents. (UNLESS IN AN EMERGENCY, OF COURSE.)

This was to be a one-time event. The rest of the area Alateens support this event. They too missed getting together. The event was a huge success. The adults that came had an awesome experience. To share a weekend with recovering Alateens at their level was an incredible experience for most, though some had complaints of the lack of sleep! A few of

the adult teens were late for a meeting and had to sing a nursery song of their choice. Not to mention names, but one of them is a Regional Trustee at this time!

Every person over 18 had to be run through the AAPP. Each person over 18 was also checked with watchdog.com for any police records. In the two years we have had CBAT, we have only had to turn one person away.

Our numbers were 51 people the first year, 2007, and 45 in 2008. Our registration cost covers only the lodging and food costs for the individual person. Many items we have to pay for, meeting rooms, fire wood, rental of roasting irons, golf cart, start up hospitality items (including hot dogs & such for bonfire), medical kit, supplies, and administration cost including insurance (minimum 100 People), and for meeting all cabin minimums, comes from our Area Alateen Fund. The Alateen Fund collects all of the monies from Area-wide fundraiser and from individual and group donations. Whenever there is an excess of funds, it also lowers the individual registration.

Linda K., Alateen Coordinator, gave her report:

Since we have already discussed the items I would report on, I won't do it again. I would just like to once again, invite everyone to "Come Be A Teen" on April 17-19, 2009. It will be a fun weekend of recovery!

Kathy B., Speaker Coordinator, gave her report:

The Missouri Al-Anon/Alateen Convention is about 2 months away and I hope you are planning on attending. I am excited about the speakers that will be sharing their experience, strength and hope. The speakers are Beverly B. (AFG) from Lewisville, TX, Vicky A. (AFG) from Blaine, MN, Gene (A. A.) and Trudy M. (AFG) from Maryland Heights, MO and Roilee B. is the Alateen speaker from Maryland Heights, MO. This will be the first Missouri Al-Anon/Alateen Convention for all the speakers. Please help in giving each one a warm welcome. I hope that each speaker leaves with good memories of the Missouri Al-Anon/Alateen Convention. If anyone is interested in being a host or hostess for any of the speakers, please let me know.

I can always use more speaker suggestions from our state as well as out of our state. This includes A. A. speakers too. If you have a suggestion of someone local and you know when he/she is speaking, please let me know. If I have the opportunity to attend, I will. Otherwise, if you have the opportunity to tape the person and can get it to me that would be great.

I would appreciate if you could share any experience you have had with JAMB Tapes. I brought a survey for anyone willing to fill it out. You can take it to other members to fill out if you want. I want to make sure I am representing you in the best way when I contact them before the May Convention with your concerns and comments. Please get them back to me by March 31, 2009.

I have received information about another taper and will be in contact with them in the near future to see what they have to offer or if they would be willing to come to our convention in September 2010.

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

Richard asked me to explain what is needed to run the web page. First of all you need a computer. I use Microsoft Front page and Microsoft Access to run the Website. You also need Microsoft Word. Richard says you only need the Reader but I feel you need Microsoft Word because there are times when I fix mistakes that are made on Flyers for example the date. You also need a PDF writer, which I got for free. I believe you would need some basic knowledge about computers. I know I didn't know a whole lot other than that. Richard taught me how to use Front Page and Access. And you need the time and the creativity.

About a couple of months ago I had e-mailed Richard explaining to him my concerns about being the Web Page Coordinator. I have been extremely busy with work and other personal issues. After talking with him and doing a lot of praying and thinking about the position I have decided to remain as Web Page Coordinator.

I am asking for help. I do not have an alternate. If you know of anyone who would be interested in helping me please let me know.

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

I want to reiterate some information to you regarding the scheduling of Area Conventions, Assemblies and the AWSC Meeting. The new calendar was discussed last November, but many of us are accustomed to attending MO Area events the same time as we have for years. The new schedule is as follows.

