

Idaho Area Assembly – Spring 2017 AI-Anon Assembly Business Meeting Minutes

The Area 13 2017 Spring Assembly was held at the Clarion Inn, Pocatello, Idaho on May 20, 2017. The welcome was given by Janet D. our incoming Area Chair followed by the Serenity Prayer. Debbie S., District 5 read the 12 Traditions followed by Chandra B., District 2 who read the 12 Concepts of Service.

Attendance

Voting Group representatives were present from each district as follows:

District One -	3
District Two -	3
District Three -	8
District Four -	3
District Five -	7
District Six -	0
<u>District Seven -</u>	<u>2</u>
Total voting GRs	26

Announcements

1. Fall 2017 Assembly will be held September 16, 2017 in Boise, Idaho.
2. Sue R. from Ogden, Utah was the luncheon speaker.
3. There is an Archives display on the tables in back.
4. Love gifts from the World Service Conference are available for the taking.
5. A Recovery countdown was taken and results = 528 years, 2 months of Recovery.

Reports

Secretary's Report – Attendees were provided copies of the 2016 Fall Assembly minutes. After reviewing the minutes and noting corrections, a motion was made by Chandra B., seconded by Kathy H. Motion approved with noted corrections. The Secretary also reported that there are 26 voting GR's in attendance.

Treasurer's Report – Berta R. has been our Interim Treasurer since last September as no one stood for the position during the elections. Berta introduced herself and spoke of her past service positions. Motion was made by Debbie S. to accept Berta R. as our new Area Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Amy C., and approved unanimously. Berta reviewed the budget details included in the participant packets. Those were as follows:

2017 Account Balance AI-Anon Area 13

As of 5/15/17, the checking account balance was \$3,717.45; savings account balance was \$9,268.89, net worth was \$12,986.34.

2016 Fall Assembly Profit & Loss and AWSC Fall 2016

The assembly, held in Lewiston, had a total income of \$2,480.00, expenses of \$1,601.70 for a net profit of the assembly of \$878.30

2016 Total Group Donations

The total donations for 2017 through 5/15/17 were \$1,686.37. Each group needs to verify and make sure the donations listed are correct.

Area Coordinator Reports - The reports are attached at the end of the minutes.

Literature Coordinator – Laura F.
Alateen Coordinator – Ruth B.
Archives Coordinator – Ladora B.
Newsletter Coordinator – Jane F.
Group Records Coordinator – Paula N.
Website Coordinator – Kathy Bo.
Public Outreach Coordinator – vacant

District Reports – The reports received are attached at the end of the minutes.

District 1 – Brianna Mc.
District 2 – Roz H.
District 3 – Bret R.
District 4 – Laurie B.
District 5 – Doug C.
District 6 – vacant
District 7 – Jan K.

Delegate Report - Berta R. gave a brief report for our Delegate from Area 13, Danielle E. Danielle was unable to attend the Assembly due to a family medical issue. Danielle will plan on giving a full report at the Fall Assembly.

CENTRALIZING ASSEMBLY LOCATION – discussion only

A committee was appointed at the AWSC Meeting in March to use the KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) method to list those things we currently know about the current assembly structure. Below are the questions, the committee responses and those added during the discussion.

Question 1:

What do we know about what affects the attendance of the assemblies?

1. *Location*
2. *Some groups lack funding*
3. *Time and Distance traveling*
4. *Many groups do not have a Group Rep*
5. *Perception that GRs only go to "vote" and when no Vote don't go*
6. *If there is controversy or policy changes attendance goes up*
7. *A district has chose not to participate in Idaho Area*
8. *Some groups do not want to hear about the Assembly.*
9. *Lack of understanding how important it is the value*
10. *Structure*
11. *Stress*
12. *Ladora shared the early history of our assemblies and the commitment to make it work.*
13. *Your District involvement grows*
14. *Groups need the input from the Assembly*

Question 2:

What do we know about our current resources and our vision for the organization that is relevant to this discussion?

