NCWSC Assembly Minutes  
May 21, 2011  
Sonoma County Veteran’s Hall

Approved by Assembly as presented: Moved: Sandi C, Seconded: Joyce E. Passed with substantial unanimity

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 will be in a topical order.

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MOTIONS
Motion to adjourn, Barry S, Second Charlene R. Passed with SU
Other than a motion to adjourn, there were no motions.

ROUTINE BUSINESS
The meeting convened at 10:00 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions (Kathleen), Concepts (Stacy), and Warranties (Amy) were read.

The Chairperson (Patrick B) welcomed all to Assembly, made sure everyone has an agenda-we put them at every seat. We are very interested in your evaluation of this Assembly; please make notes as the day goes by. We’re interested in knowing what workshops you would like to see. This is all about you. This is the third Conference Assembly of this Panel. I guess that means we’re having fun. How many GRs are here for the first time? How many Alateen GRs?-One. The purpose of this Assembly was originally to hear the Delegate’s report from the World Service Conference, which happens in April. This is geared toward getting the Delegate’s report and some workshops, not much business. We probably won’t do much voting. However, we do cover some important business. Today we want to prepare for the elections in October. GRs and other Al-Anon members are eligible to stand for coordinator, and we want to have the people interested in standing for Delegate and Officers to introduce themselves, so you can get to know them. The Agenda is packed, but I’m going to try to get out of here between 4 and 5. Rushing may cause us to lose our purpose. There will not be time for coordinator reports. There will be written reports given to the DRs. Thanks to
District 5, Peggy and her committee. Thanks to Debbie O for securing this space. Please come to the mike to speak. Acoustics allow us to hear all the side conversations.

Peggy, DR for DR5: Welcome. Lunch tickets available for purchase: sandwiches and salads, and an Al-Anon 60th Birthday Cake.

The Secretary took Roll and several Hollers were given. The Secretary (Johanna MM) gave a brief report.

Chair reviewed who has voice and vote at Assembly: GRs are the voters here, not the Committee members.

Count-Off (after lunch): voting GRs present: 144. Plus in box: 3 = 147 voting members.

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

DELEGATE’S REPORT:
2011 Al-Anon World Service Conf – John S.

To all Northern California Al-Anons,

I have had a difficult time writing this report, not because there isn’t a lot to say, there is; not because this year’s conference wasn’t memorable, it was; but because it means my term as delegate is almost at an end. I am so grateful that you gave me the opportunity to serve you in this way. I have grown so much in so many ways. I have been changed in ways I could not have imagined.

This year was the year the conference would normally be held in Stamford, Conn., so that everyone could go to Stepping Stones, the home of Lois and Bill Wilson. But because of the 60th birthday party of Al-Anon held in Virginia Beach, only my panel, 49, went to Stamford, and we went before the conference started. I got to Conn. Saturday morning May 9 and on Sunday May 10, our panel was bused to Stepping Stones. There were only about 30 of us so we really got a private special tour. We got to see the newly developed visitor center (the old garage) as well as the guided tour by several volunteers. The experience was very moving, seeing the home where Lois lived while Al-Anon was born and created. I was surprised to learn that the property had been put in her name and she created the foundation to preserve it. She also spent the last years of her life cataloguing and labeling everything, from pictures to rocks collected on their travels helping to start AA and Al-Anon meetings all over the world. Her collection of dinosaurs was both surprising and delightful. I felt as though her spirit still permeated the home. Bill’s office, a small outbuilding which she called Wits End, has the desk on which he wrote the AA big book. I got my picture taken at both Lois and Bill’s desks.

After Stepping Stones we were bused back to La Guardia airport for our 5:00 pm flight to Virginia. Thus began another adventure for panel 49. We arrived at the airport at 2:30 and parked in the food court just down from our gate. Most of us were on the
same flight. At about 4:00, we were notified that our flight was delayed. In this electronic age, many members were getting texts from the airline about the delays. As the postponement continued, we became more and more frustrated, so at 7:30 we did what any bunch of Al-Anons would do. There in the food court of La Guardia, we held an Al-Anon meeting and the chosen topic was patience. It was a very good meeting. We finally got out of La Guardia at 9:30 that night, but we had a good time and became even closer than before. There’s nothing like shared suffering to forge a bond.