Assembly Schedule

November 7th and 8th, 2009 at the Inn at Grand Glaize (first weekend in November)
May 1st and 2nd, 2010 at the Inn at Grand Glaize (the weekend before Mother's Day)
November 6th and 7th, 2010 – to be determined later
April 30th and May 1st, 2011 – to be determined later
November 5th and 6th, 2011 - to be determined later
May 5th and 6th, 2012 - to be determined later
November 3rd and 4th, 2012 - to be determined later

Mother's Day dates for future planning are as follows: May 9th, 2010, May 8th, 2011, May 13th, 2012, May 12th, 2013 and May 11th, 2014.

Regarding assembly I have no further contracts in place than indicated because after the complete utilization of the meeting room in November 2009 along with the heating/cooling problem I wanted to see how and if these problems could be solved. I will submit proposals to you in November of this year.

Convention Schedule

May 15th, 16th and 17th, 2009 at the Inn at Grand Glaize
September 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2010 at the Country Club Hotel and Spa
September 23rd, 24th and 25th, 2011 at the Country Club Hotel and Spa
September 28th, 29th and 30th, 2012 to be determined later

Area World Service Committee Meeting – AWSC

August 1, 2009 in Columbia
March 13th, 2010 – no location in place yet (the second Saturday in March)
March 12th, 2011 - no location in place yet
March 10th, 2012 - no location in place yet

The new calendar will have the MO. Area Day in Service being held on the first Saturday in August beginning in 2010. That is not left to the Convention Coordinator to plan.

As you know our 2009 Convention is around the corner. Fliers are available this weekend. The MO. Area Convention needs your support! New this year will be a panel of speakers in addition to the Friday night speakers, Saturday afternoon Alateen speaker, a Saturday evening speaker and the Sunday morning speaker. For Saturday night fun and fellowship group entertainment is being planned.

Geneva asked for a brief description of what happens on our Action Committees so new people can know what committee meeting they would like to go to. Shirley M. told about the Membership Outreach Action Committee (Renae R., chair, was not present). Gina M. told about the Fellowship Communications Action Committee. Janet F. told about the Public Outreach Action Committee, Loretta R. told about the Group Services Action Committee. Holly D. told about the Business Services Action Committee (Peggy J., chair, is having to step down for now). Although the Convention Committee isn't an Action Committee, Donna E.-H. was asked to tell what they do.

Debbi M. gave an Alateen presentation. It is the first of four Alateen Training Modules, "Overview of Alateen Service". Some questions and comments followed.

Motion 1: Beginning with the 2010 calendar, the Delegate's Report will not be given at the Convention. **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion 2: The Area will give the Delegate \$200.00 to purchase literature, photographs, tapes, or other expenses incurred at the 2009 World Service Conference. **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion 3: The term of office for Speaker Coordinator will run from after the Convention in September for three years; term of office to expire after the Al-Anon Convention in September after the completion of the three year term. **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion 4: To invite a Trustee or member of the Executive Committee to the November 7-8, 2009 Missouri Area Assembly. The purpose of the visit would be to (1) share their personal story on Saturday (10:00 AM to 11:00 AM) and (2) provide a Leadership seminar with involvement/participation from Assembly members Saturday (1:00 PM to 3:00 PM). Further, the Missouri Area will fund room, board, and in-Missouri transportation and will contribute \$500.00 to W. S. O. (for transportation, incidentals, and contribution). **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion 5: Add to Section II in the Procedures Digest E. 5 that would read: Area World Service Committee (AWSC) members can hold only one AWSC service position at a time. Effective date for this motion is January 1, 2011, the start of Panel 51. **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion 6: Add to Section II in the Procedures Digest E. 6 that would read: Area Officers do not vote at Area Assemblies as representing a Group. If an Area Officer is a G. R., the Alternate G. R. can vote for the Group. It is preferred that Area Officers not be a G. R. **MOTION PASSED.**

Vanessa reported on the Group Services Action Committee:

The committee chair passed around a check off list to see who is attending the meeting that signed up for the committee.

