

Motion One (1) & Two (2)

MOTIONS CONCERNING ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS

Made by Election Procedures Task Force-Ann H.-Chair

Background

Our AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual is continually updated so it is good to note “most current” version when the Service Manual is referenced.

The “Election Assembly Procedure” for Delegate, Alternate Delegate and other Officers is clear and detailed. For the Officers, the Service Manual mentions that “votes are cast” but doesn’t mention ballots until further down in the process “after several ballots.” Some Areas are now using electronic means of voting. Paper ballots have been traditionally used in the Missouri Area.

The Service Manual indicates that the Chairman of the Assembly runs the elections. Some Areas have the Delegate do this, since they will be serving as “Immediate Past Delegate” with vote and voice and so will not be standing for election to another position.

Please note: It has been the practice in our Area to ask those eligible if they are “willing to serve.” The Service Manual uses the phrase “prepared to serve.” We believe that “prepared to serve” implies not only willingness but also skill, experience, time, etc.

The section on Elections in the Service Manual has information about Group and District elections. We opt not to repeat what is already in the Service Manual.-Interesting: Our Service Manual says that Coordinators are “appointed by the World Service Delegate or Assembly Chairman, or elected or appointed according to Area autonomy.” (page 137 of AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021, version 2). In Missouri, we are accustomed to electing Coordinators at the Election Assembly. Our Missouri Area Election Procedures do not indicate specifically that Coordinators are to be elected except one line referring to “newly elected Coordinators.” We recently learned that in November 1996, the Assembly voted to elect Coordinators.

Our recent practice has been to elect Coordinators with a show of hands and a simple majority. In our Area procedures under “Assemblies” (p 7, item 7) “All motions and important decisions will be reached by discussion, vote, and substantial unanimity. Substantial unanimity will be 2/3 vote of eligible voters attending. 11/05”

Does the Assembly think a show of hands is the best way in terms of anonymity for the voters? Does the Assembly think that Coordinator election is an “important decisions.” Show of hands and simply majority are definitely time-saving but are they in the best interest of the Area and in line with the principles of our program?

The Area procedures indicate that Alternate Coordinators (except, for some reason, the Alternate Convention Coordinator) are appointed by the Area Chair, in consultation with the “newly-elected Coordinator.” This is how the procedure currently reads: *Alternate Coordinators, with the exception of the Alternate Convention Coordinator, will be appointed by the Area Chairperson in consultation with the newly elected Coordinators instead of being voted on by the Assembly.* Page 10, Section S “Officers/Coordinators,” Item 8.

The task force has not been able to locate any definitive reason why the exception was made for the Alternate Convention Coordinator, except for a motion passed in 1995. Therefore we believe the

exception should be dropped, and the Alternate Convention Coordinator should be appointed by the Area Chairperson in consultation with the newly-elected Convention Coordinator.

-In some Areas, incoming GRs elect the Officers. This is up to Area autonomy and our practice has always been the incoming GRs may be present at the Election Assembly but the outgoing or reelected GRs vote. The motion we present will specify.

-If someone wants to be considered for a position but is not present, they can submit "a written indication of willingness and ability to serve." It doesn't say who is to receive this. We think it should be the Chairperson, who is running the election.

NOTE: There remains a question for our Assembly about whether our elected Officers will also serve as the Board of Directors for Al-Anon Family Groups of Missouri, our legal corporation.

-Finally, Section Q has been modified in the years 1992, 1993, 1995, 2001, and 2013. We think this is a clearer synthesis of our process.

MOTION 1 - Election Procedures Changes

Strike the following in our Missouri Area Procedures (page 10, section Q):

~~Q. Election Procedures~~

~~NOTE: All terms of office described below are three years in length. All terms begin in January following the Election Assembly. A.A. members may not hold these offices. 11/01~~

- ~~1. At the group level: It is suggested that each group elect a Group Representative (GR) prior to the November Election Assembly. Outgoing Group Representatives attend the Election Assembly and have the vote. New Group Representatives may attend, but not vote.~~
- ~~2. At the District level: it is suggested that Group Representatives hold a District Meeting prior to the November Election Assembly for the purpose of electing a District Representative (DR). 11/95~~
- ~~3. At the Area level: The Missouri Area has voted to follow the election procedure as outlined in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. 05/13~~
- ~~4. At all Election Assemblies each person will give a short description of previous service work he/she has done. 11/92~~
- ~~5. Any person volunteering for an Area position must be present at Assembly the day of the election or must submit a written indication of willingness and ability to serve. 11/93~~

