

Minutes Assembly Meeting November 4-5, 2017 Osage Beach, MO

Alternate Delegate Sue K. opened the meeting at 10:00am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Officers in attendance: Sarah S, Area Delegate; Sue K, Area Alternate Delegate; Lori H, Area Treasurer; Karen G, Area Secretary

77 GRs present, total attendance 114

Traditions were read by Robyn Q., Concepts of Service were read by Dawn D.

Sue K. announced that our Area Chair - Lynn C-R., has stepped down. Lynn's email acknowledging the support of the Area for her was read. Per Area procedures, Alternate Delegate, Sue K. will chair the Assembly meeting until a new Chair is elected at this Assembly

Officers Reports: (see full reports in APPENDIX A)

- Minutes from May 2017 Assembly meeting were read by Karen G, Area Secretary. Corrections were submitted. Linda G motioned to accept as corrected, Michael C seconded. Motion passed. Corrected minutes will be submitted to the Area website.
- Treasurer's report was presented by Lori H, Area Treasurer. Diane S. motioned to accept the report as read, Audrey J. seconded. Motion passed.
- Alternate Delegate report presented by Sue K
- Delegate Report presented by Sarah S

Trainings and Presentations:

- A training on financial issues by the Financial Review Committee was presented by Lori H and Mary L
- Workshop "Applying Spiritual Principles to Area Finances" was presented by Delegate Sarah S and Lori H
- Knowledge Based Decision Making training by Laurie K and Janie F. This is training 3 of 3.
- Workshop "Reasoning Things Out" presented by Sue K. and Jodi O.
- "Alateen : Past, Present and Future" presentation and celebration by Sarah M, Loretta R and Area Alateen members

Elections:

Election procedures were read. 77 voting GRs were in attendance. 39 for simple majority, 52 for 2/3 majority.

Newly elected to Area positions:

Chairperson: Sue K

Sue's election to Chairperson left the position of Alternate Delegate open.

Alternate Delegate: Lori H

Lori's election to Alternate Delegate left the position of Treasurer open.

Treasurer: Mary J F (Janie F)

New Alateen Intern: Carissa

Reports: (NOTE: The person listed with the Report is the person who presented at the Assembly.)

Coordinator reports: (see full reports in APPENDIX B)

Area Alateen Process Person - Janet W

Alateen Intern - Cydney for Ben

Convention - Melanie E

Group Records - Janet O

Leadership Support Committee - Ann H

Literature/Forum - Sue B

Public Outreach - Sandi M

Serenity Patrol - Sherri E

Alateen Coordinator - Marilyn M

AMIAS Leadership Support - Sandi M and Audrey J

Financial Review Thought Force - Laurie K, Diane S

Kansas City AIS Liaison - Mary C

Literature Depot - Mary L

Newsletter - Cheri H

Registrar - Donna S

Speaker Coordinator - Geneva D

St Louis AIS Liaison - Stephanie K
Business Meeting Thought Force - Geneva D and Committee

Webpage - Jodi O

District Reports: (see full reports in APPENDIX C)

1 - Dawn D	2 - Theresa M	4 - Jenny F	5 - Lorraine H	8 - Elaine M	9 - Flo W
13 - Kathy G	14 - Connie L	15 - Mary R	17 - Barb K	18 - Mary N	19 - Robin Q
21 - Ann H	23 - Michael C	25 - Diane S	28 - Fay W		

Motions:

From the floor, prompted by the presentation of the Financial Review Committee report:

MOTION: The Area Chairperson will establish a Budget Task force to create an area budget that will be presented at the May 2018 Assembly. Motion made by Sandy C., seconded by Donna S.
PASSED

Motions for Delegate to Attend World Service Conference 2018:

MOTION: The Missouri Area will pay the Full Amount, \$2,443, (as determined by the World Service Committee) for our Delegate to attend the 2018 World Service Conference. Motion made by Lori H., seconded by Sherri E.
PASSED

MOTION: The Missouri Area will advance \$400 to the Delegate for incidental expenses at the 2018 World Service Conference. Motion made by Lori H., seconded by Laurie L.
PASSED

Additional business/notes:

- Request for "White Elephant" gifts for the Alateens to use for Rob Your Neighbor game at CBAT - bring to AWSC
- During break a caucus was held by members of District 20 to elect a District Representative - Mary C is new DR for District 20.
- Open mike time to share about the workshops or any topic.
- 2018 Convention Theme - The Paths to Recovery are Paved in Gold - Happy 50th Anniversary Missouri Al-Anon

Adjourned 11:20am 11/5 with Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Karen G, Panel 57 Secretary, Area 31

APPENDIX A: OFFICERS REPORTS

Delegate's Report

Greeting Missouri Area Assembly,

Introduction:

It's already the November Assembly. Can you believe that? We are almost through the entire first year of this Panel. I've had the privilege of visiting some of the Missouri Area Districts this year. Thank you for the invitation and your hospitality. I would love to visit all the Districts by the end of my term. The 2018 World Service Conference will be here before we know it. I will have a lot of new information to pass on to you then. Recently I received an email from a member who was upset that I didn't respond to an ask-it-basket question I received in May. I do sincerely apologize. I shared in my Round Robin articles and at the 2017 August Area World Service Committee Meeting that my car was broken into and my Al-Anon bag was stolen. I also requested that any questions be resubmitted since I no longer had them. If you submitted a question in May and didn't receive an answer from me, please resubmit the question and I will promptly get it answered. I am also going to share some updates with you from the 2nd and 3rd quarter from the World Service Office.

Ask-it-Basket Question:

Question: Building Expense – What's the Building Occupancy expense in the 2016 audited and 2017 budget on page 12 of the *World Conference Summary*? Is it for the current building and if yes what is the 284,000 and in 2017 the 285,550-expense covering?

Answer: The building is completely paid off. We do not owe any more money on the payment of the building. However, we do have Building Occupancy Expenses. There are many factors to this category: Depreciation (which is half), Utilities, HVAC Maintenance, Lawn Maintenance, and any other upkeep that is necessary for Building upkeep. The Executive Committee for Real Property Management (EPRMC) accesses our building needs and makes financial projections to address those needs. We are very fortunate! Our office is beautiful, well-kept, and in immaculate condition.

WSO FINANCE UPDATE:

The following financial update was taken from the 2017 October COB Letter:

Finance Committee Update

October 2017

Jennie M., Treasurer

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period ended September 30, 2017:

The General Fund recorded a loss of \$73,089 for this period, compared to a gain of \$303,315 this period last year. That represents a net negative of \$376,404 over this period last year. Revenue from literature sales was slightly behind that of 2016, but is tracking ahead of budgeted expectations. The General Fund investment

income totaled about \$38,000. We have transferred \$142,200 from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund, as budgeted.

Income:

Literature sales were \$2,656,585 for this period, compared to \$2,663,981 at this time last year. Gross profit on literature sales was \$2,157,888 (81% of sales), compared to \$2,174,164 for 2016. Contributions are at \$1,427,956 for 2017, compared to \$1,459,358 last year—a decrease of 2.1% and falling short of budgeted projections by \$150,000 for the first nine months of the year. Forum subscription income was \$200,230 for 2017, an increase of 8%.

Expenses:

Actual operating expenses were \$4,136,660 for the first nine months of 2017, compared to \$3,681,725 last year and slightly over budget which is normal for this time of year. Full staffing is reflected in the increased expenditure over last year.

Reserve Fund:

The fair value of investments in the Reserve Fund totaled \$5,676,705 at September 30, 2017, an increase in value of over \$800,000 for this year reflecting the overall increased value found in the equities market.

Outlook:

Believing that the fellowship would be able to repeat its strong 2016 support in 2017, the budget was built on that expression of abundance and faith. If members are able to match 2016 contributions in 2017, we will end the year on target. We are looking to collect \$660,000 during October, November and December of 2017. Area treasuries can only do so much – we are dependent, as always, on individuals and groups as we try to help those who carry the message of hope.

Executive Director Update:

Our October Board Week was the first for our new Executive Director (ED), Vali F. and our last for outgoing ED, Mary G. As shared in July, Mary committed to working side-by-side with Vali beginning September 5th through the October Board meeting. This transition period has ensured that our new Executive Director, our WSO staff and our fellowship experienced a smooth transition. The Board took this opportunity to thank Mary once again for her dedicated leadership during these past 18 months. We wish her much joy as she begins a new adventure. Conference members will be given an opportunity to meet and get to know our new ED during the 2018 WSC. In the meantime, please welcome Vali in her new role as Executive Director.

2018 World Service Conference:

The 2018 World Service Conference will be held in West Harrison, New York. This will allow for the Conference to visit Stepping Stones. Stepping Stones is the historic home of Bill and Lois Wilson. I am looking forward to this Spiritual experience that I've heard so much about. The 2018 WSC Theme is:

AI-Anon – There is no standing still!

I will provide the Alternate Delegate with the address for the hotel so they can share how and where to send Love Gifts for the Conference. The updates should be in *Round Robin* and shared at the March Area World Service Committee Meeting.

2018 International Convention (taken from COB Letter 2018):

Our 2018 International Convention Celebrating One Day at A Time is quickly approaching. Registration opened online and by mail September 15th. Online registration can be easily completed by going to www.al-anon.org and clicking on the International Convention link in the top right-hand corner of the website. Our Convention block of hotel and lodging options will be available once you complete your registration. Be sure to note your registration number as it is required to complete your hotel reservations. Dates for the 2018 International are Friday, July 6th–8th. Registration fees are \$130 through December 31, 2017; \$165 January 1–May 31, 2018; \$195 June 1, 2018 through the event. As of this writing 1,010 enthusiastic members from around the world have registered. Can you picture yourself in Baltimore in 2018?