Needless to say, we were not worth much on Monday for our assigned tasks forces. But we made it, and the conference began Monday night. I met my mentee Monday afternoon, and then got to welcome him formally at the opening night banquet. He is the new delegate from Nebraska.

Tuesday was all business. We were presented with the budget, financial reports, reports from the finance, policy, Public Outreach committees. There were also reports and discussions from the task force on supporting and strengthening our structure, and group services thought force.

WSO proudly presented the new book *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31), a compendium of how Al-Anon came to be. It is a wonderful addition to our literature. Then they announced what we in Northern California have been demanding, a soft cover version of *How Al-Anon works*, priced at only $5. Their intent is to offer this book so that meetings can afford to give them to newcomers. We have asked for this for the last few years for our prison outreach. Now we have it.

The literature committee presented several new ideas for literature, some were approved, one not. Those that were approved were a piece on Intimacy, and a piece for the families of those who are in treatment; the one that was not approved was suggested by an outside author who wanted to do a book interviewing long time members – 40+ years. The concern expressed on this idea was that it would be about personalities not program.

On Wednesday, we heard the thought force from the policy committee on ‘Do not Refer’, which topic means how can WSO respond to the Areas’ concern about meetings that the Areas think are unhealthy. Can WSO set up a ‘Do Not Refer’ flag on those meetings for phone referrals? This was a lively discussion as many Areas are having problems with pyramid sponsorship meetings. This particular issue seems to be spreading and finally WSO is trying to respond.

Then we heard about electing and training trustees, and re-elected our Southwest regional Trustee Karen. Then we voted on the chairman of the board and elected Karen. It is amazing to think that she is now the chair of Al-Anon’s board of trustees. She will do a wonderful job.

Then another thought force presentation on re-structuring.

At last, an international speaker, Rose from New Zealand. She spoke about the development of Al-Anon in New Zealand beginning in 1955. She is the Executive director there. I had met her last year when her husband attended the conference and spoke.
After she spoke we bused out to the WSO office for a tour and demonstrations of
the new web site and showing of the new Public Outreach DVD.

Thursday was a day of presentations and workshops. The topics were property
ownership, guidelines for memorial donations, Leadership workshops, how to deal with
groups that do not consider Al-Anon as a whole, and a professionally lead workshop on
diversity. This was the day I gave my 3-minute talk, a 3rd year delegate’s goodbye. The
last presentation was on how dual members can serve Al-Anon under the current policy.
This was followed by an open Policy Committee meeting on the same topic. The Policy
Committee made it clear that they were not discussing the policy itself, but how Al-Anon
members who are also AA members could serve in Al-Anon. The discussion was very
interesting and a lot of history and ESH was shared. The conclusion was that the
committee needed to review the wording in the Policy Digest to make it clearer and less
confusing. One point I had never considered, on why we have a policy and AA doesn’t -
AA has one purpose and it is completely focused on sobriety. Al-Anon is about
relationships and therefore it is up to us to set any boundaries.

That night we heard the representative from Mexico speak, and she spoke in
English. This was her first year as the director of Al-Anon in Mexico.

Then we voted on Motions: And voted to end the trial of the property ownership
and make it permanent, 95 yes, 1 no. Al-Anon has a permanent home, and we have
already paid for it.

On Friday, surprise, surprise, more thought force presentations – how to help
areas show how service helps you grow, how to select agenda topics by delegates.

Then the Public Service Announcement was shown. That is always exciting to
me, as they are always moving to me. That we can afford to produce such quality PSAs
to reach out to those who still suffer in the family disease. Our PSAs are in the top 5% of
PSAs shown but are not shown at all in some major market areas. WSO suggested that
members call their local stations and request that they show them. We have more PSAs
shown on Spanish stations in the USA than on English ones. Faces are shown in these
PSAs but everyone in them are professional actors. The purpose of showing the faces is
to acknowledge and overcome the fear of going to a meeting.