Replace with:

Q. Area Election Procedure

- 1. The Elections will take place at the November Assembly of the third year of each Panel.**
- 2. The outgoing Chairperson, or a member appointed by the Chairperson, will conduct the elections of Officers and Coordinators.**
- 3. In electing our Officers (Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer), the Missouri Area will follow the election procedures outlined in the most current Al-Anon/ Alateen Service Manual.**
- 4. The Area recommends that Groups and Districts also follow the Service Manual election procedures.**
- 5. Coordinators will be elected following the same procedure as for Officers, except as follows:
Officers will be elected by paper or electronic ballot and 2/3 majority.
Coordinators will be elected by show of hands or electronic ballot and 2/3 majority.**
- 6. Outgoing (or re-elected) Group Representatives or their Alternates vote for Officers and Coordinators.**
- 7. Prior to votes being cast, candidates for Officer or Coordinator positions will give a short description of their previous Al-Anon service work as well as any personal skills they possess that would be beneficial for serving in the position.**
- 8. All terms for Officers and Coordinators are three years in length and begin in January following the Election Assembly.**
- 9. Any person standing for an Area position must be present at the Assembly the day of the election or must submit, to the Chairperson, a written indication that they are prepared to serve.**

MOTION 2 - Remove from Election Procedures

Strike the phrases “with the exception of the Alternate Convention Coordinator” and “instead of being voted on by the Assembly.” from page 13, section S (Officers and Coordinators), item 8.

The procedure will now read: “Alternate Coordinators will be appointed by the Area Chairperson in consultation with the newly elected Coordinators.

Motion Three (3)

MOTION TO FORM A STANDING PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Made by The Procedures Task Force-Marge O.-member of task force.

Background

At the November 2020 Assembly, a discussion regarding the current Missouri Area Al-Anon/Alateen Procedures Manual was facilitated by our former Area Chair, Sarah Smith. During the course of the conversation, it was noted that there had been three different Thought Forces formed between 2014 and 2019 to examine the Manual in detail, and to identify any problems inherent in the contents which potentially would lead to the need for a Task Force.

These Thought Forces, for a variety of reasons, had never completed their work and therefore had not transitioned into a Task Force. The need for action had only grown more urgent during this time. Accordingly, the Area Chair formed a Task Force and charged it to:

- Examine the organization of current procedures. Reorder them to reflect the layout of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.
- Distinguish between procedures, processes, policies, guidelines and duties.
- Look for procedures that eliminate right of decision or otherwise violate Al-Anon Traditions and Concepts.
- Make changes where necessary. Identify content in need of removal and document removal.
- Add appendices as needed.
- Recommend the framework for a future Procedures Standing Committee.

The charge assigned to the Procedures Digest Task Force included setting up the framework for a permanent Procedures Standing Committee. The Task Force has determined the Procedures Digest Committee will review and maintain the Missouri Area Al-Anon/Alateen Procedures Digest ("Digest"), and coordinate changes and revisions to the document. The Committee will serve the Area in interpretation, organization and education regarding the Digest and work on related projects as directed by the Area Chair.

Today we present our motion for a standing Procedures Digest Committee.

MOTION 3 – Form a Standing Procedures Digest Committee

To approve a permanent Procedures Digest Committee.

Procedures Digest Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Missouri Area Al-Anon/Alateen Procedures Digest Committee is to ensure that the Missouri Area policies, procedures and guidelines as published in the Missouri Al-Anon/Alateen Procedures Digest (Procedures Digest), serve the needs of the Area and reflect the principles of Al-Anon. The Procedures Digest Committee reviews and maintains the Procedures Digest and coordinates changes and revisions to the document. It serves the Area in interpretation, organization and education regarding the Procedures Digest and works on related projects as directed by the Area Chair.

Structure

The Procedures Digest Committee will consist of five members recommended by the committee and appointed by the Area Chair. It is suggested that the Area Secretary be one of those members. Any Missouri Area member who is not also a member of AA and actively participates in Missouri Area business meetings is eligible to serve on this committee.