In addition to the International Convention, a Day of Connecting has been planned by the Board. The Day of Connecting will be held on Thursday, July 5th. We have planned a fun and inspiring day, one that you will want to include when planning your attendance at the 2018 International Convention. Registration is a separate fee of \$40 and will increase to \$45 after May 31, 2018.

The Day of Connecting will include several formats from which you can choose:

Presentations with topics such as:

Al-Anon's International Reach – Our Worldwide

Telephone Book or the Internet - What's Your Digital Age? Al-Anon on Social Media, Know Your WSO—Service IS Its Middle Name!

Money, Money, Money – Al-Anon's Financial Stewardship – Gratitude in Action

Discussion Meetings:

Dusty Bookshelves Full of CAL – Going Beyond the Daily Readers

Tag--You're It! NOW WHAT? - Becoming the Leaders Others Know You Can Be Attitudes – Are Mine Worth Catching? The Twelve Traditions

The 3 T's of Public Outreach - Tips, Tools, and Techniques --Successful Public Outreach

Panels:

Are They Still the Best Kept Secret in Al-Anon? Living the Twelve Concepts of Service

Young Members Wanted: Alateen Opportunities

Big "P" or little "p" – Big "T" or little "t"

"Face Time" it's not what it used to be! - The Changing "Face" of Meetings

There will also be opportunities to listen and learn more about how Al-Anon works through participation in Leadership Talks and Roundtable Discussions.

50th Anniversary One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (ODAT):

An additional exciting piece of news related to the 2018 International Convention is the Board's approval of a 50th Anniversary One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (ODAT) commemorative edition, complete with gold lettering on the cover and gold ribbon book mark. A commemorative book plate will be included only for those purchased at the convention. This special edition of the ODAT will be available at the 2018 International Convention and for the remainder of 2018 until supplies are gone. A limited number of books will be printed and for a purchase price of \$15 US each.

Legal Actions of the Board:

1. Cease selling the hardcover version of *How Al-Anon Works* (B-22) for a three-year trial, review annually, once current supplies are depleted.
2. The Board approved the staff's project proposal for a one-year trial to print the *The Forum* in full color starting in 2018.
3. It is with great excitement the Board announced the location of the **2023 International Convention:**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Policy Committee Update (2017 COB Letter):

Policy Committee Update

October 2017

John M., Chairperson

Bruce F., Co-Chairperson

The purpose of the update sent each quarter by the Chairperson of the Policy Committee is to provide information and report progress regarding the following:

- Topics discussed by the Policy Committee that are generated by the fellowship and need clarification or interpretation in light of the Tradition and Concepts
- Policy motions presented to the 2017 World Service Conference (WSC)
- Policy motions approved by the WSC

The following topics were discussed at the October 2017 Policy Committee Meeting:

Policy Digest Review Thought Force presented the Policy Committee with a spreadsheet that made suggestions based on their review of the different sections of the Policy Digest. They marked each section as follows; Policy with Spiritual Principles, Policy without Spiritual Principles, Not Written as Policy, but Should Be and Does Not Belong. The Thought Force was thanked for their work and disbanded. Several task forces will be created in the upcoming weeks to work on various aspects of the Thought Force's findings.

Electronic Meetings Work Group reported on their progress. They have some good ideas about how to move forward and will begin working on one or two of them. They are also working on a breakout session for the 2018 World Service Conference.

"Open" and "Closed" Terminology discussion was continued. A task force will be created to change the language to be more welcoming to newcomers and professionals.

Getting in Touch with Al-Anon/Alateen (S23) pamphlet was discussed in light of changes in the way it is delivered to the fellowship. During the discussion, it became clear that what was in the Policy Digest about "Getting in Touch with Al-Anon/Alateen" is not policy. It does not interpret the Traditions or the Concepts. It is informational and most likely belongs elsewhere. The Policy Committee decided to leave it as it is until one of the Policy Digest Review Task Forces has a chance to make recommendations.

There was also a discussion about problems that come up when the Policy Digest is translated into Spanish and French. It was suggested that changes or additions to the Policy Digest be sent to the translators to review before the changes go to Conference for approval.

As always, members of Al-Anon are encouraged to submit questions or shared experiences to the Policy Committee for more interpretation according to our basic guides, i.e., the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service. Consider how this issue might affect worldwide Al-Anon as a whole, remembering that Al-Anon policies are simply interpretations according to principles and not rigid rules.

Executive Committee for Real Property Management member NEEDED:

The Nominating Committee is search for a member at large to serve a one-year appointment on the Executive Committee for Real Property Management. The term will begin following the Annual Board Meeting in April 2018. Résumés are due to the WSO by November 30th, 2017.

Generally, to serve on the ECRPM, an individual must have 7 or more years of continuous and ongoing membership, including Al-Anon service beyond group level; have special skills and experience that include: areas of property management, finance, business, accounting, law, business administration, or technology; live within the World Service Conference structure, and be able to speak and write fluently in the English language. If elected, members of the ECRPM cannot hold positions above the group level during their term. Delegates to the WSC are not eligible to apply as candidates for ECRPM until one WSC has elapsed after their terms end; members who are also members of A.A. are not eligible. Prior service as a Delegate is not a requirement.

I have resumes available this weekend if you are interested. You must get the resumes from the Area Delegate.

The Forum: "Serving From the Heart" – What do you think?

In last month's issue of *The Forum* we asked a few questions to find out what you thought of "Serving from the Heart," a 12-month series of articles that shared the "why" behind the Board's dedication to service to AFG, Inc. The questions are:

1. What did you enjoy about the sharings?
2. What did you learn about the role of the Trustee that you didn't know before?
3. Would you like to see more sharings from your Board of Trustees? If so, what topics would you like to see discussed?

Please submit your answers by **November 14, 2017** to area31delegate@gmail.com. I will compile the results and send them in.

In the Loop:

Have you signed up for *In the Loop*? *In the Loop* replaced *Group news* and AFG Announcements in September. You may sign up by visiting al-anon.org/emailme.

2017/2018 Road Trip: "You and Your Board Connect"

The Missouri Area was represented at the 2017 Road Trip in Aurora, Colorado. The Road Trip was an awesome experience. There were over 110 members in attendance. Each Member of the Board of Trustees were given a few minutes to share a little of their personal journey in addition to the current committee assignment and what that committee was working on.

The Missouri Area submitted a bid for the 2018 Road Trip. The Site Selection for the 2018 Road Trip: You and Your Board Connect has been made. An announcement will be made once the hotel contracts are finalized. Let's hope it's the Missouri Area!

Conclusion:

I am honored and humbled to be of service to the Missouri Area as your Panel 57 Delegate. Thank you for your love and continued support. I am your link between the Groups and the World Service Conference. Please don't hesitate to ask me any questions. You can always reach me at (573) 202-8994 or area31delegate@gmail.com. I realize I have thrown a lot of information at you. I am happy to provide any clarifications necessary. I am your Delegate, and I cannot carry our vote to the World Service Conference without your input.

"What we believe, we can achieve!"

Love in Service,

Sarah S

Panel 57 Missouri Delegate

Treasurer's Report

Area Treasurer Report – November 2017 Assembly

Below is an accounting of the convention for this year in September, 2017. Typically, if there was a profit we would ask the Assembly GRs to vote on a Missouri Area Procedure to split the profit with WSO—then put the other ½ in the reserve fund for Missouri. We will be hopeful for next year!

2017 Convention Synopsis:

Income:

Registrations, Banquet, Hospitality Donations:	\$6,393.00
Raffle Income	\$1,508.00
Total Income:	<hr/> \$7,901.00

Expenses:

Hospitality expenses	\$611.21
Speakers & Conv Cmtee Transportation & Meals	\$2,623.33
Hotel expenses	\$5,216.40
Other Expenses:	\$411.73
Total Disbursements:	<hr/> \$8,862.67

Profit/(Deficit): (\$961.67)

The current checkbook balance is \$11,724.25 (unaudited). I haven't received the bank statement for October yet, but will by the time the Round Robin article comes out, so the balance may be a bit different after I balance the checkbook. The biggest expense that will be expensed in November will be the cost of the Assembly which will be about \$4,400, which is what we spent for May Assembly.

I would like to thank District 13 for their generous contribution to the Area in the amount of \$650.00. Thank you so much! If you are looking whether the Area Treasurer has received your group's Area contribution, please keep an eye on the Round Robin for the list of checks received. With the publish dates of the newsletter, a lot of the time the publish date of the receipt can be greater than a month after the payment was submitted.

Last year our Area's average of \$1,800 per month and years before that, the Area's running average for monthly contributions were as high as \$2,100 per month. Our average monthly contributions for 2017 is running \$1,522.

Thanks for the contributions and thanks for letting me serve the Assembly.

Respectfully submitted, Lori H, Area 31 Treasurer, Panel 57

APPENDIX B: COORDINATOR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

AREA ALATEEN PROCESS PERSON (AAPP) November 2017 Assembly Report

It is hard to believe we are at the end of the first year of this panel and that Alateen is 60 years old.

***Alateen Group** updates were returned by all Alateen groups. It was exciting to see the 100% return. There are currently 12 active Alateen groups in Missouri comprising of 9 regular Alateen groups, 2 younger age Alateen groups, and 1 Alateen institution meeting.*

***AMIAS** recertification for 2017 was completed by the WSO deadline keeping Alateen active in the Missouri Area. Missouri Area has 91 current active AMIAS.*

If any AMIAS has any personal information such as address, phone, name change etc, during the rest of this year please remember to submit a new WSO form (form with the boxes) with the changes and send directly to me.