Marsha then presented the report on the International Service Conference. She
came out for our TEAM event in Nov. The ISA was held in Virginia Beach this year, as it
is every other year. She and Carol presented their trip to Northern Europe: Sweden,
Finland, Lithuania and Poland. Sweden founded their GSO in 1976, but the had no
money and could not print literature. Lithuania has had meetings for 20 years but no
GSO. Two members attended the European Zonal meeting to ask questions about how to
set up their structure. In Poland, they celebrated their Al-Anon 30th anniversary in 2010.
They published the Polish language 12X12 in 1990. In 2011, WSO is going to Slovakia,
Russia, Ukraine and Slovenia. This outreach to help other countries build their structures
is a big part of the WSO’s international work.

On Saturday morning was the open Board of Trustees meeting. I went because I
wanted to hear the Board approve the property ownership motion. These motions are not
legal until approved by the board. They approved all of the conference’s motions, and elected their new slate of officers.

At 3:00PM at the WSO office there was a mortgage burning ceremony where Ric Buchanan, the executive director and Karen R., the newly elected chair of the board burned the mortgage. The rain and tornadoes held off until after the ceremony. However, within an hour it was raining, and we were under a tornado watch. Back at the hotel, I was watching the news, and my childhood home county in NC made the news as two tornadoes touched down there, one in the same place where there had been one when I was about 5.

That night we had the 60th Al-Anon Birthday banquet. It was a fun event with dinner and speakers. There was a countdown and the longest member who attended her first meeting in Oct. 1951 gave a copy of the new book to the newest – less that six months. The next day as I was waiting for the shuttle to the airport I spoke to the lady for Roanoke with 60 years in Al-Anon and thanked her for coming to the banquet. She said she was starting an institutions meeting in her local hospital that month. Amazing, what we do, who we are.

I know that this written report is long and probably tedious to read, but I wanted to try and share some of what happened at conference. So much was shared I could never say it all. It was intense, long hours, exhausting, but exciting, fun and full of laughter and joy. Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to serve.

John Stafford
Panel 49, CA (N)

John also brought Love gifts from other Areas for the GRs to take. The following info was given verbally. The Conference co-chairs were Harriet and our own Vicki. New website is very wonderful. www.al-anon.org. Can get to members’ web site from home page. French and Spanish web sites not ready. All financial reports will be on web site. Most of the income comes from literature sales. 457 groups contributed $46K: 61% of groups contribute about $101 each on average. For the International Convention in 2018 they are asking for bids: shall we put in a bid? John has the bid forms, due by 12/11/11. WSO is separate from the Building Management Committee; each reports to the Board of Trustees. A skills questionnaire is on the website; the WSO is looking for members wherever they are to serve on short-term thought forces and work forces.

John brought back How Al-Anon Works in soft-cover, 10 for each District; perhaps they could be used for public outreach.

OFFICER REPORTS
AAPP - Bonnie M.
It’s Alateen renewal time again. I’ve emailed this year’s “recertification letter” to each
District Representative and District Alateen Process Person along with a list of currently
certified Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) and a list of the
currently registered Alateen groups in the district. I did not make paper copies for the
District folders this year but did put the WSO group printouts for the Alateen groups in
your District folders. Please let me know if you see any discrepancies with your district
records.

Please remember that I need to receive the recertification forms for all AMIAS
who wish to remain in service to Alateen by June 1 so that I can complete my part by the
WSO cut-off. WSO has reiterated – there will be no exceptions to meeting their deadline.
I must submit all our renewing AMIAS as a complete package and, if it is not received by
WSO by their deadline, there will be no Alateen in Northern California. I’ve already
received the renewal paperwork from a few Districts! You know who you are and I thank
you.

We currently have 87 registered Alateen Groups and 320 certified AMIAS. I
thank all the AMIAS serving as Alateen Group Sponsors and as Alateen Group contacts
for updating their groups’ records. Between family commitments, other Al-Anon
obligations and a very full load at my paying job, I’ve gotten badly backed up again and
have a number of new AMIAS applicants to submit. I think I’m caught up with email
and with approving flyers. Please let me know if I’ve missed something.