The Group Records Coordinator is going to send out welcome letters to new groups with help from our committee chairperson.

There was an "Ask-it Basket" question forwarded to our committee chairperson—"How does Tradition 3 apply when groups are not uniform?" After discussion, it was decided that more information is needed. Is there an example to give? More clarification is needed.

The MO Area has been offered the opportunity to submit a bid to host the World Service Office Alateen Advisory Committee in 2010. After discussion it was decided that more information is needed, such as number of attendees, place, length of time needed, etc.

Discussion about the Come Be A Teen event included concern about the regimented time/schedule preventing attendance—there is no flexibility. It is understood that this is the Alateen procedure.

Concerning unhealthy groups and what to do about them: If a group is removed from "Where and When", where does their money go? CAL was mentioned, lead by example, and group conscience meetings were suggested. Are groups without GRs and Districts without DRs considered unhealthy?

Gina M. reported on the Fellowship Communication Action Committee meeting:

The committee has noticed that the *Forum* information has not been appearing in the Round Robin nor are we hearing about the *Forum* from our Forum Coordinator. Therefore we are issuing a challenge to our G. R.s. We want you to hold a writing meeting where everyone is given a sheet of paper and asked to write anything from one sentence to several paragraphs on any Al-Anon topic. We would like the G. R.s to collect the sharings, do not edit them, and mail them to the *Forum*. Some members may balk at this. Ask them to take a photograph, compose a program-related crossword or seek-and-find puzzle, or draw a cartoon instead. Our Literature Coordinator, John, has three *Forum* help sheets to assist you. They are free. We would like this challenge announced at District Meetings to those G. R.s who couldn't be here today. The committee hopes to overwhelm the *Forum* with sharings from MO. Also, please encourage more group members to purchase subscriptions to the *Forum*. Remember, if you can voice a sharing at a meeting, you can write it out and share it with the entire fellowship.

Jinx H. reported on the Business Services Action Committee meeting:

There were three items on our agenda: the 2008 financial report, the budget for 2009, and procedures for contributions to the MO Area. Holly handed out copies of the financial report

for the last 12 months. This is available to anyone. Please e-mail Holly if you want a copy. In the past we had talked about setting financial goals instead of having a budget. We're not sure a budget is possible for the type of work we do. We are going to form a subcommittee and decide if we want to try to set a budget for 2010 or at least set financial goals. It is too late to do this for 2009.

We decided contributions was actually three issues: what is the relationship between the two accounts (Al-Anon and Alateen); earmarking of funds (whether we want to follow WSO's policy or if we want make our own policy); and donation limits (again whether we want to follow WSO's policy or if we want to make our own).

Our committee tripled in size—we were 5, now we're 15. We are going to divide up into subcommittees and hand each of these issues out to a subcommittee, then we'll come back in November with the ideas we've come up with and go from there.

Janet F. reported on the Public Outreach Action Committee meeting:

One of the issues we talked about from last Assembly was an appeal from District 26 regarding a billboard in cooperation with A. A. As a committee we felt this was a District decision and not an Area one. There was also a concern about any affiliation with A. A. One of our committee members, Christie B., has professional expertise about billboards. (She then came to the microphone and shared her knowledge about this with us.)

The other issue we were discussing last Assembly that didn't get resolved was District 26 had requested financial assistance from the Area for the Alateen outreach program at Pathways to provide them with the Alateen readers. More information was requested and District 26 responded with the number of participants, the cost and their involvement in the program. The committee felt the financial support should not come from the Area, but from other Districts, groups and individual members. We want to support this project and are going to inform the Districts of this project as well as suggest individuals and groups support it.