1. *Our service manual and WSO guidelines, and our policy and procedure manual guide our fellowship on the purpose of an assembly, who goes, who pays, when held...*
2. *The Area wants and needs input from Group Reps at assemblies.*
3. *The Area has much to offer GRs in education, workshops, speakers, information.*

4. *The vision is to find a way to make Assemblies more attractive and relevant to GRs and more affordable with cost and time.*

Question 3:

What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics for our assembly rotation and our fellowship that is relevant to this discussion? What are the pros and cons?

1. *We currently rotate through all 7 districts.*
2. *District 6 members have chosen not to participate.*
3. *More members attend when held in their district.*
4. *Assembly Guidelines were created by input from all 7 districts*
5. *Rotations is fair*
6. *New technology may offer other options*
7. *Use a different method of rotation. Hold one assembly per year in Boise; rotate the other assembly around the state.*
8. *Need to allow rotation so Districts can take ownership*

Question 4:

What are the ethical implications of our choices? In other words- Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

1. *Our common welfare should come first, It is necessary to talk to each other and reason things out. And to practice these principles in all our affairs*
2. *If there is a group conscience to make a change it is done by substantial unanimity if possible this is following our spiritual principles*

Question 5:

What do we wish we knew, but don't?

1. *If other options would increase our attendance: A. hosting all Assemblies in a central location, B. Holding an Assembly only once a year, C. Assembling online meetings,*
2. *Can change in format or content at our assemblies impact GR attendance*
3. *How much of an affect does going to an assembly really have on why our groups do not have group reps.*
4. *What newcomers felt that didn't come back*
5. *If we all understood the connection that service is recovery*

WORKSHOPS

COMMUNICATION – Jane F. Jane presented some very interesting facts and thought provoking discussion on the different way to communicate. There are four main ways: email, text, face to face and materials. Whatever method is used, getting people involved in face to face discussion is more challenging in today's world. She discussed the 7 impressions for people to get involved.

- **TEXT:** provides a personal connection, better response to short term needs.
- **EMAIL:** great for monthly newsletters, weekly communication notes and periodic special emails
- **MATERIALS:** bookmarks, business cards, adapted professional contact letters
- **FACE TO FACE:** difficult for most, calling on the phone, asking face to face. She spoke about a Share Your Story workshop – what is the right way to tell your story to recovery groups and speaker meetings. Encourage personal characteristics.
- **SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY:** how does social media work into this process of sharing the message?

SPIRITUALITY & SERVICE – Laura F.

Things you can do to help your service experiences:

- Get a Service sponsor, work your program
- Listen

- Invite spirituality into your service work with enthusiasm, smiles and a willingness to offer assistance.
- Look at service as an adventure and go for it.
- Speak with my Higher Power and get a sense of my role in the entire process.
- Be willing to be used by your Higher Power
- Get out of your safety zone and take a risk
- Say YES! I can do this!

What does it look like to invite spirituality in? Truth and trust. If it is resonating you can recognize you are seeing something. Speak to me in a manner that I will recognize it is YOU. Truth, sharing truth signifies there is a power greater than all. Candlelight meeting – able to let go. Don't be a martyr, don't do everyone's job and then be resentful. Let everyone do their thing. Focus on the precious people in the program and not spend your time nursing resentments. Know the principles of the program so you can put principles above personalities.

GR EXCHANGE – Laura F.

Q and A session. Question: What do you do with a member who monopolizes the meeting and alienates other meetings? Suggested answers included:

- Make it a meeting topic
- Approach the person with a small group in a positive manner
- Check Paths to Recovery for answers to such a person
- Share problems with your sponsor, share positive things at your meeting
- It's up to the meeting chairperson to manage the meeting
- Do a group inventory discussed as a means to define your group's purpose as well as addressing any problems you may have
- Service Manual page 54 deals with group problems

DR EXCHANGE – Janet D. conducted the DR Exchange in an adjoining room.