I did revise the AMIAS application and renewal forms, adding a space for
renewing AMIAS to include their WSO ID number. And we’re making slow progress
getting the A-22 forms and the B-17 requirements translated into Spanish. We have a
volunteer willing to do the translations and a suggestion has been made to hire a
professional translator for the B-17 guidelines. The biggest delay has been in getting
proofreaders once the translation is done.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our teens and our Area. This job is demanding but
gratifying. I get every flyer.

• Contact info for Bonnie?—it’s in the 12-Stepper and on Roster.

Alternate Delegate – Joan W (report presented in writing only)
I have enjoyed serving in this capacity. I thank all of you who have given me suggestions
and support. I loved SWRDM and the workshop on KBDM. We also experienced a
tsunami warning. I will be handing a workshop today on how to handle conflict and
difficult suggestions. I continue to enjoy working with the other members of this panel.

Chairperson – Patrick B.
Amazing that we are almost half way through the third year of our panel and preparing
for an Election Assembly! As they say, I will probably REALLY know how to do my job
by the end of my term. If that is the case, I will do my best to share my experience,
strength and hope with our next Chair. As it stands, I have learned a lot and grown even
more in the last two-plus years. I am very proud of what we have accomplished so far and
I look forward to what is next.
I had my second interview with the Executive Committee (EC) in November (the EC has oversight of the Chair, so I meet with the EC at least once per year). The interview gave me a chance to reflect on my service and how things have been going within the Area. I was also inspired to think about what I might do differently moving forward. The most prominent thought that I came away with is that, while we have business to conduct, we are mainly here to carry the message of Al-Anon and to give each other the opportunity to grow through service. Service may be challenging, stressful and even boring sometimes, but I should still enjoy it enough to want to come back. If not, maybe I am taking on too much, taking things too seriously or taking things too personally. I was also reminded that sometimes things happen slowly in Al-Anon and part of the reason is that we are all volunteers doing the best we can...Thank you to the EC members for asking such thought-provoking questions!

In November, we had our first TEAM event. I enjoyed the opportunity to work with John S., Joan W. and Karen H. A. to plan this event with Ric B., Marsha W. and J.P. M. from the World Service Office (WSO). Overall, I would say the event was successful, although I think we learned a lot about how to interact with WSO and how to plan and promote the event. My recommendation is that the Area establish a planning committee two years prior to the next TEAM. This will ensure that the Area has enough time to plan and have a clear idea about what it wants to get out of the program before meeting with WSO.

Before the February NCWSC meeting, I made several attempts to contact our PI/CPC Coordinator, who had missed the previous NCWSC meeting and the October Assembly, with no communication to the Area. Because outreach to the community is such an important part of what we do, I asked Brenda W., the Alternate PI/CPC Coordinator, to take step in for the remainder of the term. Happily, she was willing and will be presenting a Public Outreach workshop at this Assembly!

March 11 - 13, 2011 I attended the South West Regional Delegates’ Meeting (SWRDM) in Hawaii. I attend, as the NCWSA Chairperson, so that I will be prepared to attend World Service Conference (WSC) in case the Delegate and Alternate Delegate are not able. Attending also gives me the opportunity to share experiences with the other Area Chairs in our Region. This year we had the opportunity to work with Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) as we discussed revisions to the SWRDM Guidelines. In addition, I was asked to report on our TEAM event.

In addition to the above, I have:
• Participated on a panel with Sandi C. and Irma C. on the topic of “Service Beyond the Group Level” at the District 10 Speaker Meeting
• Continued to hold monthly calls with the other Area Officers and the Delegate
• Worked with our awesome Facilities Coordinator, Debbie O., and various event chairs to plan the logistics for various Committee meetings, Assemblies, etc.
• Made myself available to a couple of Districts/DRs who had questions/issues to resolve
• Participated on a Thought Force that is looking into the possibility of the Area purchasing its own audio/visual equipment...we are looking to see if it would be worth the expense
• Reviewed and updated the NCWSA Chairperson Guidelines, pending review and approval by EC
• Partnered with the Facilities Coordinator to schedule a NCWSC/Turnover meeting in Galt on October 29 - 30, 2011 (we are trying a new approach for turnover of NCWSA Officers and Coordinators)

Secretary – Johanna MM
Minutes for October 2010 have been prepared but, as they were not included in the 12 Stepper, approval will be put off until our October Assembly.