We discussed where to leave Al-Anon literature. For example "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2009" in doctors', dentists' and counselors' offices; old "Forum" magazines in medical offices and hospital waiting rooms; crying house bookmarks in libraries and book stores; Al-Anon business cards on bulletin boards, in police and fire departments, institutions, state tourist centers, and teacher supply stores.

We need to try to network and keep in touch with each other by e-mail between now and the next Assembly.

Libeth T. reported on the Membership Outreach Action Committee meeting:

There were two areas of concentration for our committee, Assembly and Convention. An idea for Assembly was to humanize it by making it more positive for both Al-Anon and Alateen. Suggestions included developing a skit about ways to discuss issues in more and less threatening ways, an icebreaker, and a way of closing so we're leaving on a more positive note. One idea that would take no time out of the Assembly is to walk through occasionally with a sandwich board sign with slogans to remind us that "We're all volunteers together on the bus", "It is progress not perfection", and "Principles above personalities". A decision was made to host a mini meeting at Convention, with details to be worked out through e-mail.

The Alateen member of the Committee noted that the expense to attend Convention is prohibitive for the teens. We decided to encourage people to contact their local Alateen sponsor to offer to help send a teen to Convention. If you don't have an Alateen group at home, contact the Alateen coordinators and they can put you in touch with a group that has somebody who wants to go to Convention but can't afford it. If we want Alateen to be part of our world, we need to put our money where our mouths are.

We will be having drawings at Convention for a certificate for a speaker CD for a person attending Convention for the first time and also for a person who brought a first-timer.

We got "Save the Date" cards made thanks to Sharon S. They will be on the website for downloading, to make and pass out to our groups.

The Convention Committee is not an Action Committee, but they meet at the same time as the Action Committees. Some of Convention Committee members had some information from their meeting to share with us.

Kathy B.: One of the things we didn't bring up yesterday about Convention was how the Groups and Districts donate baskets, as well as books. We raffle these off and all the proceeds go back to the Convention to offset expenses of the Convention. G. R.s and D. R.s take this back to your groups and ask if they would be willing to donate a basket.

I had asked if anyone would be a host or hostess. I should let you know what that is. You would contact a Convention speaker beforehand. Then greet the speaker when they arrive, offer to take them out to dinner or any meals you would want to share with them, and just check in on them through the weekend.

Mary M.: We still have about 8 mini-meeting slots open for Convention. Chairing a mini-meeting is just like chairing a meeting at your home group. You open the meeting; you bring the topic. If you're concerned, do it with two people; double up as a team.

Donna E.-H.: The baskets Kathy talked about usually have a theme, and we do a book raffle, as well. We have "Infinite Possibilities" for workshops. We may have a new taper if we can't resolve issues with JAMB Tapes. We talked about ways to change things. We may have a breakfast speaker next year or two speakers on Saturday night. We are planning some entertainment for this year's Convention. We decided to have a Talent Show. It probably will be a No-Talent Show. Sign up with Debbi M. here or online. The "Yeah But" Sisters will be appearing.

Ask-It Basket Questions

Question: For Al-Anon anniversaries, are there Al-Anon coins to present to the person celebrating; and is there a catalog or website?

Geneva D.: In the Service Manual, on page 87, there's a category called Avoiding Commercialism, and the last paragraph under that category says, "The WSO does not stock or offer program-related jewelry or trinkets for sale because these actions could divert our service office from our primary purpose." And then there's a category under that, WSO Does Not Provide Lists of Suppliers. "In keeping with Tradition Six, the WSO does not provide lists of suppliers for articles associated with the fellowship, i.e., plaques, jewelry." We all know there are those coins that are frequently given, and there's even the jewelry. This is not from the World Service Office and when these things are sold, they in no way support Al-Anon. The money that goes for that strictly goes for the person who's selling it, the company that makes it. It does not enhance the Al-Anon treasury in any way. There is autonomy. Personally, we can do whatever we want to do. If we like that stuff and want to wear it, we're perfectly free to buy it. We need to research where we're going to buy it ourselves. Nobody provides a list for that; you can get it yourself.