2018 Annual AMIAS re-certification will start the end of March. All current AMIAS will receive an email sometime in March from me with re-certification information. If you have questions on re-certification or background check reports, get with me during this weekend or contact me later.

*The third Missouri Area **SMA-ART** (Supporting Missouri AMIAS-Annual Recommended Training) Weekend will be held Feb 16-17-18, 2018. It is a great way to sharpen up your knowledge and share experience, strength and hope with other AMIAS in the Area. You do not have to be a current active AMIAS to attend. Registration flyers are on the tables in the foyer and is posted on the Area Web Site and will be in the Round Robin. So, mark your calendars and come join us in supporting our Missouri AMIAS.*

Thank you to both Springfield and St Louis for hosting one-day AMIAS training this past year. If your District, Group or combination of those would like to host an AMIAS training this next year, please let me know.

Remember new AMIAS are always needed. If you are not currently certified and would like to know more about how you can be of service to the Alateens at the group, district and area levels, contact me. There are many ways to serve.

If anyone has any questions, my contact information is in the Round Robin.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Missouri Area.

Janet W

Missouri AAPP Panel 57

ALATEEN COORDINATOR Report 2017 November Assembly

Can you believe we are almost at the end of the first year of our panel?

We have had a busy year.

Come Be a Teen (CBAT), our Alateen conference, 2018, is in the planning stages. We just got a full committee back in place in August when we re-elected the Alateen co-chair at Super Sunday. We had a planning meeting this weekend.

Janet reminded me to remind you all that we would like white elephant gifts donated from you all for the rob your neighbor game that we play at the beginning of CBAT. You can bring your gifts to AWSC in March or give to Marc B. or Debbie J. who are the adult chairs of CBAT. Please wrap your items in gift wrap, if you can, to make more appealing.

Some of our AMIAS had sharings from CBAT 2016 published in the most recent Alateen Talk, a WSO quarterly newsletter. I do have some extra copies of this publication to share for interested individuals. In addition, one of the Alateens who submitted a writing at CBAT 2017 had their article anonymously published in the November Forum on page 8. I would love

to share the WSO letter sent to me about the selection with them, if the teen wants to let me know, confidentially if desired, that it was theirs.

As many of you know, the Alateens served the 2017 convention as the raffle people, under the supervision of several AMIAS volunteers. We are grateful for the generosity of many Al-Anons who contributed a total of 68 raffle items which included donated Conference Approved Literature (CAL). I submitted a list of donors to the Round Robin. We apologize if we missed someone. The total raffle sales and 50/50 drawing netted \$1,718 for MO AFG after \$128 in money was paid out for the 50/50 drawing. While we were successful in this endeavor, I would appeal to the Assembly that we need to find a person or a couple of people to serve as the raffle chair for the Area Convention Committee in 2018. It is a fun job. If you enjoy meeting people, looking at raffle items and can keep records of donated items and money collected, this might be the position for you. The teens can still help distribute the baskets at Conventions. This job is not necessarily a good fit for the teens because raffle items can come in at all Area events. Sometimes teens are not at all events.

The teens also had some successful workshops at Convention. The Jeopardy game seemed very popular.

After the convention I received a phone call from a member who had attended their first convention. This person expressed extreme praise for the Jeopardy event, particularly at the professionalism that Kenneth exhibited. However, not so much for the adult Al-Anons in the room. I was one of these adults. I have not asked the teens if they felt disrespected. However, this person shared that it didn't appear we were using our Al-Anon spiritual principles in how we interacted with the teens when we questioned and argued with Kenneth and the other teens in objection to how the scoring was handled. Granted there was confusion in the beginning of the game on how we could answer the questions but that was corrected. This individual suggested that we adults apologize to the teens. Because this person is new to Area service and brought a new perspective to my attention, I do extend my apology to the teens. It certainly made me sit back and think about how I must appear to the new person and the Alateens when I may be overly vocal or too emotional in the moment. We come to Convention to have a good time and grow in recovery, but it is good to step back sometimes to ask ourselves how our behaviors may seem offensive to others when that is not our intention. Alateens are young Al-Anons. We are all in recovery and want to attract other folks who want or need recovery.

We are currently collecting money for the Step Eleven Ala-Tea Fundraiser to put toward April CBAT where all who attend abide by the Alateen event standards. The money collected helps reduce individual costs to participate. The flier with instructions is on the Area website and there may be some fliers here. Even if you don't contribute, won't you join us wherever you are by sitting down to pray and meditate on the Sunday after Thanksgiving at 2:30 pm?

I was asked to close with my hopes and dreams for Alateen. The most important goal is to serve the teens that are currently coming. Could the teens who are here this weekend stand? Would the group GRs raise their hands? We need AMIAS to sponsor the groups and substitute in the group meetings, help transport them to Area functions, help them fundraise, walk them to the bathroom or the car to get something, serve in the hall as Serenity Patrol when they are in their sleeping rooms and maybe just to lend a listening ear and give a warm smile. Would all the certified AMIAS present please stand? Thank you for your service. We want to welcome and attract new Alateens and new AMIAS on a regular basis.

Secondly, it would be great to grow some new Alateen groups. Welcome West County Alateen as our newest group, started this year. Would Alateens and AMIAS associated with that group please wave?

WSO's Guideline 24 suggests that Districts elect or appoint a district Alateen coordinator or liaison. Do we have any of those trusted servants present? If Districts would let me know who those folks are, I would appreciate it.

I want to close by asking a couple of Al-Anons who used to be Alateens share a little about the Alateen program's impact on their lives.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn M, Alateen Coordinator

ALATEEN INTERN

Report presented, not submitted.

AMIAS LEADERSHIP SUPPORT THOUGHT FORCE Report To Area Assembly Nov. 2017

This thought force met by conference calls from Aug.1 to Sept. 12, 2017 and was composed of the following members:

Sandi M - Thought Force Chair

Audrey - Thought Force Secretary

Ben B

Carissa C

Challis H

Dora J

Judy J

I have included the complete charge in my written report which will be available online in the minutes and is in the Aug. AWSC minutes online. (here I will read the four parts of the charge). I also asked the Area Chair at that time for clarification on the issues referred to in the 4th charge and was given terms that members had some issues with and that will be addressed in our recommendations,

Please remember that these are just ideas and thoughts and nothing is changing at this time. The next step would be for the recommendations to go to a task force.(See pages 68-69 of our current Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual for clarification on Thought Force and Task Force

PANEL 57 THOUGHT FORCE FOR AMIAS LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CHARGE

BACKGROUND: Since the revision and passing of new guidelines for Alateen and in particular AMIAS (Al-Anon member involved in Alateen Service) there has been consistent feedback from membership in the Missouri Area that additional work on the *Review and or Removal of AMIAS* section of the Missouri Area Al-Anon/Alateen Procedures would be beneficial to the Area in providing additional leadership support for AMIAS's.

This Thought Force convened by the Area Chair in Panel 57 has been created to review and address this feedback to support and help grow AMIAS service and Alateen as a whole.

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE: There are 6 to 7 members of the thought force. Sandi Miller has been appointed chair of the thought force and shall conduct all meetings related to the charge. Audrey Johnson has been appointed the secretary. If at any point a member of the committee is unable to continue, we will request another volunteer from the area to fill her/his place.

CHARGE: The thought force is charged with evaluating pages 3-5, item C. titled *Review and or Removal of AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service)* for the purpose of clarifying the purpose of this section and recommending what could be included, amended or changed to further develop leadership support for AMIAS. This includes but is not limited to the following questions:

1. Does the *Review and or Removal of AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service)* section of the Missouri Al-Anon/Alateen Procedures Digest need to be a standalone document within the Digest?
2. Could the *Leadership Support and Concern of non-performance of Area Officers and Coordinators* on page 28-29 of the Missouri Al-Anon/Alateen Procedures Digest be expanded to include Al-Anon members serving as AMIAS's?
3. If it is determined the standalone document named in item #2 is preferred, what recommendations does the thought force have for a leadership support section to be included?
4. What recommendations for changes/corrections/updates to the current procedures for removal of AMIAS does the thought force have to help it more align contextually and in practice with our principles?

The target for the committee to complete its work would be by the May 2018 Assembly.

The Area Chair requests to be notified of all meetings called for the Committee. Also, the secretary of the Committee is expected to send a short report to the Area Chair detailing each meeting. Reports should also be prepared for and presented at each AWSC & Assembly meeting throughout the year until the Charge has been completed.

The committee is asked to use KBDM where applicable. The committee is also asked to use any and all information available from the Missouri Area, WSO and other Areas that may assist them in their charge. Also, confidentiality within the committee must be understood. Any questions related to the charge can be addressed to the Area Chair.

All recommendations were made by group conscience using KBDM where applicable.

Charge 1. We recommend that the Review and or Removal of AMIAS be a standalone document within the Digest.

Charge 2. We recommend that the document above be incorporated into the Leadership Support and Concern of non-performance of Area Officers and Coordinators on page 28-29 of the Missouri Al-Anon/Alateen Procedures Digest by expanding it to include Al-Anon member serving as AMIAS.

Charge 3 is covered under Charge 2.

Charge 4. We recommend that the Traditions and Concepts of Service be followed and that the wording to incorporate these recommendations be done by a task force as per the current Al-Anon/ Alateen Service Manual pages 68-69 but including the following word change recommendations which were said to be considered non spiritual by many in our program:

Change complaint ,violation, accusations, controversy, and allegation to concern and suspected violation to possible concern.

To leave in the word appeal as Concept 5 insures the right of appeal and petition etc.

To leave in the term non-conformity as conformance is used in guideline G34, however, the term non-compliant would be another term that could be used as compliance is used in the Service Manual on page 87 and in the original board motion of 2003.

