

# NCWSC Committee Meeting Minutes

May 4-5, 2007

## Bass Lake, The Pines Resort

**Note:** The meeting minutes for this meeting are not chronologically ordered. In an attempt to make the minutes more easily used as a reference, the minutes are ordered in a topical fashion.

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The meeting was convened at 8:00 a.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration. The Traditions, Concepts and Warranties were read.

Roll Call was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

### Motions

#### ***Motion #0705.01 (Substantial Unanimity)***

Move: Johanna MM.

Second: Kim H.

Motion Text: That the minutes be approved as amended.

#### ***Motion #0705.02 (Substantial Unanimity):***

Move: Johanna MM.

Second: Carol K.

Motion Text: Whereas a trip to the Southwest Regional Service Seminar (SWRSS) is both a reward for service, and a stimulant to further service, and whereas there will be no SWRSS during the current panel, it is moved that NCWSC ask the Assembly to authorize the expenditure of up to the budgeted amount to send the Chairperson, Alternate Delegate, and Delegate to another RSS or to the 2008 International convention, at their choice.

#### **Discussion:**

- Discussion which lead to this motion can be found in the section Other Business: New Business: "About Chairperson, Delegate and Alternate Delegate attending a Regional Service Seminar"

#### ***Motion #0705.03 (Unanimous):***

Move: Vicki H.

Second: Johanna MM.

Motion Text: That the proposed change to guideline B-24 be accepted.

**Discussion:**

- See old business for the discussion.

***Motion 0705.04***

Move: Vic A.

Second: John S.

Motion Text: That the NCWSC recommend that the NCWSA Requirement for Alateen Member Safety be adopted by the 2007 Assembly.

**Discussion:**

- Discussion of this motion can be found in the Alateen Safety Committee report.

***Motion 0705.05 (Substantial Unanimity)***

Move: Vic

Second: John

Motion Text: That NCWSA create a new officer position to serve as the NCWSA Alateen Safety Administrator.

**Discussion:**

- For details of the discussion which lead to this motion, please see "Discussion Regarding a New Alateen Safety Officer Position" under the Alateen Safety Committee report.

***Motion 0705.06 (Passed, Substantial Unanimity)***

Move: Sandi C.

Second: Susan S.

Motion Text: That the proposed 2008 budget be presented to the Assembly for approval.

***Motion 0705.07 (Passed, Substantial Unanimity)***

Move: Patti M.

Second: Carol G.

Motion Text: To fund Institutions for the purchase of literature to the State Department of Corrections for distribution to the prisons of California, based on the list Louise provided to the Advisory Board chairperson, for up to \$6000.

**Discussion:**

- See the discussion following the Institutions Coordinator's report.

***Motion 0705.08 (Passed, Substantial Unanimity)***

Move: Joe G.

Second: Kim H.

Motion Text: To encourage other special projects such as outreach, translation support, etc. to utilize surplus of NCWSA, request approval of a \$5000 donation to WSO.

**Discussion:**

- How much money do we have left?
  - At the last committee meeting, there was around \$30,000 reserve. Minus what has now been committed for the Institutions literature, we still have plenty.
- Is this to take to Assembly or to vote on here?
  - To vote for it here.
- If this money is specified to be used by NCWSA, should we be sending it on to WSO when the groups have given it to us, not them?
  - I give money to my group knowing that some will be sent from my group to WSO, NCWSA, and the Area. There is no reason we can't send money on to WSO.
  - NCWSA has given large donations to WSO when we have had large surpluses in the past.
- In the last six years my district has gone from having substantial surpluses to having a balanced budget. We have tried to invest more of our money in our outreach efforts. There is profit for WSO in literature.
- Could we take the surplus money to provide scholarships for GRs who can't afford to go to Assemblies?
- I could put something in my presentation about having two assemblies regarding scholarships. This could be something we have for GRs if we have a second Assembly.
- Do we know that our financial situation is so that we know that this will work, including translation equipment and other financial obligations?
  - Over the past three years, our surplus has been over \$20,000, which covers all financial obligations.
- When I was treasurer, I was told that we don't give donations to WSO because a percentage of convention profits are earmarked to go to WSO. We haven't had much convention profits, so this would be money well spent.

***Motion 0705.09 (Passed, Substantial Unanimity)***

Move: Kim H.

Second: Carol G.

Motion Text: Whereas the NCWSA has heard the request from the Spanish-speaking community for translation equipment, and/or translators provided to Assembly, the NCWSC agree to provide up to \$3000 to cover Spanish translation costs at the NCWSA 2007 Assembly.

**Discussion:**

- Is \$3000 enough?
  - This is just to provide translation, not to purchase equipment. I want the Spanish speakers to be covered since the committee hasn't acted.
- Can this be done in the main room, or will we need another room?
  - That's a good question. I don't know.
- I have given presentations in Japan where translation is provided to attendees in the same room through headsets. It is not disruptive.
- At the H&I conference, they had translation equipment. I sent information to Kim. AA typically has translation equipment at big conferences.

***Motion 0705.10 (Passed, Substantial Unanimity)***

Move: Joan W.

Second: Elaine S.

Motion Text: That NCWSA allocate \$3000 to be in the form of a donation drawing at Assembly for 2 GRs and 1 DR for a scholarship to the 2008 International Al-Anon Convention.

**Discussion:**

- I find it interesting that we can't make a decision here for the officers who can't go to the RSS to go to the International convention, but we're going to have to GRs and DRs sent to the International.
  - The reason for the motion for the officers going to Assembly is because it is an approved budget line item, which is going to go to a different purpose. This motion is to spend an overage of funds, which requires no second approval.
- What about making sure that GRs can go to Assembly in the first place.
- I have a problem with the fact that we're sending \$5000 to WSO, but we aren't going to send our officers to other events. Shouldn't we take care of our people here first.
- I like the idea of this motion. It will give GRs and a DR a chance to do something that they might not have been able to afford. But I would prefer to have Assembly approve this, rather than spend more of our money here.
- We have trouble drawing GRs to Assembly. This will encourage GRs to be present at Assembly.
- I feel that we've discovered we have all this extra money and now we're thinking of ways to spend it. Due to the late hour, we have a diminished attendance at this committee meeting right now. I'd like us to be more deliberate about this rather than pull the trigger and spend another \$3000 of our money.
- At our district, we pass a basket for the Seventh Tradition, and a basket to send a member to the RSS. It is a way to get people to our district meetings. It has built up a lot over time. Why can't we pass a basket here to do this for people.
- My district does a lottery which sends GRs to an RSS every year. Depending on where the RSS is, determines how many we send. When I had six months in the program, I won the lottery to go to an RSS, when I couldn't afford it. Sending people to these RSS's is a great tool to get people involved. This is investing in the future.
- By the way, the theme for the Assembly is "Participation is the key to harmony." What better way to show that theme.

## Elections

### ***Executive Committee Elections***

The EC members serve 18 month terms. The outgoing EC members, Joan W., Bonnie M., Arlene O., Chris A.C., and Lori K. were recognized. The new EC members were voted in. Each EC member representing one of the sections will be a DR elected by the other DRs of that section.

### **Sections**

- **Northern:** Claudia M.
- **Central:** Patti M.
- **Southern:** Harlan H.

### **Members-At-Large**

The following stood for EC members-at-large and were affirmed unanimously.

- Erik N. (District 5 DR)
- Chris A.C. (Current E.C. member-at-large)

## Committee Reports

### ***Alateen Safety Committee (Vic)***

- The new requirement policy has been made and compiled. Please get this out to your GRs so they can prepare for the vote.