The terms of service on the committee are to be staggered. In order to accomplish ongoing staggered terms, the committee will initiate a plan of succession. After that, all members of the committee will serve a three-year term with staggered terms.

Consecutive terms may be served; however, it is recommended that members serve no more than six consecutive years on this Committee.

The Chair of this Committee is to be elected by the members of the committee.

Reimbursement will be provided by the Area for those members who are not already being reimbursed for another position.

Role of the Committee

- *Review motions submitted to the Committee by the Area Chair to check for consistency, clarity and to avoid duplication. Suggests changes when necessary to the author of the motion and the Area Chair.*
- *Conduct a yearly review of the Procedures Digest and report its findings and recommendations at Area Business Meetings, suggesting changes when needed for approval by the vote of the Group Representatives at an Assembly.*
- *Provide education and information to aid in the understanding of Area policies, procedures and guidelines.*

Duties

- *Attend Area Business Meetings either in-person or electronically.*
- *Meet as needed to discuss, study, research and clarify policies, procedures and guidelines.*
- *Advise persons or groups who are writing or submitting motions for Area Business Meetings, both prior to and during said meeting at the request of the author of the motion or the Area Chair.*
- *Develop an annual review process of the Procedures Digest and provide a written and oral report of their findings at the November Assembly.*
- *Add newly adopted motions of changes to the Addendum Section of the on-line Procedures Digest within 30 days of an Assembly.*
- *Incorporate motions adopted during the current Panel into the appropriate sections of the Procedures Digest within 30 days after the November Election Assembly, and submit the new document to the Website Coordinator for publication online.*

Motions Four (4)-Seven (7)

MOTIONS TO RESTRUCTURE THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Made by Michael C.

OVERVIEW:

Forty years ago, the Missouri Area exercised its autonomy in structuring a Convention Committee that would conform to the business practices of the time. Throughout the decades since, many changes have gradually taken place. The hotel industry has transformed. Technology has advanced. The way the Area conducts business has evolved, and the responsibilities of some Committee members have expanded, in actual practice if not on paper. The workloads for Committee members have shifted, with some current required positions becoming overloaded while others have become obsolete. Responsibilities and duties are no longer clearly defined. It has become apparent that it is time to restructure the Committee to better serve the needs of the Area and its members.

BACKGROUND

The Convention Committee is currently made up of the following twelve positions:

ELECTED:

- Convention Coordinator (AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Registrar (AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Speaker Coordinator (AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Area Chairperson (ex-officio; AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Alateen Coordinator (ex-officio; AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Immediate Past Convention Coordinator (ex-officio; serves on Committee with voice and vote)

APPOINTED:

- Alternate Convention Coordinator (AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Hospitality Chairperson (appointed by Convention Coordinator; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Entertainment Chairperson (appointed by Convention Coordinator; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Decorations Chairperson (appointed by Convention Coordinator; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Program Chairperson (appointed by Convention Coordinator; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Publicity Chairperson (appointed by Convention Coordinator; serves on Committee with voice and vote)

The following positions are also unofficial members of the Convention Committee, bringing the total members of the Committee to a total of 19:

- Area Treasurer (elected ex-officio; AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Alateen Intern (elected; AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)
- Alternate Registrar (appointed by the Area Chair; serves on Committee with voice, but without vote)

- Alternate Speaker Coordinator (appointed by the Area Chair; serves on Committee with voice, but without vote)
- Alternate Alateen Coordinator (appointed by the Area Chair; serves on Committee with voice, but without vote)
- AA Program Chairperson (appointed by Convention Coordinator; serve on Committee with voice and vote)
- Tech Coordinator (new position)

Over the past two panels, circumstances have required that the Convention Committee adapt to a rapidly changing economic and electronic environment. Through the exercise of the Right of Decision, we have met the challenges facing us; however, it has become obvious that our current procedures no longer serve the needs of the Area in general, or the Convention Committee in particular. In order to bring our procedures in line with current realities, and to adhere to the Right of Decision as stated in Concept Three, the following motions are being made.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND MOTION 4

We currently have one individual performing the duties of two positions: the Alternate Convention Coordinator and the Speaker Coordinator. This has served the Committee well by providing the Convention Coordinator with a designated collaborator, and by saving the Area the expense of financially supporting two separate AWSC positions. It is a fact that during the past two Panels, no one has stood for the position of Alternate Convention Coordinator. Nor has any member been appointed to serve in the positions of Program Chair or Alternate Speaker Coordinator. AI-Anon's published Guidelines (G-20) regarding Conventions don't even recommend that Committees have a designated Speaker Coordinator; instead, this is part of the Program Chair's suggested duties.