BUSINESS MEETING THOUGHT FORCE

The Thought force is charged with evaluating current area member data as well as other areas business meeting structures to determine if recommendations need to be made to change the overall structure of how Missouri area business meeting are conducted to meet the needs of the Missouri Area and Al-Anon as a whole.

Those serving on the committee were Ruth Schnable, Flo Williams, Kathy Grinstead, Sarah Moore, and Geneva Dawson. We did a lot of our work via e-mail but held two face-to-face meetings, the last one at Sarah's house.

We were provided with agendas for Assemblies and AWSC meetings from other Areas and sought more information about them as part of our work. We studied those documents from Oklahoma, Southern Illinois, and Arkansas. We have also sought information from one of our past Trustees (Carolyn W.) as she has attended Assemblies and AWSC meetings in many Areas during her time as Trustee.

We first looked at the basic purpose of the area business meetings, both the assemblies and the AWSC meetings. The Assemblies are for keeping our groups informed about what is going on at World Service Office and at the Area level in the various positions. It is also where we elect our Delegate to represent us at the World Service Conference. The AWSC is an "agenda setting" body. In some Areas they work on the Assembly agenda per-see. In other Areas, like Missouri, they discuss proposed motions and vote to determine which ones should be brought to the Assembly and which should not. It is then the District Representatives responsibility to disseminate information to the groups in his/her district about the motions being considered.

When we looked at the formats of other Area's business meetings, we found they were very much like ours. Notable exceptions were that Arkansas devoted a lot of Assembly time to GR training/discussion while Oklahoma devoted none. All

the other Areas seemed to end their Saturday portion early in comparison to ours. Oklahoma only meets on Saturday, but they have four Assemblies a year, which adds to the costs to the groups to get their GRs to Assembly. It is also important to note that their attendance is not good.

From our May assembly evaluations, where you were asked to rank the order of importance of agenda topics, we have already incorporated many of them in our meetings. For instance:

- 1st Delegate's report on Conference and/or recent communications from WSO
- 1st Brief information session on WSO service – conducted by the Delegate (the Delegates have done this while giving their WSC summary and Delegate report
- 2nd Secretary's report
- 3rd Treasurer's report
- 6th District reports from DRs on progress and problems
- 9th Report on Area newsletter
- 9th Reports from Coordinators
- 9th Reports from Liaisons
- 9th Reports from any other committees

Although we have not formally stated each time we apply the Twelve Traditions, we do a good job of using them during our assemblies. This was ranked 4th in importance.

The 8th area of importance was adding workshops to the assembly. We have had DR and GR trainings, KBDM, and an Archives workshop. We have begun to do the interpretation of the Twelve Concepts of Service (rated 8th in importance).

Those items rated 5th and 7th seem to go together:

- 5th GR time for ideas, opinions, and questions
- 7th Town-hall meeting led by panel with all GRs participating

As we looked at the evaluations and discussed them, there were some things that became clear. We cannot incorporate MORE into the Assemblies while ending them sooner. Ultimately, we would like to suggest that the Saturday session of the Assembly end at about 5:00 p.m. to allow folks to go to supper and get checked into the hotel. Then we could re-convene at 7:00 or 7:30 to hear a speaker share experience, strength, and hope. After that, we could have the meetings for GRs, DRs, and various committees that might need time for face-to-face meetings. With the various break-out rooms available, that would be easy to accomplish. The problem would be for those who serve on more than one committee, for instance, the Alateen Coordinator is on both the Convention and CBAT committees, so there would need to be some consideration to that.

With the formal assembly business being put on hold until we re-convene on Sunday, it would give everyone a chance to change gears both mentally and physically. With the workshops being held after the assembly proper, we would not be using assembly time for them.

We would also like to suggest mentors for new GRs, particularly those who are traveling to the assembly by themselves and have nobody they already know to mentor them.

We had made some other suggestions at AWSC:

- Have service related workshops at Convention. We tried this at the 2017 Convention and had a room full of people who seemed interested.
- All reports should be sent in ahead of time to be compiled into one document to be handed out at Assembly. That would make for fewer loose papers, less waste of paper, and make them all easier to handle. One person even suggested arranging the reports in order of presentation on the agenda. The pages could also be numbered so if something needed to be done "out of order" it would be easy to find the correct report.

After many email exchanges by the complete committee (Geneva D, Sarah M, Ruth S, Flo W, and Kathy G) the Thought Force's first meeting was on August 28. Geneva D, Sarah M, and Kathy G met to discuss ideas for improving and streamlining Area meetings. After looking at the information that Lynn C-R sent us, plus email comments shared by Flo W, and conversations between Geneva and Carolyn W we developed these suggestions.

Issue	Suggestions
Some members want meetings to be run more efficiently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce time limits on reports. • Limit discussion on agenda items (and coming back to them if necessary, allowing members to reason things out). <u>Fifteen minutes maximum suggested.</u> • <u>Announce the time limit ahead of time, before discussion starts. Stick to the limit.</u> • Tabling items as needed (to allow members to get more information to make an informed group conscience). • Project more reports on screens • Have additional screens (one on each side of the room) so members can see video content. • <u>Use a loud timer that can be heard throughout the room.</u> • <u>Use past delegates as a resource. Make sure they know the Area will reimburse their expenses to attend meetings.</u> • <u>Utilize the AWSC to its fullest as a working committee.</u> • <u>Continue to have the Delegate give their report in two 30-minute sections.</u>
Some members want to shorten the time spent at Assembly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The format of the meeting is considered basically good as it is now, but we can educate members why it's structured the way it is. • Although a few mentioned eliminating Sundays, the majority were in favor of quitting early on Saturday nights, so as to have time for committee work, meetings, or socialization • A suggestion was made to break later for dinner and complete all business before dinner. However, the early dinner break lets us get in and out of restaurants before the 'rush'. It also allows members to reason things out with each other. Members come back refreshed and ready to work more. A few members attend Catholic Mass, which begins at 5 pm.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Have dinner break from 4:30-6:30, followed by something fun (the basket raffle, a speaker, or ???) followed by committee meetings. The activity would be arranged by the officers.</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Finish business by 7:30 pm, then have small group/ breakouts/ socialization/ fellowship</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Make GR / DR forums more of a social activity by having members bring snacks and beverages of their choice</u>
Some members want to have less time spent on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Saturday night for social hour

reporting at the Assembly and AWSC, and more time for committee or work group meetings.

- GR forum / DR forum
- Recovery meeting
- Committee meetings
- Use AWSC for short training sessions (like we did in August 2017)
- Work out and refine issues at AWSC before bringing them to Assembly.
- Encourage more emailing and communication between meetings
- Have rooms available Saturday night for breakouts and meetings.
- Have someone responsible to set up conference calls, if needed.

Some members want to have more training opportunities available at Area meetings

- Training for new GRs on Friday evening or Saturday morning before Assembly starts.
- Reinforce the use of a service sponsor.
- Offer new GRs (especially those coming by themselves) a mentor that can answer any questions. Maybe have them sit together.

Additional thoughts:

Using the evaluation information provided by Lynn, it was hard to tell how many people favored each issue. It was suggested that perhaps we could continue to practice KBDM principles by using the process on the issues at an AWSC.

If we followed the same procedure as the WSC, our group would turn the information over, and see if there was interest in a Task Force being formed. However, our charge included coming up with suggestions.

CONVENTION COORDINATOR

Report presented, not submitted.

FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE Missouri Area Assembly, November 4, 2017 Final Report

The Financial Review Committee received its charge from Area Chairperson Lynn Carruth-Rasmussen in January 2017 and is reporting out today.

Members of the committee are Mary L, Diane S, Lori H, Donna S, and Judy J. Holly D served on the committee for several months and was very helpful. This has been an amazing committee, fully committed, willing to jump in and volunteer for the various parts of the job, with lots of experience with and expertise in the topics we were working with, and a lot of fun besides. The committee has reported at the March Assembly and the Area World Service Committee meeting, giving financial trainings at each, and recommending that financial training sessions continue to be given twice a year.

Our charge is

The former Financial Review committee reviewed those past three panels' financial statements so we looked carefully at five types of Area expenses, area business meetings, Round Robin, Alateen including Serenity Patrol, Convention, and ad hoc committees. Phases like "sound accounting practices" and "sound fiscal practices" were introduced and applied. We looked closely at the expense matrix in the Area *Procedures Digest* and noted items that had additional information in the text of the *PD* before the matrix which weren't printed anywhere today, sending this analysis on to the *PD* committee with recommendations about information that should be reinstated. A recommendation to the Area that came out of our examination of the whole picture is that the Area take a fresh look at our Convention and the whole spectrum of self-supporting for it. Times change; perhaps our views have changed; perhaps not.

Of note in our look at the *Procedures Digest* were the definitions of reimbursements for lodging and transportation for various trusted servants and the information about what we have been calling the "hierarchy of reimbursement" – asking

at the group level for reimbursement if applicable, at the district level if serving a district, both before asking for reimbursement by the Area unless we are serving the Area. Suggestions about sharing rooms and transportation are no longer in the *PD*.

Fiscal practices that could be enhanced or discontinued without undue impact on the area that would support fiscal confidence would be **that the area have a budget, that we emphasize the hierarchy of requests for reimbursement, that we reinstate the Area financial appeal to groups, that we continue education regarding what the members and groups get in return for their contributions, and that we enhance the reserve fund. Further we suggest that** more specific guidelines be included in the *Procedures Digest* for officers in regard to their leeway in approving the area's paying of members' meeting expense requests, especially in the job description for Area Treasurers.

Specifically, on the subject of the hierarchy of reimbursement, the Committee suggests that information about it be included in the *Procedure Digest*, repeated in Area meetings, and printed in the *Round Robin* periodically during each panel.