- Most of the policy is as it has been, but there were two changes.
  - Section B number 17: The definition of terms for Parents and Guardians is new.
  - 4.F is new. This comes from a member who had concern for one-on-one Alateen sponsorship.
- On the recommendation of the Alateen Safety committee, NCWSC voted to take the requirement to the Assembly for passage, including some changes that will take into account discussion that took place at this meeting. (Motion # 0705.04).
- Due to the heavy workload that is involved in administering the Alateen sponsorship requirement, the Safety committee made the recommendation that a new position be made. This position should be an officer so that it is protected by the officers' insurance policy. A motion was presented and passed to ask the Assembly to create the position (Motion # 0705.05).
- The Assembly should be able to vote on the creation of the position in 2007. The following Assembly (2008), the job description can be voted on. Finally, the 2008 election Assembly will be the time that the position is first occupied.
- Vic suggested that the Safety committee should have a job description written up for this Assembly. It would not be voted on, but GRs will want to know what we're asking of this position.
- The Letter to Alateen Sponsor and Letter to Alateen Groups letters have been updated, and will be added to the guidelines and posted on the web site once approved.

#### **Discussion Regarding Safety Requirement**

- Under definition of terms, it states, "A parent or guardian not in Al-Anon must have a signed travel and treatment form from the parent or guardian of other Alateen members." How will we enforce this if they're not an Al-Anon member?
  - The reason we put this in here isn't if they do it once and never do it again. The idea is if there is a non-Al-Anon parent regularly transporting teens, the meeting sponsor might ask that parent to have the travel form filled out. For informational purposes, we as Al-Anons can help even non-members follow the guidelines.
  - It is also nice for the teens to know this. The teens know they need permission forms when traveling with anybody.
  - This statement puts the onus on the teen, if they are riding with someone who is not their parent and who is not in the program, they can still get the travel form.
- I encourage sponsors in my district to meet all parents of the teens. When they do, it is a good time to give them the form.
- Does this guideline still state that an Al-Anon member who is regularly transporting teens needs to be fingerprinted, even if they're not a sponsor?
  - Yes. That is stated clearly in the guideline.
- Should we reword this to say that it is "highly recommended"? The way it is currently worded, it sounds like they have to have it. But really, it is not something we can absolutely enforce it. We should also clarify why they have to have it.

#### **Discussion Regarding a New Alateen Safety Officer Position**

- The following discussion resulted in motion #0705.05.
- We might make the Safety administrator an officer or a coordinator. We haven't decided yet. We would like it to be a coordinator, but it must be covered by insurance. We need to find out if we can have them be a coordinator, but still be covered by the insurance
  - The insurance coordinator needs to find out the details of our policy.
- Personally, I would rather this person have served as a DR before. This position handles personal information, fingerprints, and other sensitive information.
- Should we call out the position as an Alateen Safety Officer in the third motion presented?
  - Yes.
- Do we need to have an alternate for this position?

- I think so.
- I'm concerned about this being written as a coordinator position. In our bylaws, any coordinator can write their own job description, and it only need be approved by the chairperson. An officer job description must be approved by Assembly. At the same time, we say that officers must have been DRs previously. I'm not so sure that this position would require that.
- Is that secretary position [separate recording and corresponding secretaries] still in our bylaws? Do we have an empty position?
  - No, it was eliminated. We have to make a new position.
- How do we support those districts that don't have an active district structure? This is not addressed in the requirement.
  - I got a call from someone from Yreka who wanted to start an Alateen meeting. There was no DR, and she didn't know how to proceed. I told her what to do. In this case, the Area officer should handle the sponsor certification directly. The difficulty is that we don't know the person directly, but the fingerprinting will ensure that the person has no prior history of problems. Whether or not they are working a program...well, I don't know if a DR can even do that. Forms can be downloaded from the web site.
  - This person brought 20 Alateen members to the AA conference in Redding.
  - Still, we should have something added to the guideline that makes this process official, and have the area officer interview them.
- Just because someone has been a DR shouldn't be a qualification. We would want this person to be or have been a sponsor before they take this position.
- The issue is communication. There are meetings in districts that are not aware of the requirements.
- The name of the position should be Alateen Safety Administrator. This is the official position that is recognized by WSO.
  - It doesn't matter what we call it.
  - On the contrary, the WSO was very picky about certain wording of this requirement.
- How can we alleviate the current Alternate Delegate workload? I would like to see an interim person assigned.
  - John was asked if he needed help currently: Four weeks ago, I would have said absolutely. Now all the renewals are done, so it is under control. I believe the position should be created. As alternate delegate, three jobs is too much [Alt Delegate, Budget Committee, Alateen Safety Officer].
- The recommendation of the EC is that we have a person, not my personal opinion. It goes beyond how John feels, or how I feel. The EC believes it is in the best interest of NCWSA that we create an interim position immediately to alleviate the pressure on the Alternate Delegate. The EC made this recommendation after much time was spent in consideration of this issue.
- What is the intent of the Alateen Safety committee as to when this position would begin? This is not clear by the motion.
- If this is not a crunch time right now, this would be a good time to bring someone in to fill the position in an interim capacity. It would give them time to be oriented to the job responsibilities and not have to go through a trial by fire.
- There is at least one person who is willing to work with John, or to do the position. This person has been a DR and has done a lot of service. If that person would like to volunteer themselves right now, I welcome them, but I'm not going to put them on the spot.
- John's job as Alateen Safety Officer is to do or cause to be done. So John can take an assistant any time he wants. He doesn't need our permission. But if we want it to be an officer, we have to go through the Assembly.
  - This is a little different, as they only allow two people on the secure web site for background checks. This is the officer and the alternate. We would have to remove someone and get the new person cleared. It is just a form.
- Lori K. volunteered to work with John. She stated her qualifications.
- I would like to suggest that anyone who takes this position not ride in the same car.

### ***Executive Committee Report (Joan W.)***

- The current Executive Committee met for the last time on Friday, May 4, at Bass Lake.
- I would like to thank those members, Arlene O., Bonnie M., Chris A.C., Lori K., for their service during our 18-month term.
- We approved the minutes from the February E.C. meeting.
- The E.C. recommends that the in-coming E.C. Chair get together with the outgoing Chair to meet with the NCWSA Treasurer to review the time line guidelines to improve completion of task requirements in a timely manner.
- I will be verifying receipts from donations to NCWSA with the information received today. This task will be completed soon so that the new panel can move forward.
- We approved Juaneta G., D7 Treasurer as the Financial Assistant for the September, 2007 Assembly.
- And finally, we are grateful to the Alateen Safety Committee for all of your efforts and to John for his struggle with his workload and to Lori for her willingness to be of service.
- The District Representative will caucus today to elect a member from the Northern Section, the Central Section and the Southern Section. Two members from NCWSC who are past DRs will be elected as at-large-members to serve for the next 18 months.
- Thank you for allowing me to be of service to NCWSA and the Al-Anon Family Groups.

### ***Budget Committee Report (John S.)***

- 2005 Audit has been completed. There was a missing deposit slip, and a check missing a signature. We signed off with Carol having a perfect record as Treasurer.
- 2006 Audit has been completed. There were three checks with single signatures, all of which had been approved by a second officer. There were a couple of minor confusion points, but there were no serious errors. So she has passed.
- The initial copy of the budget was approved for presentation to the committee. If we vote to have a second Assembly, we can add those lines at Assembly.

