

Area 13 AWSC Committee Spring 2017 Meeting Minutes

The Area 13 World Service Committee met March 18th, 2017 in Boise, ID. The meeting was opened by Area Chair Janet D.; Kathy B. led the Serenity Prayer which was followed by introductions. The 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of Service were read.

Attendance

1. Danielle E – Area Delegate
2. Janet D. – Area Chair
3. Cheryl G. – Area Secretary
4. Berta R. - Interim Area Treasurer
5. Paula N. – Group Records
6. Laura F. – Forum/Literature
7. Luann H. – Interim AAISC Liaison
8. Ruth B. – Alateen Coordinator
9. Ladora B. – Archives Co-Coordinator
10. Kathy B. – Website Coordinator
11. Jane F. – Newsletter Coordinator
12. Brianna M. – District 1
13. Roz H.– District 2
14. Bret R. – District 3
15. Doug C. – District 5
16. Jan K. – District 7

Absent

1. Laurie B. – District 4

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Minutes for Fall 2017 AWSC Meeting were read by Cheryl G. Motion to approve by Ruth B., seconded by Doug C. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Berta R., acting Treasurer, discussed those items that have been completed to make the necessary changes for our new Chair and Treasurer. Signature updates have been completed. Berta reviewed the current budget and expenses. Reports attached.

OLD BUSINESS

SPRING 2017 ASSEMBLY AGENDA – Janet D. reviewed the proposed agenda for the Spring 2017 Spring Assembly to be held in Pocatello, May 20. After discussing different options for a skit/workshop. Jane F. volunteered to present a communication workshop, Laura F. and LuAnn offered to do the "Letting Go of Baggage" skit. Berta R. will make the 'first time gift'. Doug had questions regarding the responsible party

for providing literature for the Assembly. Doug felt that his district did not have sufficient inventory so they will arrange to have literature brought from the Literature Center to the Assembly. Doug will work with Luann to make those arrangements.

ARCHIVES – Ladora B., Archives Coordinator, announced that this is the 60th year for Alateen. She has brought some Alateen archives which she has on display today.

The Area Archives have been moved from Ladora’s garage to a room located in the same building as the Literature Center in Boise. She reported that the room containing the Archives is already quite full.

AREA INVENTORY – Janet d. has researched Area Inventories that have been undertaken in other Areas. She passed around questions she had from other areas. Motion was made by Jane that we do an Area Inventory for the AWSC Committee. Discussion was held as to whether it would be best to do it now, or wait. Kathy Bo suggested we do it now as a starting point or preliminary inventory. Roz H. spoke in favor of doing it now as a means to improve attendance at the Assembly once the GR’s are aware there is input from the Committee. Bret suggested we wait until we decide how to change the format of the assembly. Brianne spoke on the “purpose” of the inventory. Motion was withdrawn by Jane F. Janet D. suggested that we table this for six months to a year before proceeding.

COMMUNICATION – Janet D. requested that when she sends out agendas and other information, that everyone respond to her emails, even if it’s just a “got it”. Also, for upcoming meetings and Assemblies, please let her know if you will be attending. She encouraged everyone to let her know if they are feeling overwhelmed or need help with their positions. Jane F. said the Area Newsletter will be a monthly issue, with the second page being devoted to District news. Deadline for District news is the 5th of each month, with publication out on the 10th. The web address for submissions is area13newsletter@gmail.com. For upcoming events, the newsletter will include links to those events.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATING THE WEBSITE - Danielle E. spoke on the current website layup which she created and due to outdated technology, it is no longer very friendly for edits to be made. The Area needs to have a new “editor” for continued publishing. She is currently looking at WordPress as a new editor. WordPress offers us the advantage of being able to import the current domain into the new format. The text will be easily edited but a new editor as necessary. She is requesting \$99.00 from the AWSC Committee for the Word Press Starter to get the process started. WordPress is actually designed for mobile devices and would be of benefit for users. Berta R. said there is already \$99 currently in the budget for the Website Coordinator so there would be no need for a motion. Kathy B. asked if all past information is on web or if it is archived. Currently it is all left on the website. Kathy B. has agreed to step up as our new Website Coordinator. Thank you Kathy.

VACANCIES – Janet announced that we have vacancies in Committee positions: Alternate Delegate and Public Information.