Our recommendations: **The committee recommends that the Area have an annual budget.** *"A budget is the numerical expression of an organization's dream that serves as a guide or measure of acceptable financial performance"* – Judy Blazek, Financial Planner for Non-profit Organizations. **We believe that a budget would be beneficial to our Area and that a task force be put into place to look into this further.** We further recommend that the budget be reviewed periodically during the year to insure that we stay on track. Our answers to the Knowledge Based Decision Making to Reach an Informed Group Conscience questions have been passed on to you and will be used in the KBDM presentation which follows.

The committee recommends that the Area enhance its reserve fund. We suggest that the reserve fund be enhanced to 1/3 of the Area yearly expenses. We were asked to suggest how that might be done – **we recommend that -**

- 1) a temporary Area reserve fund fundraising position be established (not necessarily a person who needs his/her way paid to area meetings but who could report via some media) – either someone new or someone who is already serving the Area and has experience in implementing fundraising ideas – for a year
- 2) Give the Assembly an opportunity to participate in the rolling out of the fundraising event(s), a chance for camaraderie and inspiration for members
- 3) That a box be placed at the Assembly for trusted servants and other members to put in ideas for Area fundraising
- 4) 50/50 drawings at Area events- maybe two or three drawings during the weekend and one at AWSC meetings.
- 5) Other goals for the amount in the reserve fund might be established at a later date. The committee conducted a KBDM analysis of the reserve fund topic also and will be glad to share it.

GROUP RECORDS COORDINATOR REPORT

Welcome to our Fall 2017 Assembly for Panel 57. Over the past six months I have been receiving and updating your group's information changes either through your District Representatives or through a member of your group. Please continue to send that information directly to me via email at: panel57grouprecords@gmail.com. Please also note your District #, Group Name, and Group WSO # for your meeting whenever submitting any changes. If you do not have that information, please don't hesitate to email me or call and/or text me on my cell at: 386-562-4216 and I will get that information for you. You can also call upon your District Representative for that information as well.

I would like to reiterate what I reported at the last Assembly about your meeting's information being as accurate and current as possible. During a WSO Conference Call with other Area Group Records Coordinators, we discussed the connection between Public Outreach and Group Records and identified some "Broken Links". We discussed the importance of a group's "Contact" information being the first link for a newcomer who calls into WSO for a meeting, as well as the "Location Information" of a group. Recently, the WSO upgraded its on-line group records database to increase the number of words that can be used in the "Location Instructions". WSO is also working on a revised "GR-1 Form" to help groups get more information on the form.

The WSO also sent out its "Annual Update" to all Groups in our Area in late September. If you did not receive one, it is possible your Group's CMA (current mailing address) is not up-to-date. With the Annual Update you have the option of sending it directly to your Area Group Records Coordinator (my address is set for below) or back to the WSO for updating.

As of October 26, 2017:

- The Missouri Area has 232 registered active Al-Anon groups and 12 Alateen groups.
- Of our 26 districts, 17 (65%) have DR's.
We are still looking for DR's in districts: 03, 07, 11, 12, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 27.
- Of our 232 Al-Anon groups 151 (65%) have registered GRs.

Submitted by:

Janet O, Group Records Coordinator
2040 Kentmore Lane, Chesterfield, MO 63017 Cell: 386-562-4216
MO Area #31; Panel 57
panel57grouprecords@gmail.com

KANSAS CITY AIS LIAISON

Districts 1, 19, 20, and 21, which comprise the Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area, make up the Kansas City Al-Anon Information Service (KCAIS). The KCAIS meets four times a year in January, April, July and October. In April and October, we also put on workshops and usually have a potluck between our business meeting and the workshop.

The KCAIS officers are Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Area Liaison, with Coordinators for Workshops, Information, Answering Service, and Public Outreach; we also have several standing committees. Each AFG in the four Kansas City, Missouri Districts is encouraged to have their GR or Alternate GR attend the quarterly meetings. Voting members are the ISR, GR, or Alternate GR for each group. There are currently four active districts and approximately 33 active Al-Anon groups, 2 Alateen groups, and one institutional meeting within our KCAIS boundaries.

The KCAIS maintains a 24/7/365 phone answering system. This system enables us to offer information and assistance to any caller, all year long. The Al-Anon Family Groups within the Kansas City AIS answer the phone for different periods of time during the year. Most months are divided 1st to the 15th and then 16th to the 30th/31st and groups sign up to cover one or more of these timeframes during the year. The only exception to this schedule is December when individual members are given the opportunity to sign up for a day or multiple days during the month. We instituted this system 4 or 5 years ago and have adapted or adjusted it into its present form. It works very well for us and gives many of our members a chance to do service work outside their individual group who would not otherwise do so.

Offering recovery-relevant workshops twice a year is another one of our focuses.

- In April we held a workshop on journaling techniques. This workshop was attended by approximately 35 people. One of the most fascinating and frustrating was journaling with your non-dominant hand.
- Our October workshop focused on Al-Anon History. We watched the video "Lois and the Pioneers" which we borrowed from WSO. We also got to eavesdrop on a conversation between Lois and Ann in Lois and Bill's kitchen ... a skit written and performed by two of our members. An interactive timeline demonstrated many of the highlights of our history by decade. To finish the day, we divided up and played Al-Anon History Trivia. We learned a lot about the early days of Al-Anon and how our present organization came into being.

We are also looking at other forms of public and Al-Anon outreach. We feel one of our most important missions is not only making the public aware of the help that can be found in Al-Anon but offering an opportunity for our current members and groups to interact and share ideas for strengthening Al-Anon in the Kansas City Area.

I greatly appreciate this opportunity to be of service to the Area and KCAIS.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary C, KCAIS Liaison, Panel 57

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT COMMITTEE for Panel 57

Ann H (Chair) moannp1953@gmail.com 816-695-1452 1201 N Prairie Lane
Raymore, MO 64083

Amy G aeg719@yahoo.com 314-363-9094
Laurie K thehatlady1@yahoo.com 314-351-8545
Janet R jmfst18@gmail.com 314-616-9618
Rayma T email deleted for anonymity 913-269-6604

The Missouri Area wants to ensure that all its trusted leaders have the support and resources they need to succeed in their roles as officers or coordinators. Section IV of our Procedures Digest describes the work of the Leadership Support Committee. The committee was established to help our Area provide helpful steps in making sure that these roles are fulfilled in a way that most benefits the Area and all our members.

On very rare occasions, the committee might be called on to respond when a member has concerns that an officer or coordinator (or their alternate) is not functioning well in her or his leadership position. Any member with such concerns can contact one of the committee members, listed above, and we will ensure that the concerns are addressed in a manner that presumes good will, is confidential, and in the best interest of our fellowship.

LITERATURE DEPOT COORDINATOR

Our first year of the Panel is nearly over. It's been a great year and I think I'm getting a good idea of the ebbs and flows of ordering our literature. I want to thank my Alternate, Michelle. She's a great help, dedicated to serving the Area and tolerant of me and my idiosyncrasies. Sales at both the AA convention in July and our Convention September were great. This weekend we sold \$585.67 of literature and had pre orders that were picked up in the amount of \$352.55 for a total this weekend of \$938.22. For those of you that may not know, WSO is having a sale on 3 books through the end of the year. Many Voices, One Journey; Discovering Choices; and Al-Anon Family groups are all on sale for \$5.99 each. Copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2018 are still available to order from me or directly from WSO. Orders must be submitted to WSO no later than 5 pm Wednesday, February 7 and will be shipped before April 1. The email address to order from me is area31litdepot@gmail.com. My phone number is 816-456-4086. I plan on having a book counting party towards the end of the year in order to balance our inventory. I appreciate your support and look forward to continuing to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L
Area 31, Panel 54 Literature Depot Coordinator
Area31litdepot@gmail.com
816-456-4086

LITERATURE/FORUM COORDINATOR

Report presented, not submitted.

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR (ROUND ROBIN)

Report presented not submitted

PUBLIC OUTREACH COORDINATOR

If your District is active in Public Outreach please let me know about that. So far, I have only heard from the Kansas City Public Outreach person, the St. Louis A.I.S. which is very active and District 8 which is also active. I have had some inquiries from other Districts and Groups about how they can become more involved and I am happy to help in any way I can.

One of our members was kind enough to let me know recently that our Al-Anon billboard is still up in Rolla on I 44 at mile marker 189.3. I am always glad to hear when someone sees it.

Please remember if you hear or see a public service announcement for Al-Anon or Alateen on the radio or TV to thank the station for running it. You can do this anonymously but it is important to thank them so they will continue to run these ads. You do not have to let them know you are a member.

I would like to encourage anyone who is able, to think about starting an Al-Anon group in a rural community or small town that doesn't have a meeting at the present time. Not everyone can go a long distance to attend a meeting, and I know there is a need for more meetings in these areas of Missouri. I would like very much to see our Area have a goal of getting meetings to all who need them so that no one has to travel more than ten miles to get to a meeting. Can you help accomplish this goal? How would you have felt if you inquired as a newcomer only to find that the nearest meeting to you was 30 or 40 or even 50 miles from your home? Granted, many of us might travel that far for a meeting now, but would you have been willing or even able for your first meeting? I'm not sure I would or could have. Please consider reaching out in your Districts to consider what you can do and don't forget about any District that may border yours that does not have a District Representative and may not even have a meeting in that District at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandi M
MO. Public Outreach Coordinator, Panel 57

REGISTRAR

First of all, I want to thank my Alternate Registrar, Amy Gooden, for always showing up to help me. I also want to thank the Mary Rollins, District 15 Rep for her help at the table this morning. And, of course, the indefatigable Michael Click (DR 4) for his invaluable help and willingness.

