The meeting convened at 10:00 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties were read.

The acting Secretary took Roll.

It was decided that we will approve the October 2008 Assembly Minutes at the October Assembly. The minutes are located on the Web Site under the Service tab.

Chair reviewed who has voice and vote at Assembly. Since our time is so limited, we will allow each person two minutes at the mike per topic, and please do not repeat what has already been said.

**Treasurer’s Report: Carol G.**

Carol announced that the PO Box changed at the beginning of this panel and we were unable to have the mail forwarded to the new location. It took about four months for money to catch up to us, considering the time it took for the post office to return the mail to the groups and groups forwarded it to the new PO Box.

The Officers are committed to pay attention to this situation and will keep you all informed. A copy of the appeal letter that was sent out is in each DR’s bin. They may feel free to share it with you if you did not already see it.
There is not a printed Treasurer’s Report today, but it will be put on web by Monday. We do have money. On Friday, we had a balance of $16,000 and that did not include the Convention deposits received last night. We have written $15,000 in checks, which included $8,000 for the Marriott.

**Audit Report - Joan W., Alternate Delegate**

Joan asked that we keep slogan **THINK** (thoughtful, honest, intelligent, necessary, and kind) in the forefront of this discussion.

The Officers compiled a letter of appeal because we thought we had a surplus last year and gave out lots of money for many items such as $6,000 for literature for Institutions, $5,000 to WSO because we thought we were so solvent, and the cost to send our officers and three extras to Pittsburg for the International Convention.

Then came the Assembly in Burlingame and we did not meet our room commitment at the hotel so we ended up paying an additional $6,000 which was not planned. Also because of PO Box mix up, there was one problem after another and we were out of funds. Normally we hoped that the audit report would be in Stepper so you would have received it by March. That did not happen on time as we were trying to figure out the past books for corrections. Joan read the audit report noting that it will be in the next 12 Stepper.

We are disappointed that we do not have a financial statement, but Patrick will put out on list serve for DRs to obtain for their GRs.

The Committee discussed our financial problems last night and will have further discussion that may lead to possibly lowering our mileage reimbursement rate or eliminate paying alternate coordinators’ expenses to attend Area Committee Meetings and Assembly.

We do not want to point the finger to the past, but we do want to be accountable. A Thought Force of past Convention Chairs will rewrite Convention Guidelines and form a thought force to look at the entire picture of finances and come up with possible changes to save us money.

We want to be transparent and keep you all informed, but figuring it out has been difficult. We had to take $11,000 from our prudent reserve to pay bills. We do not know the results of appeal, since many checks were sent to the old (incorrect) PO Box.

We may want to consider doing audits more frequently and will form a thought force to look at that.
Discussion and Responses to Questions from the Floor:

- We decline to name the extravagant spending mentioned in audit report on travel because we do not want to point the finger. We want to move forward and make the corrections needed.
- There are two categories: 1) the general financial responsibility and we are doing that well; 2) the audit issues about how accounting is done and that will correct finances.
- Thanks for work and looking at it. One thing we noticed was that it was mentioned that Sponsor weekend had a $300 profit, but that does not show that in P&L.
- Now that we have more awareness, feel more competent to look at it, and are talking we have found more ways to improve it so we can give you accurate information.
- Why did we send two GRs and one DR to Pittsburg International? At the time we voted on this, we thought we had plenty of money and that it would be good thing to do. Questioner read from Tradition 5 mentioning it may have been against that tradition.
- The Chair thanked the Assembly for sharing their perspectives.
- How many people are reimbursed on committee? Approximately 65
- Why were we in hole on Assembly last year? We had a room reservation requirement in our contract with the hotel and we did not meet that requirement. Therefore, we were penalized 80% of what was not reserved.
- It was suggested that maybe if we staggered panel members so it is not brand new to everyone. We have a committee in place (LRPC) and we are looking at that possibility.
- We cannot say that these positions are a piece of cake. We need experienced people. We need to change our guidelines. Joan guaranteed that we would make those improvements during this panel.

Problems with Convention Expenses:

- Patrick explained about the recession and noted that we signed these contracts two years before not knowing what we do today. Hotel contracts are signed a year in advance. Se we had commitments made two years ago that we cannot keep now because the world changed.
- What is hotel commitment of rooms for Assembly in Fresno? Fresno is 100 rooms per night. We are under the commitment but must learn from the past. We cut the room commitment in half from previous years. Debbie also checked with many of past people who have done this.
- We are all involved in contributing to the final expenses.
- Convention was a great event (Patrick). Had a great committee that adapted well, spread the word, and cut out many of the originally planned activities to save money. In terms of the finances, we ballpark number now, but will do a final report as soon as possible.
• Income was $14,300+ and expenses were $12,000. This is all before attrition penalties. Room commitment was 280 room nights. We needed 224 and we only booked 100 rooms. We ended up with $14,000 attrition. The hotel is working on it due to economy, but we do not know what we will owe.
• The hotel gave us a quote for 2010 Assembly and we cut room commitment to 100. Patrick will ask if this will clear up our current attrition debt. If we have 200 people attend and pay $20 for registration we would have enough to meet expenses with no food requirement.
• The hotel would also like us to book something in 2009 or pay down attrition in 2009 and then they would credit us in 2010. Patrick is taking a check for $8,098 to them for all except attrition. Then they will negotiate the $14,000.
• Last night we discussed holding a TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members-the replacement for RSS) event there in late 2009 or maybe early 2010. Also lastly we could look at the potential of doing a small event not involving sleeping, perhaps using a banquet or one day event in 2009. This might help us not pay for $14,000 attrition penalty.
• Question: Right now, we are running about $12,000 in expenses. Can you give us a projected date for collecting money and addressing expenses to give us a clear picture of when we will be done? This could be looked at by a task force too. We will try to get all funds accounted for ASAP and give full accounting to Assembly ASAP.
• District 18 gave Patrick and the Committee a round of applause for all the hard work saying “you people are awesome.”
• Added that on last nine conventions indicates that past were -$1,400. This is a huge step forward. In addition, we had a long discussion about mileage reimbursement. At present, it is set at 55 cents per mile. We can also donate back funds from mileage reimbursement or excess. Some feel they need more money and some need less.
• It was suggested that if districts were informed ahead of time, they could give GRs scholarships so rooms are filled. Events need to be more self-supporting.
• First, we should never sign contracts that have attrition penalties. Debbie and Patrick are looking at less expensive hotels. We need to look at our purpose and spend our money accordingly.
• If we can hold an event in 2009 that could offset that revenue the hotel would consider that. We hope that we can bring them an equal amount of business.
• Patrick wants to establish a Thought Force on this. We have many volunteers and Joan will take the lead. A sign up sheet was circulated.

**Thought Forces and Task Forces**

Throughout these minutes, you will hear references to Thought Forces and Task Forces. The following were established in our Committee Meeting Friday Night: Area Finances, Updating Convention Guidelines, and Dual Members Serving Beyond the Group Level.
Area Alateen Process Person: Bonnie M.

By the February Committee Meeting I had most of the backlog of paperwork for new Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) and for new groups submitted to WSO for certification; I gave each District Representative (DR) a list of current AMIAS for NCWSA.

Then, in April, the list of certified AMIAS came from WSO and I discovered we still had some discrepancies. Since then, I’ve been working with the DRs and District Process Persons to resolve the remaining AMIAS who were on the NCWSA list and not on the WSO list or who were on the WSO list and not the NCWSA list. For those not on the WSO list, we are required to submit a new WSO AMIAS form (A-22-2), signed by me, as Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP). For those on the WSO list and not on the NCWSA list, I tried to ascertain that the AMIAS had passed the background check – that they had not been removed from our list because they had failed the background check or had been subsequently arrested.

In each District folder is a letter with an update on the AMIAS certification renewal process. If your district has not yet completed the renewal process for all AMIAS who wish to continue serving Alateen, please do so as soon as possible. An Alateen group cannot meet without at least one currently certified AMIAS serving as group sponsor. As of July 1, 2009, WSO will begin the process of suspending all Alateen meetings that no longer have a currently certified group sponsor.

The renewal process has consumed so much time that I have fallen behind on processing new AMIAS candidates and Alateen Group Updates, and hope to be caught up with those in the next few weeks.

I have discovered some common areas of confusion about our Area Requirements for Alateen Member Safety and the WSO requirements we must meet:

- The New Sponsor Candidate form and the Sponsor Candidate Renewal form (A-22-1-a and A-22-1-B) must be checked and signed by a currently certified AMIAS serving as District Process Person (see NCWSA guideline B-17). If the forms are not signed or are signed by someone who is not currently certified, I cannot accept them.
- The WSO AMIAS form (A-22-2) is to be signed by the AMIAS candidate and by me, as AAPP. When the District Process Person signs in the space for the Area Process Person, I need to cross that off and find room to sign the form so that WSO will accept it.
- Having a WSO ID number does not mean a person is currently certified to serve Alateen as an AMIAS. The WSO ID number is just an ID number, it can mean you’ve ordered literature from WSO, subscribed to the Forum, participated in the Lone Member correspondence program or participated in a Prison Inmate correspondence program.
- Each AMIAS who wishes to continue serving Alateen must renew their certification each year, no exceptions. Each July, those AMIAS who choose not to
complete the renewal process will be “inactivated” at both the Area and the WSO and will not be eligible to serve Alateen – as group sponsors, temporary sponsors, chaperones, transportation, etc. – until they have completed re-certification

• An Alateen group must complete the registration process before meeting. A group may not use the Alateen name until it has completed the registration process.
• District Representatives and Area Officers, by nature of their service positions, serve all members of their Districts or of NCWSA, including Alateens; that makes us Al-Anon Members Involved in Service to Alateen – are you certified?