### **2008 Budget**

- A detailed budget was presented to the committee. The Assembly is presented with a summary budget.
- Lines for Alateen convention room money, and Alateen sponsorship have been added to income under conventions. These were added in order to track money that might carry over from year to year between conventions. These were also added to expense line items. Part of the need for this is that it is a new program for conventions. This new line item supports this use of funds by convention. In the summary budget presented to Assembly, these detailed lines will not show up.
- The 2008 budget is essentially the same as 2007, only we've added the extra expense/income lines for the Alateen convention room money.
- It should be understood that if we decide to have a second Assembly, we may decide to have one fewer committee meetings. If that's the case, there will be some offset of funds. from not having to spend money on the third committee meeting.

### **Discussion:**

- Last committee meeting, we spoke of the surplus we've accumulated over the years. How are we addressing that?
  - The budget does not address this. The committee would have to decide to spend that money to accomplish our outreach goals.
- To clarify, gasoline is pushing \$4 per gallon. Does our mileage reimbursement reflect this? If our new travel costs continue to rise should we address this in this budget?
  - I would rather address this after getting our actuals for 2007, so that we have a better idea of exactly how much will be added.

## **NoCAC Committee**

- Not Present. No Report Submitted.

## **Web Committee (Jim S.)**

- Joe G., Art B. are the other members. Joe G. and Jim S. do all of the updates. He still consults with Art a lot. He is doing well.
- Changes this year.
  - 34 dependent district and AIS meeting schedule changes and additions
  - 38 calendar changes and additions
  - 21 questions submitted and responded to
  - 2,000,000 hits to our site over the past 12 months (more than WSO)
  - There are 13 dependent web sites and 9 independent district and AIS web sites
  - Working to have district 24 move toward becoming an independent site
  - He's going to change all email addresses on the web site to [contactus@ncswa.org](mailto:contactus@ncswa.org). This is the primary contact address for the web site.
  - Committee members and districts will be added as NCWSA email addresses. These web addresses will redirect to committee members' personal email addresses. They will take steps to make it more difficult for harvesting of these email addresses.
- Forms and guidelines pages include most of the information we use in the committee. This includes these meeting minutes.
- Alateen registration and meeting forms are also located in the Service section of the web site.
- He's going to be working on fixing any broken links, but if you encounter any broken links, please notify him.
- Take a look at the [www.ncwsa.org](http://www.ncwsa.org) under "Al-Anon Links" in the sidebar then under <http://www.al-anon.org/members>. Log on using "afg" as the password. There is valuable information including WSO Guidelines and an online Service Manual. Browse around, I was surprised at what I found there.

## **Convention Committee (Jane D. and Kim H.)**

- Convention was at Squaw Valley, where there were about 144 preregistered. There were another 120 who walked in.
- The convention chairperson for 2008 is Kim H. The convention committee stood and were recognized in front of NCWSC.
- There are surplus T-Shirts from the convention.
- Patrick B. will be the 2008 Co-Chair and 2009 Chairperson.
- The 2008 Convention theme will be "On The Wings of Recovery". As usual there will be a logo competition.
- We're looking at dates and locations. Monterey looks difficult. The likely month will be June. She will try to avoid any normal event dates.
- There are rocks that were painted with slogans on them for the 2007 convention. They were distributed to the committee.

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Number of Assemblies (Sandi C.)**

- Sandi polled all other delegates again. Areas break down as follows:
  - At least 31 Areas have more than one Assembly (out of a total of about 65)
  - There were some that have just one Assembly and some other event such as a service day or seminar
  - A few had three and four Assemblies, but these are much smaller areas.
  - Some combine their Assembly with the World Service Committee meeting.
- She also got a very long email from Annette from D-22, which talked about how Assembly



- worked at her old Area (Southern California).
- It was determined that there is no consensus at the committee level for NCWSA, either for two Assemblies or for one Assembly and one service day for the delegate's report.
- The main purpose to have an Assembly is for the delegate's report. Having a delegate's report in September is much too long after the April WSC date to be an effective and timely way to communicate information to the groups.
- The main priority is that the Area gets the information they need.
- The committee will bring some proposed motions and information about costs of two Assemblies to the next Assembly for discussion.

**Discussion:**

- After the last Assembly didn't most GRs want two Assemblies?
- Shouldn't we bring the information to Assembly and let the motion form from the discussion?
  - Yes, that would probably be best. I will take this into consideration and have a couple of motions sitting on the side just in case.
- I did some research on this topic. Assemblies don't have to be like our Assemblies. In my experience in Southern California, we would meet at a senior center or high school, and meet for a day. I really appreciated the simplicity of how So. California do their Assemblies.

***Ad Hoc Committee on Translation Equipment***

- This committee has not met, but several NCWSC members has some suggestions.
- I contacted a past WSO employee in New Mexico regarding translation equipment and this information was given to one of the ad hoc committee members.
- I would like us to take some of the surplus money and do something about having translation for Spanish-speaking members at this coming Assembly

**Discussion:**

- Judith, the committee chairperson, spoke to one of the DRs and found that it would be at least \$5000 to get translation equipment.
- How can the committee chairperson be reached?
  - Her contact information is in the roster under Spanish translation committee chairperson.

**Coordinator Reports**

***12-Stepper Editor (Bruce H. - Submitted in Absence)***

- I'm Bruce your 12 Stepper Editor alerting you to future and past events. First, I must apologize for my being in Mexico during both the Convention and our Committee Meeting to work with a group, including my son (a most opportunistic and pleasurable fete) to help in one of the communities. I would point out that my absence promotes our need for an Area Alternate Editor.
- Upcoming, this meeting and Stepper issue is a prelude to the Assembly, NCWSA's core tool for our organization and continuation. Your efforts are vital to this meeting. The Stepper as part of your responsibility can reflect your reports of District work and activities for helping The Families Of-. Anything from you, large or small would benefit our Publication. Several of you have produced excellent, past articles and some of you, like myself, may find writing as a better form of expression than talking so please take advantage of this opportunity and expand your skills. Deadline for Stepper submissions is 26 May (two weeks after Committee Meeting) however I have taken the opportunity to place last minute writings/send-ins after the Contact Section because it is a JOB to add something in the middle of any completed issue that is about to go to press. And incidentally, as is the course of my job, a hundred copies of your April Stepper were sent and distributed by Sandi at the WSC in April. Good Job. Good Job. Love in Service

### ***Alateen Coordinator (in Absence read by Carl S.)***

- Happy 50th Birthday Alateen!
- I have spoken at a few Districts and supported the Convention and Woods fundraiser since February. Pirate Bingo and Special Rocks were the best.
- Each Alateen group has been mailed a special birthday edition of the Alateen Express and the Southwest Regional Alateen Coordinators and Delegates have been mailed the attached flyers encouraging their participation.
- The next Stepper issue going out to all the AI-Anon groups will include portions of the Alateen Express as well.
- Look for the revised Alateen Safety forms online at ncwsa.org. Remember all certified Alateen sponsors must be fingerprinted once in order to complete a background check for NCWSA. Then a renewal form updating contact info is required annually and due to John S. by May for processing to WSO. If your local Alateen Coordinator has yet to contact you for paperwork on renewal, etc. please let me know and I will be happy to assist.
- Sandi reported that the Alateen Traditions have been approved at the recent World Service Conference with one minor change to text in Tradition 11 from "TV and films" to "Films and TV"
- Hope to see you all at the upcoming NOCAC fundraiser "Alateen Olympics & BBQ" on May 12th from 12-5 at Vasona Park in Los Gatos right off Hwy 17.

### ***Archives Coordinator (Irma C.)***

- There is no report to give. Things have not changed since the last time I reported.
- She plans to have a map of our districts enlarged to poster-size and put on the wall at Assembly. Please have your GRs take a look.