I received 63 pre-registrations for the Assembly. Only nine of those did not come to the registration table to pick up a badge. We also processed 60 registrations at the door – nearly half as many that pre-registered! A total of 114 are in attendance, including 11 registered Alateens.

I have some requests for you when completing the registration form:

1. Please provide information on all lines.
2. Please list your position & where appropriate, your group name. (We are discussing adding a field for your position to the form.)
3. Please circle the registration amount that you are paying.
4. Please provide your email address so I can send you a confirmation.

I've spoken with Jodi, our website coordinator, about setting up online registration. We are going to see if we can do this in the near future to make it easier to register.

Mary Loftin and I have spoken about getting Square set up for the Area to process payments for registration, hospitality, and literature. Here is a quick breakdown of the fees:

1. \$3.00 - \$0.09 fee
2. \$5.00 - \$0.15 fee
3. \$20.00 - \$0.58 fee
4. \$30.00 - \$0.87 fee

As you can see, it is a small fee for the convenience of paying by debit/credit card. We will keep you posted on our progress.

As usual, the blue box is set on the table just outside the double doors. Please drop your badges and badge holders in it for use at the next Area event.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna S.

SERENTIY PATROL COORDINATOR

I continue to be inspired and humbled by this position. I love it gives all participants the opportunity help our teens to be involved at the Area Level.

I would like to recognize my Alternate, Audrey J, and all volunteers who helped make this weekend's Serenity Patrol possible.

I would like to recognize our faithful Serenity Patrol volunteers who have helped this weekend – Debbie J, Jenny F, Audrey J, Pat G, Margaret O, Geneva D, Larry H, Robyn Q, Loretta R, and Marc B.

So, if you would like to find how to help pass the time in the hall in the middle of the night, getting to know new people and helping to provide support for our teens...then, Serenity Patrol might for you!!!

Thank you again for your service and your support as I serve as Serenity Patrol Coordinator for Panel 57.

Respectfully submitted.

Sherry E, Serenity Patrol Coordinator

- Would all AMIAS in the room, please stand. Thank you.
- Would all AMIAS who have worked Serenity Patrol, please stand. Thank you.
- Would anyone who is interested in finding out more about Serenity Patrol, please see me after the meeting...

SPEAKER COORDINATOR

The 2017 Convention has come and gone. From the evaluations we received, folks really appreciated the speakers. I'm happy about that, of course!

We have another line-up of excellent speakers committed for the 2018 Convention and are working on getting the roster filled for 2019.

Even though I tried to get speakers whose travel expenses would not be out of line, we still did not get enough people in attendance to cover all the convention costs. There has been some talk that it might be time to discontinue our Area Convention because there are so many other Conferences and Conventions in Missouri that compete with our attendance. Even though I would hate to see this happen since our convention has been so helpful to my own recovery, I can see this as a valid point.

Before we do that, however, I would like to suggest we have fewer speaker and more workshops and mini-meetings. There are probably other ideas as well, but they are in your heads, not mine, so I need you to share them.

My e-mail is: adventuregrand@hotmail.com or grandadventure@outlook.com

Geneva D

Speaker Coordinator

SAINT LOUIS AIS LIAISON

My name is Stephanie the Liaison for the Al-Anon Family Groups of Greater St. Louis and am happy to provide the Liaison Report for you. The office has been directing potential newcomers to over 177 groups in the Greater St. Louis, surrounding areas and Southern Illinois areas. Here are the statistics for the months of May, June and July of 2017.

Phone Calls and E-Mails	751
Literature Sales	\$8,099.66
Contributions	\$4,201.20
Dollars & Sense	\$854.05

The Al-Anon office serves the St. Louis, surrounding areas and Illinois Districts 14, 17 and 18. The office hours are 9am-3:30pm Monday through Friday. The first Thursday of each month the office opens additional hours from 1:00pm to 8:00pm for groups wishing to make literature purchases and contributions before the 7:00pm Intergroup Representative meeting. The office employs two part time special employees, Lin and Val. The Al-Anon office is delighted that more and more members are involving themselves in service work at the office. Volunteers keep our office strong by sharing their experience, strength and hope and helping in completing the many necessary tasks that come with having an Al-Anon office. Our new email is AISOFFICE@STL-AL-ANON.ORG!

Busy members can call the office at 314-645-1572 and have orders mailed to your home or office with a minimum \$25 credit card, saving gas and time both! We have a wonderful supply of the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2017 and 2018 for you to place in public places, i.e. doctors' offices, library, therapist offices. This booklet is designed for the person who is unfamiliar with Al-Anon and can see a quick snapshot of benefits to their life! The booklet sells for .75 cents and is invaluable in telling the Al-Anon story briefly yet powerfully.

The Sincerely Al-Anon publication is a four page tabloid style and we do post the Sincerely Al-Anon on the website as well as send out to our distribution list. All you have to do is check on our webpage or call the Al-Anon office and have your private email added so you receive it in your home. We do sell the approved Al-Anon Meeting Directory booklet at \$1 each or a bundle of 10 for just \$8. They fit into a purse or pockets and are convenient to carry on your person, have at your desk or bedside planning for the next day.

The bestselling items these three months have been B-32 *How Al-Anon Works*, K-10 Newcomer Packet and P-93 *Paths to Recovery Workbook*. We are pleased to announce there is a brand new West County Alateen meeting for ages 12-18 that meets at the West County Club, 15409 Clayton Road, Ballwin, MO 63001, Wednesday at 6:45pm.

The Al-Anon Family Groups of Greater St. Louis launched its own website titled WWW.STL-AL-ANON.ORG. Live listings of Al-Anon/Alateen meetings are updated daily. For your convenience there are copies of the *Sincerely Al-Anon* publication, Intergroup Representative meeting minutes, Public Outreach minutes, upcoming Al-Anon event flyers and a current calendar with Al-Anon events! The web focuses on families and professionals who can utilize Al-Anon as a resource. There is also an on-line bookstore where you can order conference approved literature store and make contributions.

We have two Public Outreach Coordinators, Mary B. and Diane R., who are inviting new members to the engaging Public Outreach Team! The Public Outreach Team has been meeting monthly. The Public Outreach Team had a presence and participated in carrying the message to these events during May, June and July:

- Spanish Lake Youth & Family Resource Fair
- 9th Annual Community Health & Resource Fair
- Montgomery County Wellness Fair
- Preparing emails to school districts in the greater St. Louis area

Our public service announcements (PSAs) are played on the following TV stations – we are pleased to announce that they have no end date:

- KTVI airs our PSA 2 times each night from 12-2am and reaching approx. 13,000 viewers.
- KPLR views our PSA 2 times each night from 12-2am and reaches approx. 5,000 viewers.
- KMOV Ch. 4 airs our PSA 2 times each night from 12-2am and reaches up to 10,000 viewers.
- KMOV owns ME TV 4. And our PSA airs at 7pm.
- KMOV owns MY TV 4.2 and airs our PSA at 7pm. Both stations reach 5,000-7,000 viewers.
- During the time frame these PSAs are played we reach 40,000+ viewers daily.

We invite all Missouri panel members, group representatives, district reps, all Al-Anon members, to join us so that we can work together. The Greater St. Louis Public Outreach Team meets on a monthly basis, we publish a monthly article in *Sincerely Al-Anon* about our current events, and we give a monthly report at the Intergroup Representative meeting at the Al-Anon office on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., so please join us.

Happenings at the Al-Anon office include the first St. Louis Area Al-A-Pet Calendar fundraiser that includes Al-Anon's pet photos. The calendar is available at the AFG office for \$15 or can be mailed directly to your home, office and a holiday gift for friend or family! The Board of Directors is revising the By-Laws, unifying the Al-Anon office name to be congruent and in the near future creating new stationary! Our new AFG Board of Directors as of 10/12/17 includes:

Donna S, President
Kevin H, Vice President
Jennifer C, Secretary
Annette K, Treasurer
Marc B, Board Member
Bonnie M, Board Member

Calling all bling lovers! A Jewelry Committee was voted in at the August IR meeting. We sell jewelry at three Al-Anon events. Namely the Al-Anon/AA Thanksgiving event Nov. 23-25, 2017 at Hyland; Alano Potluck with Al-Anon Participation February, 2018 and the IR Gratitude Potluck in June, 2018. If you want to have dazzling fun just join in! The Committee sorts and sells jewelry at the events. Please call the office at 314-645-1572 to participate. We do need help with selling the bling on Thanksgiving Day, please call the AFG office to assist in this awesome fund raiser!

Respectfully submitted by your Al-Anon Family Groups of Greater St. Louis office.

WEBPAGE COORDINATOR

I'm Jodi O, Web Page Coordinator. I'm very grateful to serve you in this capacity as it seems like a very inexpensive way for me to pay you back for all you give to me and it's an efficient way to work my program. I'm also grateful to have my alternate coordinator, Margaret, to help me in this position. She keeps me grounded by stopping my crazy train from leaving the station.

Onto my report. I won't bore with tons of numbers but thought you might like to know that the Meetings and Calendar pages are still the most heavily trafficked pages on the website. We saw over 1700 visitors look at 7300+ pages in October. More than 60% of these visits were from from Mobile devices. I'd like to remind us that it wasn't that long ago that the site wasn't mobile at all.

Quick reminder to send all event to us for calendar updates. Area31website@gmail.com. The more events we have on the calendar, the more public outreach we have reaching more newcomers and helping us all grow in our recovery.

Now, about our dreams... At the Spring Assembly, Margaret asked what changes you all would like to see net. We heard that we need easier meeting searches and calendar improvements. We all know we are slow to change in Al-Anon but we are looking into and evaluating our options for updating each of these features.