LETTING GO OF BAGGAGE SKIT - A group participation skit involving handbags and tote bags each labeled with negative feeling countered by a positive feeling. Everyone participated and enjoyed themselves.

WRAP-UP – Sharing the positive things you experienced from the Assembly.

- new technology
- unity
- see the GR position as a privilege instead of a burden
- positive feelings to take home
- got out of my comfort zone and sat with others not from my group
- anyone can attend this assembly. get in the car!

Meeting was closed with the Al-Anon Declaration at 4:00 p.m.

Yours in service,

Cheryl G.
Area Secretary

AREA COORDINATOR REPORTS:

Literature/Forum Coordinator

Report to Spring Assembly May 20, 2017
Pocatello, Idaho

I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve Al-Anon in this capacity for this 2017-2019 term. I have a special love of books and literature as many of us do, and I'm excited for the excuse to spend more time learning and reporting to you about our literature and *Forum* magazine.

With the pace of information flow these days and the access to our World Service Office through the website, it is unlikely I will be sharing any breaking news with you. I see this position as one more pathway of communication between WSO and the groups. As an Area coordinator I have been enrolled in AFG Connects online communities for Literature and the *Forum*. I will monitor these sites throughout the term and report updates.

We have not had a conference call yet with WSO literature staff but we have received reports. Here's what's going on so far.

Literature

- The winter 2016 edition of "Alateen Talk" has been posted. Because of stringent rules about privacy of Alateens, this newsletter is not openly available on the website. I assume Alateen coordinators also receive this; if you want a copy let me know.
- As of April 2017 WSO has received 1,070 sharings for the new daily reader – still need more! The concept for this reader is "a new daily reader that reflects the diversity of the Al-Anon fellowship."
- The new *Paths to Recovery Workbook* (P-93) is in its 2nd printing. It has the same questions as the book but it is 3-hole punched with room to write answers. French and Spanish editions were due out in April.
- The WSO outreach website and members' site publishes a sample chapter of CAL. The April-June chapter is from *From Survival to Recovery*. July-Sept is from *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses*.

Forum - As of December 2016 there were 22,655 subscriptions for an average subscription rate per group of 1.6. Idaho had 124 *Forum* subscribers in Dec 2016. Idaho had 109 groups listed with WSO in December, so our subscription rate per group was 1.1. That means an average of one person per group subscribed to the *Forum*. For \$11/year the *Forum* is a special gift we can give ourselves! It comes in a plain white envelope and is a great way to feel connected with the Al-Anon community.

Discussion Boards - Lately someone posted an interesting pamphlet display rack idea for assemblies – made from pvc pipe and plastic shoe holders. The discussion boards encourage members to share ideas and ask questions. If your district has done something interesting relating to literature use or display, or a subscription drive idea, let me know and I will post it to the discussion board.

Yours in service, Laura F.

Alateen Coordinator – Ruth B.

Recertify by June 1st.

I need all current Alateen Sponsors or Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) to recertify by June 1st. Recertification forms have been sent out each district. See me for more info.

This is a deadline set by the WSO.

Current count—We currently have a total of 42 active sponsors—broken down by district:
D1 – 5, D2 – 4, D3 – 23, D4 – 0, D5 – 3, D6 – 3, D7 – 4.

Our current active group count is 26. By district: D1 – 1, D3 – 22, D6 – 1, D7 – 2.

Please keep me informed about changes in your meetings or sponsors.

Alateen is celebrating it's 60th Anniversary—Starting in 1957, Alateen has been helping kids affected by a loved ones alcoholism for 60 years.**

- The first Alateen group was started in 1957 in California by the teenaged son of AA/Al-Anon parents.
- "Youth and the Alcoholic Parent" was the first pamphlet, published in the same year.
- The latest news is Alateen has an Instagram account and a Twitter account, in addition to the Alateen Facebook page. Go to al-anon.org for links.

Thank you to all our Alateen volunteers! We appreciate you.