CENTRALIZING LOCATION OF ASSEMBLIES - At the last Fall 2016 AWSC meeting, consensus was that there was a need to centralize the Assemblies. Mid-range mileage puts it near McCall with the maximum distance of approximately 340 miles. The following Input was received from the Committee:

- *In the past, some Districts have not had a DR and the work fell onto the Area to put on the Assembly. This puts a large burden on the Area officers.*

- *It was suggested that we use the WSO knowledge based decision process regarding the facts of rotation: participation, attendance, distance and time required. It should be a discussion, not a motion item. It needs to be discussed at the Assembly.*
- *If it is centralized, the responsibilities could be delegated out to Area members. We could also have a centralized Fall assembly and a centralized Spring assembly.*
- *Due to the overall size of District 1, they are considering rotating their District meetings because of the area involved. She would like to see a rotating assembly and/or video conferencing.*
- *“Why are we considering changing the current rotation method?” The common complaint has been the distance and time it takes to travel to CDA or Idaho Falls. “No money, too far” is the common complaint.*
- *By centralizing the Assemblies, groups can plan ahead to send their GR to assembly. It is the group’s responsibility to send a representative to the Assembly.*
- *In favor of centralization based on population density.*
- *The duties of the GR – the job description states that they attend assembly twice a year. The prudent reserve of some groups was set up to cover assembly expenses and other groups are doing fund raisers (i.e. dessert auction).*
- *The cost of assemblies. District 3 is having a fund raiser to send GR’s to assembly. Also, to be fair, we could institute an equalizer policy similar to what the WSO currently does to defer expenses for Delegates who travel long distances.*
- *The \$1 in the basket.*
- *Getting his team together for the upcoming Pocatello assembly has been a real positive experience. He would like to see it continue to be rotated.*
- *GR’s aren’t expected to attend, it is their responsibility. Emphasis needs to be placed on the benefits of attending the Assembly. What is the “value” of attending the Assembly?*
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It was suggested that a committee be appointed to study the issue and different ways to assess what is best for the Area. Berta volunteered to head the committee to assemble questions that can be submitted to AWSC and then compiled before being submitted to the assembly in May. Committee members are: Ruth B., Doug C., and Cheryl G.

REORGANIZING THE ASSEMBLY FORMAT – Suggestions received regarding Assembly format:

- *The recognition of members who rotate out of office; turn it over to your Higher Power. Fun, fellowship, free gifts – the benefits oftentimes get lost and more focus is on just the business meeting. Draw from our experience, strength and hope.*
- *A weekend, in place of a day. Traveling the distance to Pocatello for just an 8 hour meeting doesn’t seem very appealing.*
- *The difference between an assembly and a convention. Assembly is a work meeting; convention is much more relaxed and not so regimented.*
- *The benefits and necessity of the Service Manual. Kick the meetings off with an hour of jargon – what things mean: terms, definitions, job description.*
- *Sitting for 8 hours and being spoken to with limited input by attendees – just routine business. We need exchange of ideas.*
- *We need to remember the focus.*

- *Change the format, but leave it at just one day by compressing business matters and allowing more fun time.*

PASSING THE TORCH – Danielle E. suggested that it would be nice if committee members who are leaving service could “pass the torch” to their new counterparts at the first assembly following elections. Ruth B. stated that there is always the cost of traveling to an assembly for outgoing members to consider. Jan K. suggested doing it at the election assembly as most outgoing and incoming members are attendees. Berta R. thought that the committee members just changed places every three years but now can see how they continue in service in different positions. Some areas continue to pay for past delegates because of their wealth of information. It was also suggested that possibly Area could pay that onetime travel expense every three years. An invitation could be sent out to the outgoing committee members to be present to welcome the new committee members. Others agreed that it would be more meaningful to do it at the election assembly, possibly at a dinner on Saturday night. It’s not about approval, it’s about recognition.