Each step of each process involving Alateen Member Safety Requirements involves humans; mistakes happen, paperwork is misplaced, lines on a report are accidentally deleted and we prove, again, that we are fallible. Thank you for your patience.

I have been gradually receiving guidelines implemented by the Districts to meet the Alateen Safety Requirements at district events. Please continue the discussion and share with each other.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our teens and our Area.

Committee Reports

NoCAC Committee - Jasper
Thanked everyone for all our support. The BASH will be held next weekend at Sunset State Beach Park. There will be workshops, camping, and hanging out. Fliers are next to the door. Sponsors let your teens know about getting involved in NoCAC. You can give them my contact info from the Stepper and let me know if you know teens who wish to get involved.

Convention Committee – Patrick B.
This topic was covered in the section above in the Audit and Treasurer’s Reports.

Coordinator Reports

12 Stepper Editor – Denice E.
Kathy H. and Denice completed and mailed first edition of Stepper and Denice thanked Kathy H., her alternate, for her assistance and being a great contributor. They are now planning the next edition. All reports, fliers, etc, that are to be published in this edition are due by July 11. Any shares or ideas are welcome. They are looking for writings on program or subjects. Send your submissions to Denice or Kathy via email in the back of Stepper. Also, please note that your name and contact info is in back of the Stepper unless you tell us to not put in your full name. However, that information does not appear on the web site.
**Alateen Coordinator - Carla G.**

All DRs have a copy of her report, so ask your DR for a copy. I am available to talk to any districts about Alateen or whatever you need with regard to Alateen. I participated in WSO conference call of Alateen Coordinators.

Fliers for the Sponsor R&R, Sept 18-10, at Westminster Woods in Occidental are on the table and in DRs bins. This event is where sponsors get together to do workshops and learn what other districts are doing.

Shawn A., our Alternate Coordinator is working on the Alateen Express and we hope to product shortly.

Questions:
Are Alateen sponsors’ fingerprint checks still valid? Yes.

Changing districts – Sponsors are certified where our home group is and there are no hard and fast rules on changing districts. Talk to your new District Rep or DAPP to see what they say.

**Alateen Liaisons:**

**Northern Liaison** - Camilla: Goes to districts and events to speak. Her info is in the Stepper and she is working on Alateen Guidelines.

**Central Liaison** – Cat: I am also on NoCAC Committee. Feel free to contact me for speaking. NoCAC is having a pancake extravaganza in Pleasanton and BASH is next weekend.

**Archives Coordinator – Chris M.**

I have not done much yet, but have a love for archives. I put out an archives starter kit and it is on web. I will have a display next time and am currently making the transition by picking them down from Irma’s to bring back to a storage until I have room at home.

**Bylaws and Guidelines – Bruce**

**BL&I Team**- Set up Alternate, Joyce D. to focus on insurance and Coordinator, Bruce H. to focus on By Laws and coordinate the position.

**Newly, revised Bylaws**- there is a mandatory distribution of proposed amendments to each registered group, prior to the Assembly discussion for evaluation and vote. Cost to distribute the final approved Bylaws to the groups is over $800 postage and is prohibitive. Consider a literature type purchase by groups or they can download from NCWSA web site. Recipients can choose a web-based copy or hard copy.
Bylaws changes for NCWSA Binder
Forms: A4-Expense Report, A6-Advance Request Form, A8-Assembly Bid Form, A9-Committee Meeting Bid Form, A15-Outside Vendor Payment Request, A16-Al-Anon Group Record Registration or Change Form, A26b Special Event Form.
Guideline: B1-Delegate, B2-Alternate Delegate, B5-AAPP, B30-Web Site Committee,

**Insurance**

Insurance (liability) - Standard coverage is for Area business meetings: committee meetings, Conventions, Assemblies, NoCAC and H&I. Certificates of coverage for group meetings may be obtained from districts or intergroups, when available, and from NCWSA as a policy rider on a yearly basis at no charge. Additional insurance coverage known as Special Events (fundraisers, speaker meetings, Day in Al-Anon, etc.) is available at additional cost. There were 17 events this year and we need to be sure special events pay their way.

**Facilities Coordinator – Debbie O.**

The last several months have been a great learning tool of recovery for me. I am very grateful to see that my Higher Power is working in our favor. Being able to take a back seat, watch, and learn from Patrick deal with the hotel for convention was valuable to me. Dawn from Conference Direct has been and will continue to be an asset to this committee. She will be meeting with Patrick and the Hotel this next week, unfortunately I won't be able to be there as I am back in the work force, I have complete confidence that what will be, WILL BE. Dawn who gets paid by the hotel, is going to bat for us at her own expense, due to the set back with the room attrition she will not get her commission, even if we have to pay the hotel for it.