Enthusiastically yours,
Ruth Blaha
Idaho Area Alateen Coordinator/AAPP

**See pages 104-114, Alateen—Hope for Children of Alcoholics, for a detailed list of events in Alateen history.

Archives Coordinator – Ladora B.

The Area Archives are now housed at 1111 S. Orchard St. in Boise, the same building as the Al-Anon/Alateen Information Service Center (Literature Center) but on a 2nd floor with an elevator. The room is full, but we can walk around the edges, it centers in the middle of the room. Fantastic.

This winter the Literature Center had an open house and at the same time I was at our Archives room for the opening tours without refreshments. About 8 people came up after being told about it at the Literature Center. Next year I'll try to do a better co-ordination effort and we will have a guest book.

Alateen celebrates 60 years in 2017. The displays on the tables today showcase Alateen with posters and Area information.

Newsletter Coordinator – Jane F.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Switched Area 13 Newsletter to a two page, monthly format
- Sent out first newsletter in this format and frequency on May 10
- Updated subscribers list with address changes received from May 10 publication.
- Added about a dozen people to subscribers list from Area meeting and District 13.
- Received about 50 new subscribers from ICADD (Idaho Conference on Alcohol and Drug Dependency)
- Began connecting with various districts about their newsletters

NEXT STEPS

- Establish continual communication with districts to get more subscribers and information on happenings in their districts.
- Create an Area 13 Google Groups for sharing of information more effectively and efficiently.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Deadline for each newsletter is the 5th of the month with publication on the 10th of the month.

- Additions, corrections or deletions on the subscriber list should be sent to area13newsletter@gmail.com.

Group Records Coordinator – Paula N.

AREA GROUP RECORDS REPORT SPRING ASSEMBLY 2017

Good morning all, I am Paula, your Area Group Records Coordinator. I really feel like I don't have a lot to report to you. My service position is such that I have little to do except when there are new groups or when a group has changes.

When a group does have a change that needs to be entered in to the World Service Office's data base, I need you to make sure that the group number is on the form. The form for changes is on our website. That group number is extremely important to myself and to the Area Treasurer. We need the number to find the right group.

Sometimes when I get into the WSO's data base and just use the name of the group I have been given, the data base will send me a message that no such meeting exists because you may be using a different name than the one the meeting was registered as. What can happen is that a word is left off or added to the group name and they are not the same. Then I must open the District and check all the groups to find one that is a close match. I open the meeting and check to see if the rest of the information is the same to make sure I have the correct meeting and am not changing info in another group.

Another subject that WSO contacted me about was physical addresses for your meetings. There was one meeting that had only a phone number for new comers to call to get the location. It was for the safety of the residents where the meeting was held, however, WSO's policy is that they cannot put a meeting without a physical address on the website for meetings. They will just list it as "not meeting at this time". I believe the problem has been solved. I would suggest that when anyone is planning to start a new meeting, that you have it at location that can be added to the WSO data base on the website.

Unless there are any questions, I would like to thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Respectfully submitted by Paula N.

Website Coordinator – Kathy Bo.

Danielle and I are working on getting the website up to date and complete. Danielle is doing the website set up and migration from the previous platform and I am establishing the links to documents.

You may send event flyers and completed meeting schedules to me for posting at my email kbosler67@gmail.com for the time being until we set up the links on the website. Also any questions or needs for the website. I will work with Danielle to get them managed.

I have posted the newest newsletter (way to go Jane!) May , 2017.

Remember when sending meeting schedules or other info for the website you need to send completed or revised documents not just the changes. You "own" the information I post it for view by all.

Kathy Bosler

Humble WebMaster trainee!

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 1 – Brianna Mc.

Spring Assembly Report
From Brianna M., District 1 Rep.
May 10, 2017

We have been busy in District 1 getting ready for the 6th Annual Coeur d'Alene AA Convention with Al-Anon participation coming up May 25-28. We have held a series of panels, ice-cream social fund raisers, to help pay for the cost of the Alanon Speakers. These panels, composed of 3 AA and 3 Al-Anon members speaking for an hour on a chosen topic have become very popular. We have had a panel on Relationships, Boundaries and most recently on Overcoming Shame. These panels are a great opportunity for members from each program to be exposed to "the other side".