#### **Discussion**

- Is there a place for our archives now?
  - Kim looked for a storage facility for Art. She will speak with Irma to find out her requirements.
- Irma expects to finish her backlog by the end of the year. She would not want them moved until that time.

### ***Bylaws and Insurance Coordinator (Peggy P.)***

- I do not have an official report. I have had a computer failure and work has stood in the way. In mid-June, I will be back in with both feet, and will begin to address questions then.
- I'm still available to come out to speak, but only after mid-June.
- Apologies for missing the DR meeting last night.

### ***Diversity (Pleas S.)***

- Not Present. No Report Submitted.

### ***Facilities (Gene H.)***

- When you do a bid, please go to the web site under "Forms" and look for RFP. These are available for Assembly and NCWSC meetings. Use these, it will avoid confusion for you and the hotel. It tells the hotel what they need regarding our requirements.
- If anyone has any problem or concerns when dealing with hotels, I am always available for assistance.
- Assembly: Red Lion Inn in Sacramento, September 14, 15, 16. August 14 is the cut off for reserving rooms. Singles and Doubles: \$84, Triples: \$94, Quads: \$104. Roll-away beds are \$15 per night. Reservation number is on the list server. Our code for the hotel is NCWSA.
- October NCWSC Meeting: Crown Plaza in Burlingame, October 19, 20. Meeting rooms are free, which is why I picked it and we did not vote on it. Rooms are \$109 plus tax. There is a \$2 fee on

- each room. Parking is free for hotel guests. All else must pay a fee. There is a continental breakfast.
- I have a partial bid in Fortuna. I will try to bring that bid into a summer month and have other options.
  - I will get a bid for Jackson Rancheria for next May.
  - Our meetings for all of 2007 are all covered.
  - I've begun to work with the 2008 convention committee for the 2008 convention location.
  - There is a location in Los Gatos, which has fairly minimal accommodations, since it is a former boys school.
  - Jeff's been working on a bid in San Jose, which has been difficult, because of the cost of meeting rooms.

**Discussion:**

- One alternative to getting a Friday night meeting room is to get a suite. This can then be used for the officer's/coordinator's meeting, and someone can sleep there, too.
- The two-page document (RFP) that Gene wrote up is great. It takes care of everything. One thing about it is that it specifies two rooms for Friday night: one for a circle of 20 people, one for a circle of 40 people. Is that an accurate number? For example, we only had 18 people for the DR meeting. This can make a difference in the cost of the bid.
- How do we determine where the convention is?
  - It rotates, but the convention committee gets a variety of bids and makes a decision. The next convention is in the Southern section, and will most likely be in the Monterey Bay area.

***Group Records (Debbie O.)***

- She had a computer crash and was not able to produce a report.
- She will mail out new lists as soon as she is able.
- Incidentally, Chris M. is still receiving group updates, but she is passing them to me.

**Discussion:**

- I had discussed with you about producing a list of meetings according to WSO. I called WSO and found they can send me that report, so I no longer need it.

***Institutions (Louise M.)***

- The 36th Annual AA Hospitals and Institutions Conference with Al-Anon participation was April 13, 14, 15, 2007. Linda D., who was the local chair, and I worked on the conference for the last ten months.
- Linda D suffered an accident a couple of weeks ago to her right tibia and is now going to be laid up for a few weeks. As a result, I do not yet have all the figures for the conference. Preliminary figures show a pre-reg figure of 50 and 45 on-site. I believe we had more than a hundred.
- We had great participation from not only the locals but from as far away as Fresno, Monterey, and up north.
- District 5 and Linda D. did much to support the conference. The institutions coordinator from District 5 did a fantastic job describing the work they do in the various treatment centers and recovery homes.
- We had an institutions panel of those Al-Anons going into recovery centers, juvenile halls, chemical dependency treatment services, and some of the jails.
- We also had a wonderful Alateen workshop chaired by one of our Alateens, Tonya F.
- Our next H and I Conference will take place in Burlingame. I do not have all the details yet. I have not selected a local chair until I get a chance to talk with District 13 which will probably be the host district.

- As Institutions Coordinator I sit on the State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations 12 Step Advisory Board. I have attended two meetings so far and this month I attended a meeting at Folsom State Prison.
- This advisory board provides information to the Corrections Department on what the various 12 step programs are doing and what is needed. The 12 step programs include AI-Anon and Alateen amongst others.
- Last month the Youth Authority Administrator, Division of Juvenile Justice, spoke of how she would like to get Alateen into the Juvenile Justice facilities. The Women's Correctional Facility in Chowchilla would like to get AI-Anon into the facilities there. I have contacted District 19 and am waiting for word of volunteers that would like to go there. I am willing to go in with a couple other people that go into the Elmwood Correctional Facility for Women in San Jose for the first couple times to set up the institutions meeting in Chowchilla.
- I approached the advisory board with my interest in getting an AI-Anon informational meeting in San Quentin and other institutions.
- The Friends Outside organization is willing to help place literature in the facilities that they attend. I need literature. Lots of it. I need people who will help me get the literature to the various facilities through Friends Outside.
- I will in June be receiving a "green card" which will allow me access to all the correctional facilities in California. It will not let me in to start meetings until I go through their proper channels and paperwork.
- I gave the AI-Anon video to the Folsom State Prison Community Partnership Manager.
- Due to overcrowding, the biggest obstacle for bringing meetings into prisons is space, as many potential meeting places have been converted into living quarters.
- I will be going to the next meeting in Sacramento in June. If any of you have any ideas or suggestions for me to take to the meeting, please see me or else e-mail me. [lkmorei@earthlink.net](mailto:lkmorei@earthlink.net).
- Please get the information out to your groups that we would like to get volunteers to go into the correctional facilities along with the juvenile facilities and to get literature into the prisons.
- Your groups may help take literature in to your county and city jails. Find the Community Partnership Managers for the prison or someone who can help you put literature there.
- You can do a lot to help spread the word of AI-Anon into the state and county prisons. You don't have to go in to the prisons but you can help by donating literature. If your city has a Friends Outside organization, ask if they can help distribute the literature.
- The State Advisory Board has a budget and can provide some money to get literature but AI-Anon was too late this year to submit a list. Perhaps NCWSA can help with a project aimed at providing literature for our correctional facilities.

#### **Discussion:**

- Does your budget not include money for literature?
  - I don't know whether that budget is set up for literature. I spent a lot for the H&I conference. The registration for that conference is not much, so all the literature that I used for the conference came out of my budget. I exceed my budget already.
- Would you like to make a motion for your literature request related to institutions?
  - My list of titles was almost \$6000 worth of books and pamphlets. This is because it is to go to all of the prisons.
- The state advisory board actually has a budget for purchasing this literature?
  - Yes, but that is inclusive of all 12-Step programs (AA, CA, NA, and AI-Anon).
- In the last meeting we discussed having an excess of money in the account. This is a great service. I think we should support Louise and institutions by spending this money. Since the money that has come to NCWSA has been sent by the groups to us, I would rather we spend that money on something like this, rather than sending it to WSO.
- From the chairperson of the budget committee: If you expect that the H&I conference will continue to require a certain figure of money going into the future, please notify me so that it can

- be included in the budget. On the other hand if you have an immediate need for money, it comes out of this year's money, and it is requested at the committee and approved by the committee, unless you wish to request the approval of Assembly because of the amount of money it entails. Given our current reserve, this body would most likely be comfortable approving this money.
- Do we need a motion?
    - Yes.
  - A motion was made and passed (Motion 0705.07) for distribution of up to \$6000 for the purchase of literature for the state prisons.
  - Archives was just given a large amount of old literature from the Literature coordinator. If some of this literature is not needed for Archives, and it has the Virginia Beach mailing address, I'll send it to you.