ATTRACTING GROUP REPS – Input received from Committee members:

- *Getting GRs interested in the vital part of Al-Anon needs to start at the group level and nurtured all the way.*
- *Have previous GRs mentor and explain the position’s expectations to the new GR’s.*
- *District meetings becoming a training session for new people beginning their service commitments.*
- *District newsletters – currently only 2 Districts have monthly newsletters.*
- *Members who attended the last Assembly reported that it was long, boring and not interesting.*
- *Our component is how to live and how to have relationships with others.*
- *The similes of flowers in regard to the three legacies: Daisies the steps, Roses the traditions, Weeds the concepts. The three legacies make our garden bloom. That is how the process works. We must pay attention and commit to all three legacies; need to open to doing new things. Define our perception of “fun”.*
- *District 3 has 25 meetings and only 12 GRs. Groups with no GR have no concept of the value of what a GR brings to a group. Cannot, in good conscious, promote sending GRs to Assembly with the current format. The entire Assembly should be for GRs.*
- *The GR in some cases has no concept of what Area is. Try different things and don’t be afraid of change. Evaluate the success of new ideas and strategies.*
- *Assembly is a business meeting. You can have different options, but you need to use the manual, take care of business and still have some fun.*
- *Attended two previous assemblies. Had no clue what was going on at the first, second one was much better. It’s about attraction, not promotion. Go back to your districts and report on the positive, not the negative and we can succeed.*
- *Purpose of the Spring Assembly is to hear the Delegate’s report. Assemblies are a chance to feel Al-Anon. That is not achievable with video conferencing. Al-Anon is our responsibility and we need to find a way to build enthusiasm with our members.*
- *Return to your group with a smile and good news. Make others want to come and experience the joys you did: the message of hope and enthusiasm. That is what DRs need to take back to their groups.*
- *We are a clearinghouse of information to our members. Ask members what they want and need.*
- *We do not need to have both Assembly formats the same, they can be different.*
- *Page 163 of the Service Manual lists several different suggestions of topics at assembly.*

- *Now would be a good time to start looking for and grooming someone to replace us at the end of our term.*

A new agenda outline was submitted and shared with the attendees. It was agreed upon to try it for the Spring assembly. Janet D. will type up and mail to committee members.

FIRST TIMERS AWARD

Registration forms will be available to newcomers on the registration table and a newcomer designation will also appear on the nametags. An award will be made to the newcomer who has accumulated the most signatures from other attendees.

OTHER ITEMS

There will be a basket for donations at-large at the Assembly. We can also tell our groups about the opportunity of making a personal appeal at the Area Assembly.

Janet D. would like a follow-up meeting immediately after the assembly ends. Meeting purpose will be to judge how well the new changes and the assembly in general were received.

The AWSC Spring Committee Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Next AWSC Meeting: July 29, 2017, Kopper Kitchen, Boise, ID

Yours in Service,

Cheryl G.
Area Secretary

Al-Anon Area 13 2016 PROFIT and LOSS STATEMENT
December 31, 2016

	Details	Sub Totals	Totals
Income			
	Donation Group & Member	\$6,783.64	
	Spring Assembly (Net)**	\$621.33	
	Fall Assembly (Net)**	\$678.30	
	Total Income		<u><u>\$8,483.27</u></u>
Expenses			
	AWSC Member Expenses		
	Committee Meetings	\$1,505.25	
	Officers		
	Alternate Delegate		
	Chair		
	Delegate	\$239.33	
	Secretary		
	Treasurer	\$25.75	
	Coordinators		
	Alateen		
	Archives	\$87.00	
	Forum/Literature		
	Group Records		
	Newsletter		
	Public Outreach		
	Website		
	Operating Expenses		
	Archives Storage	2,015.00	
	Assembly Literature		
	Assembly Expenses		
	Background Checks	235.00	
	Bank Charges(Treasurer)		
	Equalizer Expense	1,909.00	
	Financial Review	185.00	
	NWR Delegate Meeting	808.82	
	Post Office	102.00	
	Public Outreach		
	Spanish Hotline		
	Website Domain Name	16.99	
	Website Hosting		
	Total Expenses	<u><u>7,129.14</u></u>	
Net Income			<u><u>1,354.13</u></u>

As of 3/18/2017

Checking Account Balance: 2984.04

Savings Account Balance: 9268.42

Total: 12252.46

2017 Donations from Districts & Groups: 1249.39

2017 Expenses to date 314.1

140 AFA - Outreach
40 NWRDM
65 2 Background check reimbursements
52.11 checks & stamps
16.99 Website

314.1 Total