Question: It is obvious that the same members serve Alateen year after year. Is this continuity in the best interest of Alateen? What happens to rotation in service?

Laurie K.: I don't know if this question addresses Alateen sponsors of individual groups or the Al-Anon members who serve as coordinators for Alateen so I will address both topics.

In Alateen groups teens appreciate the consistency of having the same sponsors present in their meetings--consistency may not be a feature of the rest of their lives. Coming to trust sponsors and members makes it possible for all of us to share and get help and that is especially true of Alateen members. It is certainly good for a new sponsor to join the group from time to time to add to the spectrum of program principles that the teens hear about and spread the support they receive in their meetings and at their events. Additionally, it is a real asset if one of the sponsors is a male member of Al-Anon, which benefits both the male and female teens. Having enough sponsors to serve a group well is a difficult problem and I know that all the current sponsors would like help, a break from time to time, or a chance to

pull back for a while to strengthen their own programs. Teens cannot meet without sponsors present and not being able to have a meeting because of lack of sponsors is a sad thing. So I would encourage each of you to look into becoming certified to help with Alateen, as a sponsor or Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen (AMIAS)--in Missouri, we call them a LAP(Loving Adult Presence).

As an area, we decided to ask our present Alateen Sponsor Coordinator to take a second term while we are in the process of setting up and perfecting our Area Alateen Safety Requirements. We will be looking for members involved in Alateen to serve as Missouri Area Alateen Coordinator and Alateen Sponsor Coordinator for the next panel, which begins January 1, 2011. Adults with enthusiasm for Alateen are treasured trusted servants in our area.

(I failed to mention that if one Alateen sponsor not been available for the past 30 years continuously, we would not have an Alateen institutions meeting in detention centers in St. Louis. Various members have helped her but she has kept that meeting going all that time. We have other sponsors in Missouri who have kept Alateen meetings open or begun new meetings repeatedly and they are greatly appreciated.)

Question: Holly, please clarify when a member can get a tax receipt.

Holly D.: When a personal contribution is received by the Area, if they request a receipt, I will send it. I cannot do that for a group, because it would have to be from a person to the Area with a request for a receipt.

Question: The St. Louis Liaison referred to the Literature Office as the 'AIC'. Isn't the correct name for the office the 'AIS' (Al-Anon Information Service)?

Loretta R.: The answer is yes, and the information can be found in your handbook.

Question: Is a person required to have one complete term of GR before they can be voted as a DR? Is there a minimum amount of time required as a member of Al-Anon to be DR?

Richard B.: The answer is no and no. The answer is in the service manual. I have four references. Page 63: "The *District Representative (DR)*: elected by the GRs from among their own number." Page 118 defines a caucus: "The meeting at the Assembly of the GRs from a given district, convened for the purpose of electing a District Representative if none has been elected in his home district prior to the Assembly." Page 119 definition of a District Representative (DR): "An incoming, outgoing, or active past GR who is elected by the other GRs in his district either in his home district or at an Assembly." And the last reference is on page 134. It talks about the election of a District Representative (DR) and Alternate. It says essentially some of the same things. I like to do hypotheticals—extreme hypotheticals. I can attend my first meeting one Wednesday. The second Wednesday, I'm elected GR. That Saturday there's a District Meeting. I could be elected DR at that meeting because I'm a GR. And I've been in Al-Anon a week and a half! But at an election I think people would look at, I would hope, who's available, and experience, and do a good, intelligent election.

Debra M. had some drawings for books for "newbies" and people who brought them to the last Convention and Assembly, and today's G. R. orientation attendees. She then had a drawing for the "Spirit Stick"—District 9 was drawn.

The remaining time was used to open the floor to whatever we wanted to discuss—anything we wanted brought to the attention of the Assembly.

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