MOTION 4 – Create Program Chair Position

Merge two positions, those of Alternate Convention Coordinator and Speaker Coordinator, into one single elected AWSC Position that will serve on the Convention Committee with voice and vote, that of Program Coordinator. Eliminate the appointed positions of Alternate Speaker Coordinator and Program Chair.

Job Description of the Program Coordinator

- 1. Serve as the Alternate Convention Coordinator and work closely with the Convention Coordinator in planning and running the annual Area Convention.*
- 2. Develop a list of potential Volunteer Committee Chairs to perform specific tasks at Convention (i.e., Raffle Chair, Decorations Chair, Entertainment Chair, etc.).*
- 3. Research and develop a list of potential AI-Anon Speakers for the Area Convention.*
- 4. Coordinate with the Alternate Coordinator and the AA Program Chair to identify and secure Alternate and AA Speakers for Convention.*
- 5. Secure permission from Speakers to be taped.*
- 6. Make arrangements for the Convention Speakers to be recorded.*
- 7. Coordinate Speaker travel arrangements, food and lodging.*
- 8. Maintain a library of Speaker recordings.*
- 9. Provide the Area Treasurer, by the first day of the Convention, with a list of Speakers who qualify for reimbursement.*

Motion Five (5)

Additional Background:

Over the past two panels a concerted effort has been made to reach out to AA to recruit an AA Liaison. It has become apparent that although Al-Anon's Sixth Tradition states that Al-Anon should always cooperate with AA, there is no reciprocal tradition in AA. The following position is specifically purposed to be added to the Convention Committee to close the communication gap between the Missouri Area and the Missouri AA Areas. The position is that of Chair and not Coordinator, so this member will not be a member of the AWSC. They will only participate in decisions affecting the Convention.

MOTION 5 - Create AA Program Chair Position

Officially create the title and position of AA Program Chair, to be appointed by the Convention Coordinator in consultation with the Area Chair, and to serve on the Convention Committee with voice and vote.

Job Description of the AA Program Chair

- 1. Serve as the communication link between the Missouri Area Convention Committee and the two AA Areas in Missouri.***
- 2. Research and develop a list of potential AA Speakers for the Area Convention.***
- 3. Work with the Program Coordinator to secure AA Speakers for the Area Convention***
- 4. Secure permission from the AA Speaker to be taped.***
- 5. Coordinate AA Speaker travel arrangements, food and lodging.***
- 6. Maintain a library of AA Speaker recordings.***
- 7. Find volunteers to read the AA Steps, Traditions and Concepts at the Area Convention.***
- 8. Arrange for AA members to chair the AA Mini-Meetings at the Area Convention.***

MOTION 6 – Change to Procedures Digest

If Motions 4 and Motion 5 pass, Strike the following in our Missouri Area Procedures Digest (Page 13, Section II, S. 7.):

~~The Convention Committee, headed by the Convention Coordinator, will consist of the Alternate Convention Coordinator, Registrar, Area Chairperson, Speaker Coordinator, Alateen Coordinator as an ex-officio member, the immediate past Convention Coordinator, and five people appointed by the Convention Coordinator (hospitality chairperson, entertainment chairperson, decoration chairperson, program chairperson and publicity chairperson). These five people will serve on a staggered term basis with one or two new members being appointed each year; the new members will then serve three-year terms. 11/95~~

Replace with (Page 13, Section II, Item S. 7.):

The Convention Committee, headed by the Convention Coordinator, will consist of the following:

- ***Convention Coordinator (elected; AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)***
- ***Program Coordinator (elected; AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)***
- ***Registrar (elected; AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)***
- ***Area Treasurer (elected ex-officio; AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)***
- ***Alateen Coordinator (elected ex-officio; AWSC Position; serves on Committee with voice and vote)***
- ***Hospitality Chairperson (appointed by Convention Coordinator; serves on Committee with voice and vote)***
- ***AA Program Chair (appointed by Convention Coordinator and Area Chair; serves on Committee with voice and vote)***
- ***Alternate Registrar (appointed by Area Chair; serves on Committee with voice; has vote if Registrar is unable to attend committee meetings)***
- ***Immediate Past Convention Coordinator (ex-officio; serves on Committee with voice, but without vote)***

In addition to these nine core members, the Convention Coordinator may appoint as many additional trusted servants as needed to accomplish the goals of the Committee. Additional Committee members serve on the Committee with voice, but without vote.

MOTION 7 – Additional Changes to Procedures Digest:

If Motions 4 through 6 pass, strike the following in the Missouri Area Procedures Digest (Page 27, Section III, Q):

~~Q. Duties of the Convention Committee~~

~~The Convention Coordinator appoints these positions. The only requirement for these positions is a willingness to help. All chairmen are requested to attend any Convention Committee meetings called by the Convention Coordinator. All money received and expenses incurred will be turned over to the Area Treasurer.~~

~~1. Duties of the Hospitality Chairperson:~~

~~a. Supervise and schedule members to cover the hospitality room for the Convention and Assembly during open hours and be responsible for its provisions. (During the Convention, the hospitality room shall be closed during speaker meetings, but open during mini-meetings.)~~

~~b. Provide a donation box in the hospitality room, record all money taken in, then turn all money over to the Area Treasurer, and, report the recorded amount to the Convention Records Chairperson.~~

~~2. Duties of the Entertainment Chairperson:~~

~~a. Plans and supervises all forms of entertainment activities at the Convention and attendance prizes and auctions at Assemblies.~~

~~3. Duties of the Decoration Chairperson:~~

~~a. With his/her committee, provide decorations for the Saturday night banquet tables at the Convention. (Not more than \$200 will be spent on decorations.)~~

~~4. Duties of the Program/Mini-Meetings Chairperson:~~

~~a. Seek volunteers and schedule workshops and mini-meetings for the Convention.~~

~~b. Prepare the Convention program in consultation with the Convention Coordinator and/or Convention Committee.~~

~~c. Make copies of the program and have an ample supply available at the Convention.~~

~~5. Duties of the Publicity Chairperson:~~

~~a. Prepare and copy flyers for the Convention and Assemblies. Flyers are to include dates, place, registration, speakers, program, and hotel information.~~

~~b. Send flyers according to the following schedule:~~

~~1) May Assembly — by February 10 for publication in March and April Round Robin and on the Web Page~~

~~2) September Convention — by July 10 for publication in August and September Round Robin and on the Web Page~~

~~3) November Assembly — by August 10 for publication in September and October Round Robin and on the Web Page~~

~~c. Flyers will be supplied to Information Services in the Area as needed and sent to newsletters of surrounding Areas.~~

~~d. Submit Convention information to The Forum four months prior to the event.~~

~~e. Convention flyers will be supplied to A.A. Information Services.~~

Replace with (Page 27, Section III, Item Q):

Q. Duties of the Convention Committee

The Convention, which is held the last full weekend in September, whenever possible, is the Area's major recovery event of the year. The Convention Committee's purpose is to plan and implement the Convention as well as provide information to attract attendees and duties should be assigned to committee members in order for this to be accomplished. It is requested by the Missouri Area that at a minimum, the Convention offers attendees a full complement of AI-Anon, Alateen, and AA Speakers, as well as mini-meetings and workshops designed to enhance the personal recovery of all attendees.

Motion Eight (8)

MOTION TO CHANGE DATE OF MAY 2021 ASSEMBLY

Made by Lori H.

Background:

Current Missouri Procedures states:

II. Al-Anon Procedures

I. Assemblies

1. Two-day Area Assemblies are to be held the weekend before Mother's Day and beginning the first Saturday of November. 11/08

Same section of the procedures

6. The Delegate will be allowed a minimum of one hour for the Delegate's report at Area Assemblies. 05/19

The intent of the May Assembly delegate report is to report out what occurred at the World Service Conference in April.