I have been there with Patrick and Dawn all the way; due to Patrick being on the forefront from the start of this hotel site I was OK with keeping my hands off and keeping it simple.

We are here at the second One Day Assembly, which someone called the Conference Committee due to the obvious, as John will be giving his Conference Report. A suggestion if I may to rename the One Day Assembly, The Conference Assembly from this day on.

Below are the commitments we have booked and a breakdown of the dates, which I have revised in the hopes the Marriott, will let us utilize their facility to help with our attrition issue for next year's events. I have a list of dates which are only that dates. I am hoping this will give the districts a little more acceptance of hosting an Area event and for District's to be able to book their own events around ours without too much conflict. I will be available for any questions and look forward to getting started on next year's events. Char S the 2010 Convention Chair, Patrick and myself have looked at a hotel in Rohnert Park that has a great proposal for next years Convention. I for one think it will be awesome if we are able to book that. With the focus on our Committee meetings first, the rest will follow God willing.

Committee Meeting July 31, 2009-Aug. 1, 2009

_Hilton Garden Inn_

6070 Monterey St.
please informs the front desk when you make your reservations it is for NCWSA Al-Anon. When you get your confirmation number, please email that number to me at mefirst55@yahoo.com with the name of the person booking the room and how many will be in your room this.

Double-Doubles and Standard Beds are $139.00 with breakfast for up to four people per room.  
Single King Standard Beds are $139.00 with breakfast for up to four people per room.  
Friday July 31, 2009 at 8 PM to 11 PM, the Harvest room will be set up with 20 chairs in the round for the Officers and Coordinators. The Monterey Room will be set up with 60 chairs in the round for the DR meeting. Water will be available.  
Saturday Aug. 1, 2009 the Harvest and Monterey Rooms will be open at 7:30 AM, set up with 80 Chairs classroom style. There will be a head table with a Podium and table microphone, floor microphone and water and coffee station in the morning only.

Breakfast will be served from 7 am to 11 AM; lunch can be purchased in the same location from 11 am to 4 pm and dinner from 4 pm to 11 pm at an addition fee.  
There are plenty of local restaurants for any other dining choices.  
Reservations must be made by July 3, 2009 or remaining rooms not booked will be released and not guaranteed the room rates.

3-Day Assembly Fresno, CA on October 16-18, 2009  
Hosted by Dist 19 Theme "Harvesting the Gifts of Service"  
Radisson Hotel and Conference Center  
2233 Ventura St. Fresno, CA. 93721  
Phone # 559-268-1000

Please mention NCWSA when making your reservations, to allow the area to be compensated for all possible credit. When we book up to 160 nights total we get a credit.  
When you get your confirmation #, please email that number to me at mefirst55@yahoo.com with the name of the person booking the room and how many will be in your room this.  
Room Rates for a Standard King, Standard Double Queen Sleep Number Beds all are $109.00 per night. Reservations must be received by the cut off date of Friday September 25, 2009. These room rates are good 3 days prior and after for anyone wishing to extend their stay here. Parking is complimentary for all registered hotel guest, and wireless Internet throughout the hotel.

District 19 will have a hospitality room next to the meeting room for your refreshment needs, please go by, and make a new friend from another district. If the Assembly wants to add on a Saturday night banquet, that room will be provided complimentary with vegetarian options.

The gratitude I feel working with this committee is growing along with the love I am gaining
for all thinks imperfect.

**Group Records - Connie F.**

My "theme" for this term as Groups Records Coordinator is communication, communication, and communication! By picking this goal for me, by the end of three years, I just may have some new communication skills. (Kind of like when I was new and I prayed for patience - guess what happened).

First off, let me get to the business of letting you know what I have done the first six months as Group Records Coordinator.

Challenges experienced are items of the past. Software glitches have been solved. NCWSA uses Access for our data base files and as with all service positions, I have had the opportunity to learn. The laptop that needed repaired has been retired and there was another available for my use. Lastly, I was feeling overwhelmed and did not have the time to spend "fixing things. Well as always when I am feeling powerless and anxious, as time passes my perspective changes and today Group Records is just right.

Today I am caught up on all change requests I have received. I have submitted reports containing group information to coordinators as well as labels for mailing the 12 Stepper. I have prepared required documents for assembly voting purposes and registration.

Please leave voting cards in back of room when you leave, and note any name or address changes on them. There are also group change forms there. If you complete a change form, send copies to your AIS office, Group Records Coordinator (me) and your DR.

Why do I have to register? So you receive a 12 Stepper three times a year and can learn about upcoming events and meetings such as Assembly. Sometimes we send out an appeal letter, so you will know how we are doing. WSO provides a free Forum to each Registered Group. Connie is also on the mailing committee for the 12 Stepper.