### **Literature Coordinator (Carol K.)**

- The following documents were distributed relating to literature:
  - Order sheet for the new book "Opening our Hearts Transforming our Losses"
  - Sheet on Sharing your experience, strength, and hope – in writing
  - Sharing sheet, with instructions
  - Literature information sheet with updates since the Feb. meeting
  - Forum information sheet with updates since the Feb. meeting
- Please share them with your groups. If you read the Forum, you will notice that there are not many sharings from our area. I know we have a lot of recovery to share that would be helpful for other members. Remember; you can't keep it unless you give it away.
- I have given Irma the literature that has gone out of print or is outdated so she can fill in any gaps in the Archives that they can fill.
- I have not ordered replacements for the outdated material in the literature I inherited. Frankly, I am trying to find a reason for its existence. I would appreciate any ideas you have about what purpose I can serve if I have a complete set of current literature. I am happy to be a conduit about literature changes and additions, as I have today.
- My term is half gone and I am still floundering. Part of it is because I'm such a procrastinator and not too proactive. Part of it is lack of ideas. Any help you can give would be appreciated. In the meantime, I will hope you will encourage your groups to send their stories to the Forum. Northern California has a lot of good program to share.
- New book is out: *Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses*.

### **PI/CPC (Kim H. - Alt.)**

- As many of you know, our PI-CPC Chair, Linda D. was injured in a fall at the end of April. She has had surgery and is hopefully on her way to a speedy recovery. I ask that everyone keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she returns home from the hospital to mend. I am sure she would enjoy hearing from you, either on the phone or dropping her an email or card.
- When Linda and I spoke the first time after her accident it crossed my mind that earlier in our term she and I had asked the NCWSA to cover expenses for the alternate coordinators in Nor-Cal. Our request came from the thought that if the current chairperson couldn't attend a committee meeting, how long would it take the co-chair to get up to speed if they had not been aware of what had been happening in the area.
- What I didn't have the courage to say to her was just because that request came to pass it didn't mean that she needed to make an example of herself in that same scenario. Linda may be down, but she's not out. As much pain as she was in I knew to practice some discretion in what I was saying- I have learned that much in Al-Anon!
- This past April Linda chaired the Al-Anon portion of the AA Hospitals & Institutions Convention in Petaluma. What a beautiful job she and her committee did, even in the midst of some bumps in the road.

- The convention was well attended by members of our fellowship, probably one of the best attended from those all over the Northern California area that I have ever seen. Many of us remarked about how many flyers that had been passed around in our home districts and how that made a BIG difference in the numbers of our own district members attending. I was also pleased to see members of the AA fellowship attend our panels and speaker meeting and then say that they had no idea that's what we were about...so glad to see that "although a separate entity we should always cooperated with Alcoholics Anonymous" was in action during that weekend. The speakers and panel members were exceptional-so much so that when you hear about it for next year I hope you make an effort to attend! The location, I believe, is in Burlingame next year, dates yet to be announced.
- In addition to Linda's work on the convention, I was asked to do a presentation for the County of Monterey's Crime Prevention Officers Association. This was an organization that is devoted to the relaying of information between the different law enforcement agencies in all of Monterey County.
- We shared copies of the Forum dedicated to the professional community, two sets of the 20 questions, those for an adult and those who may of grown up in an alcoholic home, an open letter to law enforcement and meeting lists for Monterey County.
- The point was made to the attendees that almost half of our members have attended meetings as a result of a referral from a professional. We also registered the attendees on the WSO website to receive future mailings dedicated to professionals, which is something anyone in Northern California can do for their MD, therapist, bail bondsman, etc.
- Much love and many hugs to Linda for as quick and speedy a recovery as she and her Higher Power can muster!

## **Delegate's Report**

### ***Delegate's Report***

- In each DR bin is a list of donations by district from WSO
- The board has set a vision and a set of goals. If you're interested, please email Sandi and let her know.
- There were three workshops
  - What do we know? What do we wish we knew?
  - AFGs from traditionalists to milleniumists
  - Tapping the energy of AFGs
- WSO is still operating at a loss
- NCWSA is out of the running for hosting the 2013 International.
- The new trustee applications will always be due in August for the time being. This means we will need to submit any trustee nominations earlier than we have in the past.
- New PSA is out.
- New board members have been elected.
- The policy of two areas per state is in continued discussion.
- There was a motion to approve the Alateen traditions. The only text change was to set the order of films and TV in tradition 11.
- The conference charter is being reviewed. The Alateen traditions are to be put in the charter to preserve their form.
- She would like a motion to take to Assembly for the Delegate, Chairperson, and Alternate Delegate to attend the International because there is no RSS in our area for this panel.

### **Discussion**

- I thought RSS's were only for delegates, past-delegates and such.
  - No. They are open for any Al-Anon member to attend
- When will the new service manual be out?

- We don't know yet.
- Why is there a password for member information? If we could link directly to it, we would give it more access.
  - There is a desire to prevent professionals and people who've never been exposed to AFG from visiting that part of the site. For those who don't know, the member section requires a password.
- What is a pyramid group?
  - There are groups that organize a pyramid structure of sponsorship. It creates a hierarchy of sponsorship where questions are checked all the way up the line. It is a borderline cult practice. If you ever hear of someone talking about their “grand poobah” sponsor.
  - There is a recent Newsweek article that discusses this topic.
  - I challenge them to find anything to in our service manual that says this practice if Al-Anon.
  - That's the point...they don't use the service manual.
  - We need to be careful with this. We can't assume that because someone sponsors in a different way they are a pyramid sponsor. There is a woman in my area that started to be wrongly accused of being a pyramid sponsor.
- What do we do with the web site? If a meeting is a new meeting, we list them. You might want to check them. If you have one of them that you don't want listed, then please send that to me. Except for Alateen meetings if they say they are a group, currently we list them.
- Before WSO created Al-Anon group lists. We used to have directories. In those directories there used to be a disclaimer that says that a just because a group is listed in the directory does not mean they practice the Al-Anon program. I would recommend this for districts and intergroups.

## Officer Reports

### ***Treasurer's Report (Nancy M.)***

- She's been very busy, and was not able to balance the books for April due to an accounting error. The bank was contacted and they have corrected the error. They will be balanced at the end of May.
- She is working on NoCAC finances. The teens have been very responsible.
- Bank statements are balanced as of today.
- She had the last CD rolled over given that there were no immediate needs for the money.
- Please go back to your meetings and tell them to put their meeting numbers on their checks. If I don't have that, and all I have is an address, it quite often impossible for us to know which meeting made the donation.
- I have had to make some corrections from last years financial reports. I misreported some mileage from committee meetings and will correct this.

### ***Chairperson Report (Jackie B.)***

- Attended South West Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) in Ogden, Utah.
- Read and answered e-mails.
- Prepared the Agenda for NCWSC, and prepared for and chaired NCWSC in May.

### ***Secretary Report (Peter C.)***

- Life continues to roll on and so does work with NCWSC.
- Between February's NCWSC meeting and this one, my primary work was to complete the minutes for the February meeting. Thanks for the support of those who wrote me email messages to support me in spite of my tardiness at producing those minutes.
- The new roster is in people's bins and is ready to go. If you have an alternate (either DR or

- Coordinator) there is a copy for your alternate, provided they do not have some other job with NCWSC.
- The new email addresses have led to two different occurrences, one of which is great, the other not so much. The great thing is that I've had two people use the secretary email address to contact me for questions about the program or about service. How cool is that?
  - The down side, as the web committee suspected, the email address has been harvested. I'm now receiving email messages soliciting me to obtain medications, and financing with questionable interest rates.
  - I've spoken to Vicki, Johanna, and John regarding the orientation committee. None of us has any new ideas, yet, but we will plan to get the agenda set for the Friday before Assembly.