I was elected to be the new DR for District 1 in January. Its been a steep learning curve and I am getting the hang of it and asking for a lot of help. My goals are to unify our district and bolster Alateen. In that vain, we are in the planning stages of organizing a big August BBQ to celebrate the 60th year of Alanon. We will have an Alateen speaker as well as an Al-Anon speaker who can comment on the benefit of their child being in Alateen.

We once again have an Alateen meeting which appears to be well attended. We have a "Family Night" on Wednesdays where Al-Anon, Alateen and AA meetings are all held simultaneously which helps the entire family find recovery (and improves the odds of the teens getting a ride to their meeting).

Our Outreach Coordinator is responsible for assembling a panel of Al-Anon volunteers every six weeks to speak at the local Outpatient Facility. This has been going on for years but recently, we were asked to also go into the Inpatient Facility every six weeks with a similar format of a panel of Al-Anon members. This has been very well received and members seem ready to volunteer to share 15 minutes of their experience, strength and hope.

I have facilitated 3 District Meetings so far and continue to tweet the format based on some of the fabulous insight I have received from other DRs. Our district voted to change location and day of the week, which has greatly improved attendance. We have added an educational or fun piece to our agenda. We also are sending meeting minutes, agenda and treasurers reports by email before hand so we do not waste precious time during the meeting to read these out loud. There is no shortage of topics to cover in our monthly district meetings so we are trying to keep the meeting to an hour and fifteen minutes.

I have contacted the groups by email, telephone and in person from January through early May. As the weather is improving, I intend to visit meetings in the more rural areas while the roads are passable. We have GRs for all the groups but one and this group just changed locations in an attempt to be more accessible. We have changed our monthly district speaker meeting to quarterly due to low attendance to see if perhaps, less frequency will inspire folks to show up when it is happening. It has been an exciting first few months and we are all energized by the positive changes that have recently been adopted.

I look forward to serving in this capacity.

Truly Blessed by Service,
Brianna M
District 1 Rep

District 2 – Roz H.

District 2 Report
May 20, 2017

District 2 has had an interesting last six months. We elected a district representative (me) since we did not have one for the last year. We currently have nine meetings but only three group representatives. We are in the process of evaluating what we can do to improve service and group involvement.

In January we held a workshop on the 4 M's: Mothering, Martyrdom, Managing and Manipulation. We have good attendance and great participation.

Clarkston Round Table celebrated its' 45 year group anniversary. Members who attended in the early years were personally invited to attend. Group members transported some of the earliest members to the meeting because they do not drive. Attendance was great and food flowed abundantly. The topic was Step 2 – an invitation to recovery. The discussions centered on how they heard about Al-Anon and why they keep coming back.

Alateen has returned to the LC Valley after a sixteen year absence. The first meeting was held just last week in Lewiston. We have three teens attend. They stated it was better than expected and plan to return. We hope to have Alateen in the schools. Lewiston, ID and Clarkston, WA school systems expressed an interest in having meetings.

A women's book study meeting began last week. They are unregistered stating they want to wait 6 months to make certain it can survive.

Sincerely submitted,
Roz H., District 2 DR

District 3 – Bret R.