Bulk Mail requirements will be changing and it could cost us more. Connie is forming a committee to look at what are alternatives are in No California to enhance what is happening. Look at your group and see how they receive their mail. Maybe your group or district could use one mailing address for a PO Box to avoid returned mail. That way it is not a problem. You can still have access to your publications no matter who the GR is. This may be what we have to do to keep from incurring extra mailing costs.

**Institutions – Louise M.**

The H&I Conference was held in Galt. Thanks to Carol and Denice, the Al-Anon co-chairs for this conference and to AIS Districts 6-10 who provided helpers. There were over 60 registrants. Next year it will be held at the San Ramon Marriott, June 4-6, 2010.

Yvonne and Louise have been cleared to go into Soledad. We have applications from Duel Institute in Tracey and San Quentin. Folsom wants a Statement of Purpose from us. Some districts are already going into jails near them. Some are going into Juvenile Halls also. All of them are asking for literature.
Donation cans for H&I are available to groups; make out check to NCWSA and mail to the address on the can. This money is used to purchase literature for the prison Al-Anon/Alateen meetings.

Check out the wall for pink cans. DRs and GRs take a can back to your groups to pass once a month to support literature for prisons. Jay and Tena have taken this on as pet project for making 200 of these cans with Logos. If you wish to contribute to H&I send your donation to new PO Box in Sacramento and tell them it is for H&I.

Districts can also donate soft books by the case. Volunteers can contact Louise for applications as each prison has its own application and usually there is fingerprinting involved. We also desperately need men.

No meetings are going into mental hospitals yet. Please let us know if you have suggestions for places to take meetings.

**Literature Coordinator – Sandy S.**

On March 7, 2009, I participated in an Area Literature Conference Call with WSO and other Areas. It was my first conference call and it gave me a lot of information about my new service position.

There is a new Literature Project called Sample Chapter, using Alateen-Hope for Children of Alcoholics. (B-3). It is due October 15, 2009. Please encourage participation in this project. The Member’s Website is ([www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members))

E-Cal ended: This year’s World Service Conference ended the three-year trial for e-CAL and disbanded the e-Cal Committee. During its trial run, e-CAL generated very little interest.

Ten Questions about Conference Approved Literature: Just for fun, I have included this literature trivia quiz in your bins.

I also brought the 2009 Catalog (S-15); please help yourself, they are free.

Remember—when you buy from your local Literature Distribution Center, **you support your local services**. Purchasing literature from local LDCs not only supports important local services, it also helps the WSO. It is far less time-consuming (and therefore far more economical) for WSO to ship large orders to the LDCs, than it is to ship small orders to groups and individuals. For a list of LDCs, please go to: ([http://www.ncwsa.org/ldc.html](http://www.ncwsa.org/ldc.html))
FORUM REPORT:

On May 4, 2009, I took part in a Forum Conference Call. Subscriptions to The Forum have dropped below 20,000 for the first time in about 35 years. They have dipped to the 19,000 mark. That is less than 1.4 subscriptions per group. That means on average, every group has one subscriber, while every second or third group might also have a second subscriber. Ten years ago, we had 30,000 subscribers. Five years ago, it was about 27,000. The downward trend is not looking good. WSO sells The Forum at cost—the cost of printing and mailing. The subscription fee does not cover the staff time of editing and designing the publication. So if we consider the total costs, The Forum is a net loss for WSO. It is not so much that WSO wants a higher number of magazines to be distributed; they would like the magazine to become an integral part of the fellowship. It is an internal magazine for Al-Anon members to read, to talk about, and to share news, to advance the program further by applying the principles of the program in new ways and in new situations. In this way, we learn from each other.

WSO is putting the question out to us asking us, how much longer should the WSO subsidizes a magazine that engages only a tiny minority of members? Perhaps we must ask ourselves as a Fellowship- will The Forum grow or fade away.

As your Forum Coordinator, I am asking you to help attract interest in our magazine. Here are some suggestions:

• Have a meeting based on a sharing from The Forum.
• Some groups pass a can around for donations. When they have $11, they draw a name and get that person a subscription.
• Give newcomers a Forum or include one with the newcomer packet.
• Have your groups order the Forum. Cost is $11.00 per year. (Note: The Forum is a yearly subscription and is no longer a 3 year subscription)
• Have your District purchase a subscription.
• Conduct a Forum writing workshop.
• Donate a subscription at your speaker meeting.
• Donate a subscription at your Day in Al-Anon or any other event.
• Make copies of the Forum subscription order form and have them in your group binder.
• Encourage members to send in their sharings.
• Remind GRs that they are the Forum Representative to their group. Please refer to Seventh Tradition pamphlet (S-21).

I have put a Forum subscription order form in the DRs bins, plus a printout of all the Forum subscriptions in the US and Canada.

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2010 is for carrying our message of hope to others. This is Al-Anon’s annual public outreach magazine. It gives potential newcomers the information that could attract them to Al-Anon. Orders for this Special Outreach Magazine is due 5 pm ET,
Wednesday, July 8, 2009. No exceptions can be made. Orders will be shipped before September 1, 2009.