Have no fear about these changes to come though. We'll communicate them out (I obviously love to talk) and we'll be happy to provide online instructions and other training as necessary to help us all ease through this transition.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve, Jodi O

APPENDIX C: DISTRICT REPORTS

DISTRICT 1

Report presented; not submitted.

DISTRICT 2

I regret I am unable to attend the November Assembly due to work obligations. A special thank you to my DR Alternate for her willingness to attend in my place and also fill a speaking engagement in my absence while in the area.

District 2 continues to provide the opportunity of Al-Anon recovery with 18 AFGs in the Jefferson County and Southeastern St. Louis County region with at least one meeting every day of the week. The District offers a Mens Meeting, Womens Meeting, Adult Children Meeting, and most recently a Newcomers Meeting, as well as all-inclusive Family Al-Anon Meetings.

The District has been experimenting with time and locations to hold the regular bi-monthly business meetings to determine what fits the needs of the largest number of members to attend.

We held two recent District events, Potluck and Serenity Walk. Neither fellowship opportunities were attended as well as in years passed. As the DR I am trying to evaluate the District events to see what can be done to increase participation.

After attending the Convention and workshop of Jenny F. from District 4, District 2 has approached the Jefferson County Jail to determine taking Al-Anon meetings into the local jail. The offer to bring Al-Anon meetings into the jail was very well received. Captain Sides and Deputy Short are working with us to obtain the clearance necessary begin the meetings inside the Jefferson County Jail.

As an additional outreach, the District provided the local Probation & Parole office with copies of 2017 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism with copies of District 2 available meetings.

We have the date and theme for the 2018 Potluck for February 24, 2018.

AMIAS Steve A. spoke at our September regular meeting to answer questions and encourage more participation for AMIAS and the District will continue to encourage this important service opportunity.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the District Representative.

Respectfully submitted.

Bonnie M, DR District 2

DISTRICT 4

District 4, hosted an Area AMIAS Training on October 7th, in Springfield, Missouri. The Area Alateen Process Person, Janet Wiseman, conducted the training for 16 Al-Anon members who were either current AMIAS or were considering becoming an AMIAS. The training was informative and interactive for all in attendance.

We are planning for our 2018 Al-Anon Chili Supper on January 27, 2018, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church at 2200 W. Republic Rd. Springfield, MO. Sue K., our Area Alternate Delegate, will be the guest speaker. Doors open at 5:00pm and the cost is \$5 per adult and children 12 and under are \$3. We will provide 3 types of Chili: vegetarian, beef and chicken chili. Our theme is "Life Begins Where Fear Ends-Cowboy Up!" and everyone is encouraged to dress in cowboy attire. We will have a Silent Auction and a Live Auction and will be accepting credit/debit cards or cash. Free babysitting will be provided during the speaker at 7:00pm. We ask that you bring toppings, side dishes or desserts. Alateens will be selling water and soda. Our flyer is on the website. Please join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship.

Our district continues to carry the Al-Anon message to area treatment facilities and to the Greene County Justice Center each week. Our Alateens continue to be active in their meetings and in their fund-raisers that help to cover the cost of travel and their CBAT in April.

Submitted by Jenny F, DR, District 4

DISTRICT 5

District #5 is located on the Northwest side of The Lake Of The Ozarks and consists of 5 counties. The Truman Dam AFG in Warsaw serves Benton County. Henry County has two meetings, Monday Night AFG and our newest meeting Friday Noon AFG. Warrensburg in Johnson County has two Gift of Hope AFG meetings. Morgan County has I Am Serene In Ivy Bend AFG in Stover and Betterview AFG in Sunrise Beach. Betterview AFG has two meetings each week. Sedalia in Pettis County has two meetings, Sedalia AFG and 12x12 Serenity Seekers.

All groups continue to support each other and newcomers by sharing their experience, strength and hope by using Cal approved literature. They continue to study and use The Steps, Traditions and Concepts to better their lives. The two Sedalia Groups and Warrensburg do outreach at Pathways and the Lighthouse Rehabilitation Facilities. Groups provide pamphlets to mental health facilities, doctor's offices and anywhere they think would be useful.

Yours in Service

Lorraine H, District #5 Representative

DISTRICT 8

District 8 has 8 active meetings in Holt Summit and Columbia. Since Panel 57 began in January, our DR resigned in late April, our GR's caucused at May Assembly and our Alt DR was voted into the DR position. We are currently searching for an Alt DR. We meet every other month on Sunday evening from 6 to 8 pm at St Andrews Lutheran Church. At every District meeting, our Archivist selects some bit of history in our files and shares it – including information from early letters sent to and received from the first Al-Anon clearing house.

The Public Outreach Committee continues to be busy in Mid-Missouri. We continue to support family day at a local women's treatment center by having different members share every other week. We continue to carry the Al-Anon message to the public by distributing literature at appropriate locations around town and at our high school health fairs. Some of our members continue to assist taking a meeting to the Vandalia Women's prison once a month on Sundays.

Our annual workshop was held June 10th, where our Delegate, Sarah Smith shared her recovery story and reported on the April 2017 WSC meeting. Two dates have already been set for our next two Flings, one on September 16, and the last one on November 18. We have free babysitting and AA participation. All are welcome so please join us, we'll be posting the events on the Area website.

I am happy to announce that at our August District meeting the Group Reps voted to host the 2018 Day in Service on June 16, 2018. A big "thank you" to our Fling committee. They will chair the Day in Service committee and to District 18 for their participation. We are very excited to share our third legacy in a fun informative manner. We will keep you posted on theme, dates etc. as they evolve. Our next planning meeting will be January 13 at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine M, DR, District 8

DISTRICT 9

District 9 encompasses Overland, Bridgeton, & Maryland Heights in St. Louis County. There are 6 Al-Anon meetings & 1 Alateen meeting. There is 1 beginning meeting which meets before the parents' meeting, 4 speaker meetings, & 1 literature study meeting. The Alateen meeting has just been revived from being inactive for more than a year.

In Sept., District 9 had a Serenity Walk at a park in St. Ann. The weather was wonderful, I & everyone enjoyed the walk. We will probably have another Serenity Walk in the spring.

In Oct., the annual potluck was held with AA, Al-Anon, & Alateen speakers. The speakers were inspirational, & their stories revealed their struggles & recovery in the programs. The food was delicious, & the potluck had at least 100 participants.

On Jan. 5th & 6th, District 9 will have our annual workshop entitled "Restoring Sanity With the 12 Steps." Father Tom from California will be speaking on Fri. night, Sat. morning, & afternoon. There will be breakout sessions on Sat. morning & afternoon. A chili, soup, & salad luncheon will be offered & donations are accepted to benefit Alateens.

District 9 participates in Public Outreach by speaking at Bridgeway once a month to families whose loved ones are in a treatment program.

Respectfully submitted,
Flo W DR, District 9

DISTRICT 13

District 13 is located in the Southwestern part of the St. Louis metropolitan area.

This year, thanks to the efforts of several passionate AMIAS, Alateen has been revitalized in the District. The teens had their first meeting in July. They have regular business meetings, and have elected officers. The GR attended Super Sunday. We have a group of six AMIAS that take turns attending the meeting as sponsors.

Our fifth annual workshop, entitled **Awareness, Acceptance, and Action in All Our Affairs** was a success. Angela A., a past Delegate from Louisiana, drew on the CAL book *In All Our Affairs: Making Crisis Work for You*. Seventy six people attended. Based on the feedback from the evaluation forms attendees seemed to enjoy the breakout sessions, basket raffle, and optional sandwich buffet lunch. We are still looking for a chair for next year's event.

As of today District 13 has 19 meetings (including two male-only, one female-only, three adult children, and one for newcomers). We have approximately half of them represented at the District level

Our Public Outreach Coordinator has placed an order for *Al-anon Faces Alcoholism*. The member who has been coordinating volunteers to the Family Education program at Edgewood Treatment Center every other month has had to step down for family reasons, and I'm hopeful that the position will soon be filled.

We are in the middle of distributing our 'Pearls of Wisdom' calendar for 2018. Our eighth annual potluck, *Finding Balance in Recovery*, is scheduled for February 3, 2018. Look for more information on the website soon.

Kathy G, DR, District 13

DISTRICT 14

Good morning, my name is Connie Lakey and I'm the District Rep for District 14 which covers the Saint Louis Metro Area and Richmond Heights. I have a confession to make; I was reluctant to stand as DR. I was willing to chair our District meetings until we found a willing soul. That evolved into a subtle suggestion that I could be DR and the others would help me. My initial reluctance was rooted in my short comings – fear, perfectionism, the world is my responsibility. And I worry. My Mom called it being a 'worry wart.'

So I stand here today as DR and am happy to report that despite my initial reluctance and 'worry wart' thoughts, District 14 still stands and we had several successful events this year for our members and brothers and sisters in Al-Anon Family Groups.

Our June picnic was well attended and we had both an AA and Al-Anon speaker. Sarah S, our MO Area Delegate, visited our District meeting in September and shared an updated version of her World Service Conference trip. She also held a Q & A session which was helpful and greatly appreciated. We thank her for visiting us and sharing her experience, strength, and hope.

We just had our Fall Festival in October. There was a lot of competition since several Al-Anon and AA events were scheduled throughout the Area. Attendance seemed to be down some and I went into 'worry wart' mode. A friend and former GR gave me some perspective. She said she thought there were plenty of people in attendance. And it comes down to the people who need to be there will be there. She said people enjoyed themselves. Besides, less people means better chances for raffle baskets and attendance prizes.

We appreciate the generosity of our members who give their time and effort, donate baskets and other items, and volunteer when they are able. All of their love and support added up to a good year for Al-Anon in our District.