District: 3
Rep: Bret R
Date: May 15, 2017

Box Score

Item	Quantity	Comments
Groups in District 3	26	
Meetings	30	Four Groups have two Meetings a week
Groups with GR's	15	
GR's attending Assembly	7	As of 5/15/17

Meeting Format

At our Planning Meeting in December 2016, District 3 decided to modify the meeting format to place more emphasis on recovery and training for GR's and less emphasis on business. We adopted a quarterly rotating schedule as follows:

- 1st Meeting of the Quarter – Workshop (Role of GR, Group Finances, Fitting it together)
- 2nd Meeting of the Quarter – Speaker (Spiritual Connection to Service, My Service Story, Lessons Learned)
- 3rd Meeting of the Quarter – GR/Coordinator Reports and Business Meeting (Communication, Running a Group Business Meeting, Outreach and Alateen involvement)

Events

- **Steps Come Alive:** We had a very successful event in February with 116 attendees and profit of nearly \$1,000
- **Service and Sponsorship:** This event was held in March and was planned to bring more members into Service. However, attendance was only 41 and about 90% of those were already in service. We are considering changing the format next year to focus on sharing the experience, strength and hope between members in service.
- **Lasagna Dinner:** Planned for December and we hope for a repeat of 2016 – profits were nearly \$1,000
- **AA Roundup:** The Roundup has been cancelled for 2017 after a disappointing 2016 and a dearth of volunteers this year. This represents a loss of nearly \$500
- **Fall Assembly:** District 3 hosts the Fall Assembly in Boise and a team is forming

Investigative Teams of Special Workers

We currently have four teams formed to consider issues in our District:

- **Website** – we are investigating creation of a District 3 Website. A team is formed and is shamelessly considering plagiarizing District 1's website.
- **Google Groups** – our amazing Secretary has created a Google Group for District communication. We are looking into additional uses
- **Millennials** – we are looking into why there are so few young members in Al-Anon and how we can meet their needs to encourage membership
- **Credit Card Payment** – we have started using a service that will allow our members to pay for events and make donations with their debit and credit cards.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of recovery for our District.

Lovin' Service,
Bret R
D3DR

District 4 – Laurie B.

We have 5 meetings in our District, 1 in Hailey, 1 in Buhl, 1 in Filer and 2 in Twin Falls. We have voted to have our District Meetings every other month, followed by a Workshop. The workshop in March was on service, using the book "When I Got Busy, I Got Better", (P-78), and 3 pamphlets, Joy of Service (S-57), Service Sponsorship (P-88), and Links of Service (S-28). Our next meeting is July 15, Filer Group, and then Sept 16, Buhl group.

We have been invited to participate in the Fall AA Assembly in Burley. We have our committee for the program, Luncheon and Raffle.

In Service
Laurie B
DR4

District 5 – Doug C.

Events that District 5 has participated in since last Assembly include the AA Fall

Assembly in Fort Hall held in October, the Fall Fellowship in November in Pocatello, Both events included Al-Anon speakers that were amazing.

Monday Turn Around meeting is going well and they are averaging around 6-8 people.

Monday Steps to Serenity meeting is going well and they are averaging around 8-10 people.

Tuesday Courage to Change meeting is doing well and they have an average attendance of 10-12. They also have a speaker meeting on the 5th Tuesday when there are 5 Tuesday's in the month.

Tuesday Bantello has 4 regular participants.

Wednesday Wild Bunch is going well and has 6-8 people attending.

Thursday Serenity is struggling with only one person attending regular.

Thursday Hope & Recovery is going really well and they're about 8-10 people attending.

Friday Out to Lunch is going really well and about 10-12 people participating and this group needs a GR.

Alateen – We are working on getting an Alateen meeting going and it should be up and running by fall.

Upcoming events Spring into Recovery on April 15th, 2017 and Al-Anon Spring Assembly on May 20th, 2017.

Doug C.

District 6 – vacant

District 7 – Jan K.

My first district meeting as DR was April 1, 2017.

We elected officers, this included adding a newsletter for our district.

We discussed and agreed to have our meetings separate from district 3 on the website. Once the website is up again you will be able to get the list of meetings for our district. We are very grateful to district 3 for putting our meetings on their schedule. Also, I would like to thank Nancy C for organizing our schedule.

We set dates for the coming year and goals for my term. We hope to study a tradition each meeting and have an activity.

We closed the meeting with an Al Anon slogan game, fun was had by all.

Jan K.
District 7 DR

DRAFT