**PI/CPC – Patti M.**

I am off to a slow start and will admit that I have yet to cooperate with the professional community, including getting the blood tests ordered by my own doctor.

As I struggled to get ready for our Assembly this weekend, my mind began to wander. Back in February, I had received a brochure rack from our prior coordinator; it was still in my car’s backseat, empty. I had hoped to put up an outreach display with it today, but had not had the time to pull it all together, what with all my last-minute assignments at work. The empty rack brought to mind a question, what if I had never learned about our wonderful Al-Anon program. What if no one had ever mentioned it to me? What if there had been no information available when I was so eager to learn?

This darn rack (that will pinch fingers if given half a chance), has a sign on it that says, ”Are you bothered by someone’s drinking?” and illustrates this problem well. Many are aware that they are bothered by someone’s drinking, but are not aware that there is help and hope available from Al-Anon Family Groups.

That is where we all come in. Our 12th Step suggests, “…we tried to carry this message to others…” Our beautiful Al-Anon Declaration says, “…Let It Begin With Me…” We may to ask ourselves, “What am I willing to do to spread the word about our program?”

On page 52 of our service manual, under the heading of Public Outreach in the Community, is an explanation of our principle of anonymity and a reminder that our program itself is not anonymous. We need to make contact with professionals so that they can help us spread the word of the benefits our program has to offer.

In order to maximize our efforts and bring focus to our outreach work in Northern California, I would like to re-establish use of the PI/CPU email group. I am asking that each district forward their PI/CPU coordinator contact information to me, by email (if possible). I would also like brief information on your ongoing and past PI/CPC projects. Once we have seen where we have been, we can determine where we are going and plan for future outreach projects.

Again, I am going to remind you to ask yourself, what am I willing to do to see that the word of Al-Anon gets out to those who want it? Please send me your thoughts.

**Web Committee – Jim S.**

Web Site Committee members are Shannon J., Alternate Web Site Coordinator, Art B., Mike M., Jennifer G., Arleen V. & Bruce D. Other volunteers at the District/AIS level keep the
Independent and Separate websites updated. Thank you for your volunteer work.

We would appreciate a specific request if something needs to be posted or updated to the web site.

We appreciate flyers sent through Bonnie, AAPP, which mention Alateen. Check out the NCWSA Web Calendar for Events and Flyers. Forms found through the Services sidebar are the responsibility of the Officer and Coordinator listed next to them.

All Alateen Meeting’s posted on the web require a current WSO Number and Certified Sponsors. This includes Dependent, Independent, and Separate Web Sites connected to www.ncwsa.org.

All Area Guidelines may be found at www.ncwsa.org, by using Services in the sidebar, Guidelines.

**All event flyers with any Alateen involvement** must be approved by our AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person) at AAPP@ncwsa.org. This includes Independent and Separate Web Site postings. Please request this of your district coordinators, GRs, and flyer creators. It will take longer to process the flyer if it is not first requested by the AAPP and approved before sent to the Web Site Committee.

All Alateen related flyers handed our/or posted must follow Guideline B-17.B.3.D.4.c and have the underlined and highlighted sentence below at the bottom of the flyer.

In order to use the Alateen name in the geographic area served by NCWSA, Alateen Conferences and other conventions that include Alateen activities are required to abide by the [B-17] NCWSA Requirement for Alateen Member Safety; register their intention to do so by notifying the Area Alateen Process Person of the procedures put in service for their function, and place the following statement on any flyers publicizing their activities:

“[The [name of conference or convention] abides by the NCWSA Requirement for Alateen Member Safety.]”

Embracing the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand Our Future

Writing this report has been difficult because of all of the information I have not included. There is just too much for a single report. The experience of attending the conference was one of the most intense and exciting weeks of my life. So much is happening in the fellowship, everyone is trying to keep up, and more importantly, plan for what is next. This is really where the focus is – where are we going?

When I arrived, I was scared – I always have to go through my fear – scared that I could not do it, what ever it was. So I went for a walk on the beach and talked to HP. The next morning, there were porpoise out my window swimming up the beach. So, I decided I would be ok. I pre-registered on Friday, and in the hospitality room, there were several boxes for me! I have heard through the years about love gifts and cards for the delegate, but I never really understood until then. They did not want us to start cluttering the room that day, so I waited to open the boxes until the next day. But I started reading the cards, and was moved by the support you showed me.

Saturday was orientation, learning the rules and protocol. I was grateful that I had met the delegates from the Southwest Region at Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting in March; I actually knew some people there, including Vicki, the new At-Large Trustee.
After orientation, I went back to the hospitality room and opened the boxes of Love gifts. I have never been into love gifts, but as I opened the boxes and the other delegates were opening theirs, I got it – the love gifts were not about or for me. They were the expression of love from our group members to other group members all over the country. I was choked up then, and then I had fun putting the gifts out for other delegates to collect. *For the rest of the week*, I kept putting them out until they were gone, and I collected them and filled the box back up. They are here for you to take.