### ***Alternate Delegate Report (John S.)***

- Went to SWRDM in Ogden, Utah.
- Attended the budget committee.
- Have attended to the work of the Alateen Safety Officers.
- There are still missing renewals from districts 1-12.
- There is no print-out of the current sponsors today. It will be sent out next week.
- I need to speak with the Concord DR to clarify some questions.

#### **Discussion:**

- District 3 has no DR. Are you going to contact them?
  - I will try to contact them.
- Do you have any extra renewal forms?
  - You can download them from the web site.

## **Liaisons**

### ***AIS District 6-10 (Jane D.)***

- They had a fund raiser in April for their AIS. The next one will be in October.
- They will hold an Alateen Al-Anon birthday celebration next weekend in Vacaville.
- Elections for intergroup will be in November.
- There was a new member who attended the intergroup meeting, who wants to start a new Hispanic Intergroup.

### ***Santa Clara Valley AFG Intergroup (Chris A-C)***

- They've almost filled all of the coordinator positions.
- They now have a treasurer.
- They are looking into a public outreach project to bring Al-Anon into group homes.
- They made some changes to their directories, and saved money doing it.
- They voted for officers and directors to be insured, and to have sexual misconduct insurance. This was largely due to Peggy P. visiting the intergroup and presenting information to the board.
- She learned recently that there is only one piece of literature in audio, due to learning that a local member is dyslexic, and unable to read the literature. This member is reading and recording the literature. She is going to present this problem to the intergroup meeting to see if there is a way to solve this member's problem.
- The October special event showed the highest attendance that we've ever had. The theory is that the extra involvement that has come from the new intergroup structure has helped encourage greater participation from all members.



### ***Alateen Liaison (In Absence)***

- She'll be graduating High School in June and will be spending more energy in the Liaison position when that is done.
- She attended the convention and enjoyed the Alateen meetings there.
- Westminster Woods is coming up.
- She recently celebrated her eighteenth birthday.

### ***Hispanic Intergroup Liaison (Julietta D.)***

- They hosted a concepts workshop in February.
- They celebrated 14 years as an intergroup in March.
- They will have their convention in Millbrae in October.
- They still have an ad for Al-Anon information.
- They're working to open a new intergroup.

## **Other Business**

### ***Bids:***

#### **Committee Meetings**

Feb 2008 Committee Meeting

- San Jose, CA. There are two possible locations available in the Santa Clara Valley area, but no formal bid yet.
  - Clarion Hotel: Meeting rooms came in around \$400 per room plus taxes and equipment. Sleeping rooms were \$110 and taxes.
  - Presentation Center: \$80 per person per night. \$82 for rooms. Equipment comes with the room.

May 2008 Committee Meeting

- One DR submitted a bid for May 2007 for Jackson Rancheria Casino. She requested that it be brought forward for 2008 and hadn't heard back from the Facilities Coordinator about it.

Oct 2008 Committee Meeting

- There are preliminary workings on a bid for Fortuna but no formal bid

#### **Assembly**

2008

- No bid. A reminder to bring bids for the 2008 Assembly to this Assembly.

2009

- No bid.

#### **General Discussion of the Bidding Procedures**

- Traditionally, meeting locations are as follows: February is Southern, May is Northern, October is Central. We've decided to not make this hard and fast anymore because of the time of year sometimes making it impossible for certain districts to host.
- I'd like to see that if there are two competing bids that we stick with the traditional following of Northern, Central, Southern sections.
- I'd like to see a tentative vote of support for the Presentation Center bid, provided we can keep this pricing.
- I would be concerned with having our committee meeting in Fortuna in February given that the only road through washes out several times a year, and usually from November to March.
- The Presentation Center is a fantastic location. The sentiment that the bidding process seems to

- have slipped out of the hands of the DRs was shared with the committee. The priority should be that the districts stand up and say they want to host.
- If I find a facility in another district, should I take that information to that DR?
  - I appreciate the comment. I'd like to clarify that the bid with the Clarion is not final at this point. It is a work in progress, and I don't have a problem with what has gone on.
  - It was explained by the Chairperson that the reason so many meetings have been set without votes is because there haven't been bids.
  - I need clarification, because it sounds like the facilities coordinator and the chairperson will make the decision, but Jeff is saying he is going to work on it.
    - Gene and Jeff will work together on the bid. We make a final decision, if there is no firm bid in time, at a committee meeting. In other words, if a bid is available, and we are risking losing a meeting place, our preference is to book the meeting place rather than not have a place to meet. This panel has not had many bids, so the responsibility falls back to us.
  - I haven't missed any committee meetings this panel, and we've had a lack of presentation of bids. I don't recall any DR at any time having anything taken from them. We just haven't had people come forward.
  - As the past Chairperson, I had to beg DRs to bring bids repeatedly. This current process is a result of the past panel not having bids. We are securing meeting places in the absence of participation. The change here is that we have to schedule much further in advance than we used to, in order to afford it.
  - Last night's DR meeting we agreed we don't know what we're doing. The DR report mentioned this, but I want to mention it again. We need help understanding how to do this process.
  - I felt that the consideration of rotation of meeting location was dismissed today. This is important to the DRs
    - Most meetings have been rotating on the schedule. We made a decision at a past committee meeting that we might not follow rotation, to accommodate a district where there time of rotation during the year puts them at a point where bid prices will be astronomical, and therefore, impossible.
    - All of our jobs are a little scary when we start. Please read the information that Gene put together.
  - We tried to present a bid, and another was taken in its place, because it was too expensive in our district (Santa Rosa).
    - It was precisely the experience of Santa Rosa that prompted us to consider bids out of rotation, since it would be too expensive to have a meeting in Santa Rosa during the May, but might be affordable in February.
  - Gene began asking for people to bring bids at least a year ago at the May 2006 meeting. The facilities coordinator has attempted to encourage participation of the DRs on this issue.
  - Perhaps Gene can come to the next DR meeting and give the orientation to current DRs. Current DRs should then try to pass this information on to their predecessors, since we're running out of our committee meetings.
  - District 20 had two meetings turned down last panel.
  - I have a different kind of sympathy for Eric. People think of our district as so far out they don't want to come to it. Perhaps the bidding procedures can be revamped. Maybe the facilities coordinator can ask for volunteer districts and then the facilities coordinator find the location in their district.

## **Second Hispanic Intergroup Discussion**

- Phil C. came to District 6 - 10 Intergroup Meeting on 4/11/07, stating he wants to start a more local Spanish Intergroup somewhere between Pittsburg and Sacramento.
- He has been attending the Spanish Intergroup meetings in San Francisco, and has spoken with NCWSA's Spanish Intergroup, Julietta, about starting another Spanish Intergroup.
- There have also been people around District 14 that want to start an intergroup.
- District 19 has something like 12 Spanish-speaking groups. The DR there plans to discuss with them about creating a Hispanic intergroup in that district.

## ***DR Meeting Report (Carol G.)***

The District Representative meeting took place the previous night at 8:00 with 19 DRs present. There were several topics that were discussed.