In the Spring of 2022, World Service Office has scheduled the World Service Conference from April 25-29, 2022. Per our procedures, the delegate would be giving the report from conference the next day, April 30, 2022 which is when the normal Assembly would be scheduled. The below motion is proposed to delay the May Assembly in order for the delegate to be prepared to report out to the Missouri Area. The proposed date change of the Assembly has been vetted with the hotel and would be a valid date for us to hold the Assembly.

MOTION 8 - Temporarily Change Date of May Assembly 2022

For 2022 only, the Missouri Area will hold the May Assembly on May 21-22, 2022.

Motions Nine (9) & Ten (10)

TO PAY FOR THE DELEGATES EXPENSES FOR THE 2022 WSC-

Made by Geneva D.

Background:

Missouri Area Procedures,
Section II,

R. Expenditures:

2. **"The Area Assembly will vote each year to approve the Delegate's equalized expenses for the World Service Conference (WSC), the advance to the Delegate for purchase of literature, photographs, recordings or other expenses incurred, and an extra nights lodging, if necessary. 11/87"**

Per the above procedures, the Missouri area votes on paying "Equalized Amount" as described in the WSO letter received earlier this year.

Per the letter, "the Equalized Expense amount for the 2022 WSC has been set at **\$2,137.00** (US). The full amount for a Delegate to attend the 2021 WSC has been set at **\$3,053.12** (US).

The 62nd Annual World Service Conference has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 26 through Saturday, April 30, 2022 in Tarrytown, New York. All Conference members will visit Stepping Stones during the week. The Annual Open Board of Trustees Meetings will be held the afternoon of Saturday, April 30. Breakfast will be served on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at the hotel prior to departures. Attendance at breakfast is not mandatory.

For explanation regarding Equalized Expenses, see "How the Conference is Financed," including "General Conference Expenses" and "Delegates' Equalized Expenses" on pages 164-165 of the *2018- 2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* version two.

Missouri Area has a past practice of paying the Full Amount and this year it would be **\$3,053.12**. The Missouri Area Al-Anon 2021 Projected Budget for this is **2,648.00**. These expenses will be part of the 2021 Projected Budget since these funds will be paid in 2021. Any other monies for incidentals for the Delegate would be projected in the 2022 Missouri Area Projected Budget.

MOTION 9 - Pay Delegates Expenses

The Missouri Area will pay the Full Amount, \$3,053.12, (as determined by the World Service Committee) for our Delegate to attend the 2022 World Service Conference.

MOTION 10 - Additional Funds for Delegate

The Missouri Area will advance \$500 to the Delegate for incidental expenses at the 2022 World Service Conference]

Motions Eleven (11) & Twelve (12)

ELIMINATE REGISTRATION FEES FOR ASSEMBLY

Made by Geneva D.

Background:

The Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021 page 156, says the following:

The purpose of the Assembly is to assure adequate interchange of information and ideas about service activities, not only in the immediate Area, but where worldwide Al-Anon is concerned.

Topics the agenda might include are:

- Approval of Assembly minutes
- Chairman's report on Area World Service Committee since previous Assembly
- Delegate's report on Conference and/or recent communications from WSO
- Secretary's report
- Treasurer's report
- Voting on issues of concern to the Area brought by the AWSC
- District reports from DRs on progress and problems
- GR time for ideas, opinions and questions
- Application of the Twelve Traditions of Al-Anon
- Interpretation of the Twelve Concepts of Service
- Workshops and group discussions
- Panel or open mic discussions
- Videos (for a list of current available videos contact the WSO)
- Report on Area newsletter
- Reports from Coordinators of special services: Alateen, Archives, Public Outreach (Public Information, Cooperating with the Professional Community, and Institutions), *The Forum*, Literature, Group Records
- Reports from any other committees, such as Al-Anon Information Service (Intergroup), convention
- Brief information session on WSO service—conducted by the Delegate

As seen in this list the Assembly encompasses a great deal of Service Work. Although it can be a good time it is not why it is held.

On page 160 of the Service manual there is information regarding guidelines to outline how to use Area Funds.

The Area Treasurer collects group, District and individual contributions and issues receipts in return. The Area Treasurer disburses the collected funds as the budgeted financial plan and Area policy allows.