Once the conference started, we were together from breakfast at 7:30 AM until we closed around 8:30 PM. We had meals together, and met together. We had workshops and breakouts, went to an open Policy Committee meeting, and heard speakers. It was a little like a five-day assembly. On *Tuesday*, we went to the Al-Anon office and saw where everyone works. There were even volunteers there putting together newcomer’s packets.

So, how do I put all of the information I absorbed into a report? I cannot. This is just the first one and I will have to finish in October. I know if I am too long winded, you will stop listening. I know I would.

What is important?

- WSO is changing how they do their work again! The committee structure that they have used since the beginning is no longer working. They have now disbanded several of them because the committee really had nothing to do.
- They disbanded the Group Services committee and the Admission Handbook committee this year.
- What is replacing it? The Board of Trustees have lead the WSO into using smaller short term groups (Ad Hoc) to accomplish specific goals. They are calling them:
  - Work force – group selected to determine what is the issue or problem to be addressed.
  - Thought Force – group to come up with ideas to solve the problem or deal with the issue, and they report back to the Work Force and are done.
  - Task force – group selected to implement ideas selected from the Thought force, they report to the Work force with their solution.

A prime example of this process is the **TEAM** projects:

The Regional Service Seminars were losing attendance and were not considered viable long term. So the Board of Trustees (WORK FORCE) asked a group of trustees to brainstorm ideas to improve them (Thought Force). The idea to replace the RSS with an Area or Region generated event with WSO participation was given to a TASK FORCE to implement. That Task Force presented the conference with the **TEAM** concept.
TEAM stands for Together Empowering Al-Anon Members – giving to the local entity the option of saying what they want to have an event on and setting up when and where they want to hold it. WSO will work with the Area on the planning and send two representatives to lead workshops at the event. This is a major improvement to the RSS process.

The Board of Trustees has also committed themselves to transparency in how they work and what they are working on. They want to make sure that the membership understands that they are us, and they want to work with us, and include us whenever possible.

That brings up the question: HOW? They have placed on the WSO website a survey you can take that lets you tell them what skills you have and what you are interested in doing. This is the beginning of a national database of members listing their skills and is willing to volunteer. Anyone who signs up could be used on a Work, Thought, or Task force. With modern communication, we can and do have conference call meetings that eliminate the need for the volunteer to travel.

When they told us about this, we immediately asked that they share the data with the Areas. So they added a question: Can they share the data with the volunteer’s Area? Please answer yes. Then we will be able to call on you for our tasks.

The Board got this idea after looking at Abundance – in Al-Anon and our lives. They lead us in this workshop at the conference and we will do this workshop today. If we believe in abundance, we will be given what we need, and can give what is needed. Our membership is our greatest resource and most are willing to serve, but not for three years. Using the work, thought, and task force model, the service commitment is only for six months, because you are only doing one thing and when that is done, you disband.

I am now on the Conflict Resolution task force. Sounds like fun!

The Board and WSO are now using KBDM – Knowledge Based Decision Making toward an Informed Group Conscience. We had a workshop on this a few years ago, but I am sure we could use another. It is a method of making sure everyone participating in a decision has the same information, and knows how it was developed.

Then, the discussion is framed by answering specific questions to see if a decision is warranted. No motion is offered until all discussion is over. This method really works, and at the end, you feel as if you have learned the basics of the topic and are ready to move forward.

At Conference, we had two Chosen Agenda topics, they were chosen by the delegates by vote prior to the conference.

First was Al-Anon’s Public Relations Policy – is it becoming promotion rather than attraction? The discussion on this was lively and pointed out again the difficulty distinguishing between Al-Anon the organization and Al-Anon the membership.
We want the organization Al-Anon to be known – the board has set itself the goal that everyone will know about Al-Anon so they can find help. To accomplish that goal, the organization needs to be public, to be seen, – and not be invisible.

The members – individual Al-Anons – are anonymous, and they should remain so. How do we successfully publicize the organization and maintain the member’s anonymity?

The second was how can Areas, Districts, and Groups approach unhealthy meetings in a positive and productive way? This discussion was more diverse because the understanding of what is an unhealthy meeting differs depending on the Area. California South expressed real concerns about pyramid sponsorship groups that have become virtual cults around a specific sponsor leader. They are having real problems with those groups. Others discussed the issue of members not doing service.

We had two major motions:

- Alateen Traditions – Change to the Charter
- We added the Alateen Traditions to the charter protected as the Al-Anon Steps, Traditions, and Concepts are.

**Procedure for managing excess bequest funds** – Just in case someone gives 10% of our operating budget, we now have a process and procedure to spend it. It must be spent within five years, and the Areas will be asked how they would like to be spent.