- The DRs discussed the topic of bidding procedures for committee meetings and assemblies.
  - One DR suggested telling district members the advantages of doing these bids (ie. Excellent service opportunities).
  - There is some concern that we've gotten away from the N/S/C schedule as posted in the guidelines. This has led to confusion as to what section is responsible for what bid.
  - Some DRs have felt overwhelmed by the whole process. Sometimes districts don't bring a bid and another area is picked for these meetings.
  - The DR from district 1 explained that fears of "snow" in Fortuna for our Feb. committee are unfounded. But the best time for that area to host a meeting would be August through the first part of November.
  - Another DR suggested getting and using a "service" sponsor as a tool to help in getting a bid.
  - It was further suggested that another option for a location other than a hotel during a usually expensive time of year would be a church, school or bank meeting room.
  - The general consensus of the group was to have committee meetings in the North in October, the Central in May, and the South in Feb.
  - Also it was suggested that maybe a "past" delegate could do an orientation of new DRs at the Feb. committee meeting to educate them about the process.
- Open and closed meetings
  - The Service Manual definitions of open and closed meetings were read and discussed.
  - One DR has only open meetings.
  - Another has only closed meetings.
  - The group's autonomy and anonymity were discussed.
  - Some confusion about "visitors" and how that could effect the groups (nurses, students etc.) was discussed.
- Price for pamphlets
  - All LDC's but one charge for them plus sales tax.
  - Some districts buy directly from WSO.
  - It was discussed that since pamphlets are meant as an outreach tool, they should be kept as affordable as possible.
- Pros of dual members serving beyond the group level
  - Some groups and districts have trouble filling service positions --allowing dual members to serve would help fill those vacancies.
  - Too many times "the same people" merely change service positions (this is NOT true rotation of leadership).
  - There are lots of service work which doesn't lead to the WSO level of service (i.e. The Archives Coordinator).
  - It was suggested that members in doubt about this go to workshops coming up in the various districts.
  - Doing service work helps people become more open-minded. It was brought to our

attention (Page 70) of the service manual does NOT exclude “dual members” from service as district coordinators.

- One of the DRs is going to put a list of service positions available to dual members on the NCWSC list serve.
- It was further suggested that the info (pro and con) regarding this subject be included in the Assembly issue of the 12-Stepper.

### **Open Positions**

- There is a need for an Alternate Institutions Coordinator.

### **Announcements**

#### **Alateen Sponsorship Weekend (Yvonne de G.)**

- The flyer for the first annual Alateen Sponsors Get-Away weekend is in the bins. It will be called the Alateen Sponsors Growing Together Weekend.
- The workshop will be at Westminster Woods, October 5-7. It will be for Alateen sponsors to share information and experience with each other. This is especially important for sponsors in districts with small Alateen participation, where they might not be able to regularly talk to other sponsors.
- It will be run as an Alateen event, meeting the Alateen requirement stipulations. It will consist of different workshops for sponsors.
- Preregistration is \$139, and includes meals, except for Friday night.

#### **Discussion:**

- Can non Alateen sponsors, or people who wish to be sponsors attend?
  - Yes
- Can some of the districts share how they are helping their sponsors attend?
  - For my district, I try to pay, and if I can't, I ask the district.
  - Another district shared they have a budget for their sponsors.
  - Another district has a specific treasury for Alateen functions.
  - For my district, if we have the funds to support our members, we will spend it.

#### **WCAC (Jenae)**

- The main sponsor is Auggie. Chris M. is also the co-sponsor.
- The conference will be Aug 3-5 at the Fresno Holiday Inn. The format will be similar to NoCAC.
- We will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alateen.
- Registration deadline is in July, but if you get late registrations, please contact Jenae, they will try to accommodate all teens who wish to attend.
- Flyers for the conference are on the table.

#### **Discussion:**

- This conference is in my district. Do teens wanting to attend have to stay at the hotel?
  - Yes. It is a closed conference. Once they are arrived, they are expected to be on the premises of the hotel. If you leave, you may not come back.
- What about group home kids who might want to attend, but must return to the home?
  - Give me a call, and we will try to work out details

### **Old Business**

#### **The Dual Membership Motion for Assembly 2007**

Vicki H. brought up a flyer from an upcoming discussion she will be doing relating to the Dual Membership discussion planned for Assembly 2007. Because of the importance of this issue, the entire transcript of what Vicki shared is reproduced below. The following describes the discussion she has taken

to several districts throughout the year, leading up to the next Assembly:

*Vicki H. will not just be helping us understand both sides of this issue, which will be important at the next Assembly, but will also provide an opportunity to learn about being open minded in approaching controversy.*

Vicki further commented on the above statement:

*That really is the crux of this discussion; that the only thing that I'm doing when I go in to do these workshops is I'm initiating a conversation. We have fought about this for years, but we haven't talked about it. What I would ask for the DRs to bring back to their districts is this, an opportunity to have a discussion, merely a sharing session, not people saying this is how they want to vote. Not even talking about how they want to vote. But having an open brainstorming conversation about what even the dual membership policy is. Because I can tell you right now that there's a lot of misunderstanding out there as to what the dual membership policy even is. And what I want to recommend to you is that you read the whole two paragraphs of the policy. The dual membership policy is not three words taken out of two paragraphs. The policy is two paragraphs long. Ok?*

*What I've been doing in these workshops is this. I start the workshop with asking everyone in the room to share something that is wrong with the policy. Everybody in the room gets an opportunity to share their opinion with what's wrong with the policy. Then I ask everybody in the room to share what's right with the policy. And I'm telling you that those same faces that had an opinion with what is wrong with the policy also have an opinion as to what is right with the policy. And I have to say that's a critical piece of information with this conversation.*

*Then what I do is I ask them to have a conversation as to what side they want to ere on. Because this is not a perfect policy. It is not perfectly right. They get to ask themselves what side they want to ere on when they're writing a policy. The other piece of information that is absolutely critical is that they understand that the process is this: the groups are discussing and coming back to Northern California with a request to the delegate to ask if this conversation can be done at the world service conference. We are not voting to change a policy. We do not have the power to do that. We are only asking our delegate to go to the [World Service] Conference to ask that another conversation be had. Even if the best case [happens], for those who wants this policy changed; if all the groups vote that we want our delegate to go to the Conference and bring this back up. Still in the best case, our delegate goes to the Conference and the majority go, "yeah, you know, we want to talk about this again." That's the best we can hope for, and we're still talking about ten years before any changes will be seen. We are not going to change this policy any time soon.*

*So the rest of the conversation inside of your district needs to be: given that this policy is not going to change within the next ten years, what can we do to carry on the business of Al-Anon inside of the current policy. Because what's happening is we are spending so much time in the argument that we are neglecting to do the business of Al-Anon. What's happening that I'm seeing out there is that people are so busy fighting about what a dual member can or cannot do, that there is information links that are being broken constantly. There are groups that are not getting information from districts. There are individuals that don't even know that our handbook exists. We are so busy arguing that we are neglecting to look at "what do we need to do?"*

*One of the other things that we need bring up, again, given that this policy is not going to change is that, I'm real clear is that one of the things that happens is that the only time that the dual membership policy is read is when it is attached to what a dual member cannot do. So it is only read when the group rep position comes up.*

*Why are we not reading this policy when the secretary position comes up? When the literature person position comes up? When we are talking about service work that we invite a dual member to participate in. We can use this policy as it exists today to encourage our service positions to be filled. How many of us (those of us in this room, I'm preaching to the choir)...but I gotta tell you, when I'm doing this at group level, what I get to ask, how many of us that are pure Al-Anon members raise our hand only for positions that dual members are also qualified for? How many of us know that dual members cannot*