Our District members continue to rotate service at the Harris House Treatment and Recovery Center in South St. Louis. I went on a ride along and was profoundly moved by the experience. It reminded me that the need is still great and we can be there to welcome the families and friends of Alcoholics into our meetings.

One of the struggles I have as DR is to make sure every Group Rep has a voice at our District meetings. As a whole we struggle with getting boots on the ground for some activities. And we don't have an active Alateen group in our District. We continue to process these issues using the Traditions and Concepts.

Despite being a 'worry wart', I am accepting that we had a successful year of AFG events and activities, and have a variety of meetings every day of the week where we can continue to help families and friends of Alcoholics.

Not so reluctantly, very respectfully submitted, and ever grateful,
Connie L – District 14 DR

DISTRICT 15

This year has gone very fast. Our summer Potluck on August 12th has come and gone. We had Al-Anon and AA Speakers and our Alateen members shared their experience, strength and hope. Our theme was 60 years of Alateen. The Alateens shared their experience strength and hope. It was very moving. Our teens are a credit to us. We have 6 District 15 Teens attending this Assembly.

We continue to also support a Pre-Alateen Meeting also on Sunday night 6:30 at same time as our Alateen meeting. This is located at Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood.

On November 11th, at Concordia Lutheran Church, we will host our Fall Workshop: "Getting Through the Holidays with a Smile". Flyers are on the outside table and this is a free event. It is a very popular gathering in our District and we hope a lot of you will attend. Lunch is provided. We have a lot of laughs. The address is on the MO website.

Our 2018 Step 11 Serenity Walk is scheduled for April 28th, 2018 at Kirkwood Park, Geyer and Adams, Kirkwood, MO. Flyers will be forthcoming.

We are financially solvent although donations have decreased since last year. Our Potluck expenses were more than anticipated. We are working on district outreach to encourage participation. We hope to create a folder with contact and meeting information for our groups. Meeting visits have been given to all groups except 3 out of 25. Hope to have the folder packet ready for all groups next year. There are 3 GR's in attendance at this assembly. Those who attend our meetings are very involved and supportive.

In our District there are more IR's than GR's. Some of the members thought these positions were one and the same. I hope to continue to educate and reach out for members to become GR's.

This has been a fulfilling year for District 15. I am grateful to all our attendees and their support.

Happy Holidays to you and yours.
Sincerely,
Mary R, DR, District 15

DISTRICT 17

District 17 is composed of twelve meetings. There are also two Alateen meetings.

The district participates in Public Outreach at the Bridgeway Treatment Center each month. We are currently researching bringing the Al-Anon message to the St. Charles County Jail and also St. Charles County Schools.

Our activities include a spring workshop and fall picnic.

Currently, all of our district service positions are filled. We have bi-monthly meetings on the third Saturdays of even months from 9:00-10:30a.m. At the meetings we are giving talks and sharing on topics from the Al-Anon Service Manual.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara K, DR, District 17

DISTRICT 18

We are in central Missouri.

We have six active Al-Anon meetings all with group reps. They are doing well with attendance and finances.

We are grateful to have one Alateen group meeting and attendance has been up.

We had several members attend the convention. The majority of our group reps are here at the assembly.

We agreed to help District 8 with the 2018 Day in Service. I went to the planning meeting and they have a very energetic and creative group. I don't think they need us much but we are willing to do what we can.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary N, DR, District 18

DISTRICT 19

District 19 hosted an event on October 14th that we called District 19 Day in Recovery. It was a come and go as you wish potluck event, held at Ernest Shepherd Youth Center in Liberty, in and around an A-frame cabin. The District supplied pulled pork at dinner.

We started at 10:00 a.m. with Rayma T. as our first Al-Anon speaker. At 1:00 p.m. Steve L. was our AA speaker. We had a workshop at about 4:30. Our last Al-Anon speaker was Lonnie V. at 7:00 p.m.

The thunderstorm likely decreased attendance at the event, but those who were there appeared to really enjoy the fellowship. There were 7 in attendance at the lowest, and at least 15 at the highest point of attendance.

We are also excited that we have a new meeting starting in our District. Northmoor AFG will meet on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. They are registered with WSO (thank you to Janet O. for helping us with that process) and the KCAIS Information Coordinator is going to get the meeting information into the Where and When. I've also sent the information to the GRs in the District.

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Quinones, DR, District 19

DISTRICT 21

District 21 has groups in the towns of Harrisonville, Belton, Raymore, Pleasant Hill, Lee's Summit and Raytown. Geographically, it is all of Cass County and the south half of Jackson County. That's in the south of KC area. We also have one Alateen Meeting a month at Crittenton Center, which is a residential school for troubled youth. There are a total of 14 meetings each week.

We have a full slate of officers at this time and we keep it simple: DR, Alternate DR, Treasurer and Secretary. Everyone pitches in when needed, especially for special events.

Our cash-only treasury is healthy and the District supports itself through the voluntary contributions of members and groups.

While visiting one of our meetings recently, I spoke with someone who is considering starting a Spanish-language meeting in our District. Wouldn't that be exciting! It is certainly a need in our neck-of-the-woods.

Our District meets twice a year for business and hosts an annual picnic each summer, with great food, fellowship and speakers. Our fourth picnic was held on August 19 and we had around 50 participants gather for fellowship and recovery, including newcomers, families, and AA members. We are grateful for our speakers, Steve and Mary L. In keeping with our slogan, Keep It Simple, we hold our picnic at my house and only for two hours. Everyone seems to like that arrangement.

District 21 members are also quite active in our Kansas City AIS (which meets quarterly) and at the Area level, serving as coordinators and on various ad-hoc and standing committees. For example, one of our GRs serves as the current treasurer for AIS and also as an alternate coordinator at the Area. Our District also hosted the History Workshop held last Saturday and two of our district members portrayed Lois and Anne B in a skit of an imagined conversation between the two.

District 21 is lively and alive with recovery! I continue to be blessed by our fellowship and am honored to serve the wonderful folks in District 21.

In gratitude,
Ann H, DR, District 21

DISTRICT 23

There are four active Al-Anon Family Groups registered in District 23, which is comprised of five counties in southwestern Missouri.

There are currently no meetings being held in McDonald and Barton counties.

In Barry County, the Cassville AFG meets once a week on Thursday night at the First Methodist Church. At one point this summer, the group was down to one active member who was opening up the meeting room every week, hoping that someone else might show up. There are now four members attending irregularly. There is a Group Rep on paper, but that member is not able to participate openly due to the family situation in their home.

The Neosho Family Group in Newton County meets three times a week at the Kelly Club – on Wednesdays at noon, and on Monday and Friday evenings. The daytime meeting is the best attended. The group has 16 members; 15 of these individuals also attend other 12-step programs. A business meeting was held in early October; three members attended. The only member who was qualified to serve as group Rep agreed to do so. (That would be me.) The long-time CMA agreed to continue in that role since no one else would stand. The other group officer positions are still unfilled at this time. The current Treasurer is going to stay in the position for the time being, despite ill health.

In Jasper County, the Mount Hope AFG meets at the New Hope Church of Christ on Tuesday evenings, and the Joplin AFG meets in Joplin at the Alano Club on Wednesday nights. In practice, these are two meetings of the same members, held in different buildings, with both groups dominated by one particular individual. The groups do not follow the Traditions, and are defiantly proud of that fact. Both groups discuss religion; sell and use non-Conference Approved Literature; and routinely discuss addicts and addiction issues. Neither group has a Group Rep or other officer. Attendance at the Tuesday night meeting is strong; the Wednesday night meeting is faltering.

I have not yet been able to hold a District Meeting because I cannot get anyone to commit to participate. My plans include holding an informal "Meet and Greet" at the Kelly Club in Neosho after the holidays at which all Al-Anon members would be welcomed; to start publishing a bi-monthly newsletter to foster awareness of Al-Anon at the District, Area and global level; and to encourage each group to take a formal Group Inventory.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Michael C, DR, District 23

DISTRICT 25

District 25 includes six counties. We have four active groups; with a new group in Bowling Green on Wed. evenings, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. As of yet they have not registered with WSO. Sept. 10, we held our annual district picnic and on Oct. 21 we had our annual district Serenity Walk. Our district meetings are bi-monthly with 5-6 members in attendance. We continue to

read and share on a concept if time allows. Our public outreach is going strong. Geneva continues to carry the Al-Anon message at the women's prison in Vandalia. Ms. Linda is doing a great job spreading the word and literature to different organizations and community fairs, recently at the Heroin Rally in Troy. I'm so proud of our district. It's a privilege to be of service.

Diane S, DR, District 25

DISTRICT 28

Greetings Missouri Area,

I'm from District 28 Franklin County. We are a small district with a total of 8 groups. We currently still don't have an Alateen group however there is still interest in getting an Alateen meeting up and going and we do have someone willing, however we are still running short on help.

A couple of weeks ago we had our annual Fund Raiser/Gratitude Gathering with great success. Holly D. and Mark D. both spoke and done a great job. In December there is another Holiday gathering In Sullivan with Donna E. H. and Mark H. as the speakers. I have flyers online as well as in the lobby.

We currently are doing public outreach group per group. We still continue to reach out to the local jails, police department and newspapers.

We have bi-monthly District meetings and continue to have mini workshops within the meetings. The next meeting in December will be a finger food Holiday meeting. We continue to study service topics and continue with the acronym of T*E*A*M (teaching each Al-Anon member or together everyone achieves more).

So far this year we have implemented a reserve fund, filled all service positions and continue to learn, drawing back into a United District that is working well together. I am very proud of our District and the progress it has achieved. As the New Year approaches we will continue to do the mini workshops and I will start the rounds of visitations.

Let It Begin With Me,
Fay W, DR, District 28