We also affirmed the new trustees, the Board Officers and the Executive Committee Officers.

One way the WSO helped the delegates is by identifying HOT TOPICS.

These are topics that GRs take to the groups for discussion. They are action items. There will be a follow up for them and they may be discussed in October at Assembly.

**Hot Topics – Thing to remember and discuss:**

- Regional Trustee process – Improvement on applications and evaluations.
- Property ownership – 15-year trial period is up next year. Next year the property will be paid off. Do you know of any problems related to owning property?
- National database – survey on the website
- Barriers to success – Traditions used to block discussion
- Anonymity vs. invisibility
- Conflict Resolution – new task force developing tools.
- Abundance – What has Al-Anon given us?
- Alateen Chat – Pilot to see if we can make online meetings work for Alateen within our guidelines, moderated chat room.
- Diversity Discussion – ongoing discussion on how to expand our membership beyond the traditional.
• Impact of Areas splitting or consolidating – How do we handle the changes in membership and location. What about online members?

WSO has been traveling to support other countries General Service offices. Countries visited were:

• Turkey – visit to recovery home for boys to set up Al-Anon meetings.
• This was a successful visit as they were able to hold an Al-Anon meeting with the parents of the boys in the home. While there, they learned that there were six meetings in IRAN.
• India – visited to help them get their GSO going and attended their first national meeting. They traveled to five sites – Mumbai was one.
• South America - visited to help them get their GSO going, went to Costa Rico, Columbia, Peru, and Uruguay.

IAGSM – International Al-Anon General Service Meeting was held in Helsinki, Finland with 15 countries attending. There are 32 GSOs worldwide, but one of the requirements to attend the IAGSM is that you speak English. The IAGSM Summary is on the WSO member’s website.

So this is my first report and I feel like I left most of the week out. In truth, what I have left out is the discussions that taught me so much about us, and how we are. I am so grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to learn and grow.

Service is our third legacy, but for me, this giving is the best gift of all.

**Intergroup Liaisons**

*AIS District 6-10 (Sacramento area)*

A lot of excitement has happened in Districts 6-10. We have extended our office hours and our AIS office is now open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This was done on a trial basis but seems to be working so far. Each district is taking turns and is responsible for scheduling at least two volunteers every five weeks (excluding holiday weekends). I owe a great big thank you to Jaunita G from District 7 for organizing this activity and providing training to the volunteers. I am hoping this will increase interest in volunteering in the office and introduce more people into service.

Our office has made a few other changes to help accommodate our outlying districts. We have added a toll free number which is (888) 482-4240. We are now shipping orders without adding additional shipping costs to the groups and decided to add a credit card machine at our last Intergroup meeting. This allows any group outside of Sacramento to call in an order and have it shipped to them right away without additional shipping costs. The intergroup also
recently received a beautiful plaque thanking us for our service in institutions from the Sacramento Sheriff’s Department.

We recently held our AI-Anon birthday celebration. District 9 arranged for the event to be held at a church in beautiful Pollock Pines. District 7 decorated the tables, District 8 brought in cake, water, and coffee, and District 10 arranged for the speakers. The speakers were wonderful and the room just oozed with recovery.

Last April we held the First Annual What Is It meeting to help answers peoples questions about Intergroup. Several members agreed to sit on a panel and share about what Intergroup does, what the office does, and the responsibilities of each coordinator. It was a very
informative event and a lot of information was available. Chris came from Santa Clara to help with the event and is talking about hosting it next year. I would encourage anyone who has ever wondered about Intergroup to attend one of these events. More information will be available later.

We are planning on renting a table and handing out information at the Recovery Happens event at the Capitol in Sacramento in September. This will be our third year of participating in this event. It is always a lot of fun and I will soon be looking for volunteers to come participate with us.

Finally, my time in this position is coming to a close in a few months. We will be holding elections in November. Almost all of the positions will be open and the positions and their duties will be posted in our Share and Care newsletter soon. I encourage Districts 6 through 10 to start announcing this in their meetings so these positions can be filled.

At the end of this presentation, the Assembly concurred that we do a TEAM event in 2010. There were two no votes and two abstentions.

**Abundance Presentation – from WSO for Groups, the Area, and Districts**

A presentation (PowerPoint, Talk, and Sharing) was done for us as presented to Delegates at the WSC. If anyone would like a copy to use in his or her districts, contact John S. or Sandi C.

**Other Business**

The next Assembly will be held in Fresno (District 19), October 16-18, 2009, titled “Harvesting the Gifts of Service”. The location is the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Fresno. To make reservations call 1-559-268-1000. Our reservation code is NCWSA for the rooms at $109.00 per day plus tax for all rooms.

The Assembly closed at 4:30 p.m. with the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration.

Respectfully,

Sandi C.
Acting Secretary