*currently serve in these other positions, but we're not stepping up to the plate on them.*

*So we have to put the onus back onto the member. I encourage open minded conversations in these workshops. District reps, please go back to your district meetings. Encourage your group reps to have a conversation, a brainstorming session: What the policy is; what the policy isn't. What can we do to creatively carry on the business of Al-Anon whether this policy changes or not? So that we can stop using our energy arguing, and we can start spending our energy moving forward with the business of Al-Anon.*

*I don't really have anything that I can give to you to take back, because this is really just facilitating a conversation. That's all that it is. I have done this workshop now, probably six or seven times. I have three more that I know of that I'm doing...[after some discussion]. There's four more of these that I know of. If you have an opportunity to attend one of those, I highly recommend it. If you don't, have one inside your own district. The key is that anybody can facilitate a conversation. I'm not walking into any of these workshops knowing anything. The truth is, I don't. The only thing that I know is that the policy exists. It doesn't really matter to me why it exists, how it got there, or any of that. What matters to me today is that we have a conversation that is shared as an exchange of ideas and thought. An exchange of ideas and thought that brings us to an informed group conscience, as to which way we want to [go to] start another conversation.*

*One of the other things that I want to share is that I'm finding this being received so well that people show up to one of these workshops, because what they thought they were going to hear was me standing up there and telling them what they needed to think. And the rooms were very refreshed when they found out that, "oh, we got to find out what we think. We got to talk about how this affects us." Because that's what we need to talk about.*

*I did a meeting in...shoot, I don't even know where I was, it was a couple of weeks ago...and it was at group level. It was at group level. And you know it was really interesting that this group, although they shared mostly one mind when I came in there, by the end of the conversation, everybody in that room was open minded about it. And that's what we're hoping to do here, is get peoples minds to open up. Let's quit walking into this brick wall, let's quit boxing. You know we're just not accomplishing anything. Let's go ahead and don't be afraid of the conversation. But we don't need to box on this, we just need to share our ideas and you know we get to say where we want to walk.*

*The other thing that you need to be mindful of is that we've had a lot of boxing matches over the years on this topic. And some might say we've had conversations, I would disagree with that. I would say we've had straight-up boxing matches. The other principle in Al-Anon is the group conscience. And I believe that if we can do an informed group conscience, which is what a conversation will give us, an informed group conscience, as a principle of Al-Anon will carry us for a while, and might just stop the boxing matches.*

*So we do our homework, and we do our legwork, and we get the conversation happening, then we can feel confident that what happens at Assembly is truly an informed group conscience. And it's not just a boxing match. Boxing matches get everybody fired up. An informed group conscience let's me leave here with the knowledge that we're moving forward with what's best for Al-Anon.*

*If you're getting ready to have this discussion in your districts and you just want to talk to me before you do it, I still have, I think, an open day or two between here and Assembly.*

### **Revision of Trustee Nominee Process**

- Discussion following led to motion 0705.03, which passed with substantial unanimity
- The new timing for Trustee resumes has made it so that our nomination process doesn't work any more.
- The new process would be:
  - The trustee is nominated at the May committee
  - The delegate submits the resume

- The Assembly affirms the nomination.
- If the Assembly does not affirm the nomination, the delegate will withdraw the nomination.
- The guideline B-24 will be amended. The new changes have were introduced to the committee.
- This change is only about changing the process. There is no change to what a trustee is. The information is all available from Sandi.
- How do I determine who would be a good candidate for Trustee.
- What are the qualifications to be Trustee
  - If you go to the Trustee nomination form and read that.
  - Two qualifications are that you don't have to have been a delegate. You need to have 10 continuous years of service and still be a member.
- There is a lot of work involved in this position. I know the guidelines are difficult to find, but the person for this job is going to be able to find these guidelines because of the level of commitment that is involved.
- At the first Assembly of the panel, it might be a good idea to do a discussion of what a Trustee is, and introduce what it is. It needs to happen at that first Assembly because of when our SW trustee nomination takes place (the second year of the panel).
- Even if we do that, it would be nice to have a presentation at this Assembly or the next one.

### **Reporting of WCAC Finances**

- There has been no financial reporting from the West Coast Alateen Conference (WCAC) yet.
- NoCAC has been complying with their financial obligations as laid out after they lost NoCAC money.
- There has been no arrangement set up to report WCAC finances until today.
- The WCAC chairperson will be told that this information needs to be reported in time for NCWSA to report income taxes.

### **Discussion:**

- Why does WCAC have to report this information to us?
  - Because they have asked to piggy-back on our 501(c)(3) status, and we are financing them. They don't want the overhead of filing their own taxes and getting their own federal non-profit number and status. It is one of the ways we help Alateens, but it saddles us with additional financial and legal responsibilities.

## ***New Business***

### **2007 PSA**

- The 2007 PSA was shown to the committee in English, Spanish and French..
- Why is the web address different on some of them?
  - Some of the PSA's are focused for different audiences.
- They will be distributed to all top radio and television stations.
- We can request copies for other stations and have WSO send it to a station.
- Can we get them in tape format to show them in recovery homes where they are still using low-tech display (VCR)
- You can also request your cable company plays them.

### **About Chairperson, Delegate and Alternate Delegate attending a Regional Service Seminar**

- Normally, NCWSA pays for the Chairperson, Alternate Delegate and Delegate to attend the RSS in our region during their panel. Sandi asked for a motion to have the Chairperson and Delegate attend another meeting either a different RSS, or the International in 2008, as there will be no RSS in our region this panel.
- This budget item already exists. We would just like to use this budget item for a different meeting.

There would be no additional cost to NCWSA.

- This needs to be approved by Assembly. We're just voting affirm the idea here before we bring it to Assembly.
- A motion was approved by the committee following this discussion (Motion# 0705.02).

#### **Discussion**

- I know this is budgeted, but that doesn't mean we have to spend it. Maybe we could spend this money on some other project in the area instead.
- As much as I intend to go to the international, and as much as I know these events are useful. I also hesitate to ask the area to pay for a non-service-related event. We do have a choice to go to another region's RSS, or to go to the International. Maybe it would be better to go to the service event.
- I don't like the idea of sending them to a non-service function.
- The money is already in the budget. Who cares if it isn't a service-specific event. We have the money. I have no problem.
- One of the things about doing area service is that we get exposure to the world wide fellowship. The international affirms that. I see that the international does have service value.
- If we are not willing to send them to the international, maybe we host our own mini RSS? (Is that an ASS?)
- Maybe we give the choice to the individual to either attend another RSS or the international.
- What if we send two of the three officers, and then raffle amongst all of the committee members to send one other committee member.
- Shouldn't the motion clearly state that we have to ask the Assembly to authorize this.
- I would like to ask that we read this motion that we let the Assembly know what that budgeted amount is.

#### **Assembly Registration**

- In order for the Assembly to break even, the Assembly committee would like to raise registration from the \$20 that it has been previously. Is there any objection to that?
- The Motions Passed-Failed it is delineated how determine the registration fee. It should be based on a percentage of our costs.
- Can we raise that budget amount for the coming years?
- They did discuss it at Assembly recently.
- When I was treasurer I calculated that it would cost us \$25 for Assembly. So we charged \$25 and we had some extra. The next year, I suggested \$20, and we lost money that year. I would suggest you go with \$25.

#### ***Next Committee Meeting***

The fall committee meeting October, 19 and 20 2007: The location is at the Burlingame Crowne Plaza hotel. To make reservations call 1-800-338-2810 or 916-338-5800. Our reservation code is NCWSA for the rooms at \$84 per day plus tax.