A typical Area budget might include:

- Rent for the Area meeting rooms
- Allowances for travel for AWSC members
- Allowances for lodging for AWSC members
- Allowances for materials for AWSC members to carry out their duties
- An amount for the Delegate's Equalized Expense
- An Area contribution to the WSO
- Other incidental expenses
- Anticipated revenues from Area events
- Anticipated revenues from other service arms, groups and members
- An amount set aside for an ample reserve

The purpose of the Area Assembly and a description of how to use our Area Funds outlined for us in the Service Manual are very clear.

On Page 55 of the Service Manual we see where do those funds come from.

Group funds are used to support Al-Anon's purpose of carrying its message of help and hope to those who still suffer. **Group contributions support all levels of Al-Anon service including the District, the local Al-Anon Information Service (AIS/Intergroup), the Area, and the World Service Office (WSO).**

Of course, individuals can also contribute to the Area if they choose. However, this does not change the purpose of the Area Assembly.

Since the Area exists as a means of electing our Delegate and to have information flowing to and from the WSO and the Assembly is the main tool to allow this to happen. The Assembly is an *expense to the Area*. And should be paid for with Area Funds. Unlike the Convention that exists for our personal recovery and opportunity for fellowship and is therefore the participant's responsibility to support. The participants at the Assembly are there to perform service to the Area and to their respective groups. This is service.

When I came to Al-Anon, I was told that we should never pay out of our own pockets to perform service. Tradition Seven pretty much means that whatever entity you are serving will pay your expenses. In the groups I have participated in over the years, the GR is reimbursed for his/her registration fee. However, the Officers and Coordinators are not reimbursed for this expense. We get mileage and hotel rooms covered, but the registration fee is out of our own pockets.

The registration fee was already in place when I began in Al-Anon. I have been told that it was originally put in place to try to get folks to pre-register for Assembly so the Convention Coordinator could adequately plan space for seating, etc. What I have observed is that it does not work for that purpose. Despite the attempt to get pre-registration, the attendance usually exceeds that – sometimes dramatically so. However since the Pandemic brought on new challenges the charging of the registration fee was curtailed and online access to free registrations has resulted in the opposite. Members are registering a head of time to attend In Person and on Zoom. While walk ins on Zoom pose no major inconvenience we have found that fee online preregistration for In Person has not resulted in any Walk Ins.

With this background in mind I make the following motion.

MOTION 11 – Eliminate the Pre-Registration Fee for Assembly

The Missouri Area will no longer charge a Pre-Registration Fee to attend Area Assemblies.

MOTION 12 – Establish a \$25.00 Walk-in Fee

Walk-in In Person participants who have not pre-registered for Assembly will be charged \$25 to cover the last-minute adjustments that will need to be made with the hotel.

Motion Thirteen (13)

Motion to Cover Tech Team Expenses

Made by Geneva D.

Background:

Currently the Missouri Area Al-Anon/Alateen procedures state that the only people reimbursed for the Friday night hotel stay prior to AWSC and Assembly are the Officers and Convention Coordinator. The Literature Depot Coordinator also has Friday night reimbursed at Assembly.

When the Hybrid Meetings were experimental and attended by a handful of participants the officers set up the equipment for the first meetings. As the equipment and In Person attendees were added the magnitude of set up grew. It became apparent this was a task that needed to be turned over to a team of members. The Technology Coordinator was the obvious choice and a Tech Team was formed. In order to allow the required time for set up the Technology Coordinator and Tech Team would arrive early and help the officers with set up. As this was necessary Area Service the Area paid for the cost of their hotel rooms for the additional night's stay. With the onset of Electronic Groups on the horizon wisdom would point to Missouri Area Hybrid Meetings being an ongoing practice in the Missouri Area. Forward thinking would lead us to the conclusion that the Tech Team would be expanded to a point that it would no longer be a responsibility of the Area Officers.

With that in mind the follow motion is being made to add this reimbursement to the Missouri Area Al-Anon/Alateen Procedures Digest so it can be included in future budgeting of business meeting expenses.

MOTION 13 - Tech Team Expenses

The members of the Technology Team will have their mileage and hotel room costs reimbursed for Assembly and AWSC – including Friday night lodging for both events and Saturday night for Assemblies.