I’ve been busy keeping up with Roster changes. I found out there is another Intergroup way up in District 1, Del Norte Al-Anon Intergroup. I’ve added a folder for them in the bins, making 61. I don’t expect in-person participation, but they would, of course, be welcome.—subsequently realized that as an Intergroup entirely within a District, they are not members of the Committee

Bruce has been helping with the Motions Passed/Failed document, B28. By the end of the panel, I hope this will be completely up to date.

Treasurer’s Report: Carol G.
As most of you know, I do NOT like writing reports. This is my very first one since being elected as your Treasurer. I am finally beginning to feel semi-competent in this role in our organization. Things are going better for me now that my term is almost over. I’m still having difficulty asking for help. I had some wonderful people volunteer to get all the past due “thank you” notes done, but didn’t know how to start. I’m still trying to do things perfectly. So, to every individual, group, district and intergroup who have so generously given to Area 3, my sincerest thank you.

I am pleased to say that I survived my annual audit. My higher power let me know in a “not so subtle” way just how important the annual audit is. It’s way down the list of importance compared to a loved one being diagnosed with Cancer. I am also grateful to the members of the committee who were so kind and helpful with their suggestions on ways I can improve the next one.

We inherited quite a financial “challenge” when our panel began. So it seemed only prudent to make sure that everyone got the benefit of a second Assembly (which would focus more on workshops & the Delegates’ Report) without incurring a huge expense. To make that happen we decided that the groups, districts and Area would only be responsible for reimbursements of mileage and lunch so that it wouldn’t such an additional burden on anyone. I think it has been a success and a great savings to the Area.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to finishing this position and waiting to see what my Higher Power has in store for me.

The Treasurer also presented the Balance Sheet and Income/Expense Sheets as of 3/30/11.
• Questions about the numbers?—great job No questions.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Audit Report – Joan W* (Chair for Audit Committee)

Acknowledge members of the committee: Carol K, Sandi C, Patti R., Juaneta G., and the help of Carol. Thanks to Carol, improvements over the term. Thanks to all who are reimbursed by the area for submitting accounts. All deposits and checks were entered without error. Three journal entries were incorrect. Some checks were never cashed. Cannot file tax return until we have information from NoCAC. Recommends treasurer keep two sets of envelopes, one for checks written and one for deposits, just to make it easier, and another for the bank statements. None of the signatories can sign a check to themselves. If you do not want to take all of your expenses, you can donate them back to the Area; that’s entirely your choice. We have not received paperwork on equipment we own; in the future when we purchase equipment the information be sent to Treasurer.

Data: checking acct $20,950, one reserve $6219, one reserve $12,538. $461 in advances outstanding.

+Q&A: Alateen coordinator asked about NoCAC records: they were handed over at February Committee meeting. Joan says she just got an envelope of materials jumbled together. There was a spreadsheet emailed; Carla says they will send it again. Joan says it was not a complete recap: Carla asks for a template.

+Everyone appreciated the budget 101 Joan did: thanks for that, and we will continue to do it.

*Executive Committee Report- Peggy P.*

The EC is the Board of Directors of NCWSA, accountable to the GRs.

**EC Action Items**

2010 Officer Evaluations: EC members serve for 18 months. This EC was elected in July 2010; so 2010 officer interviews were conducted in the second half of 2010. We were unable to report on them at last fall’s Assembly since they were still being conducted at that time. Overall, the EC was favorably impressed. Everyone is doing a good job.

Officer teamwork and the monthly officer conference calls were acknowledged and appreciated by NCWSA members on the Assembly evaluations, by each officer in their interview, and by the EC during Area meetings, from e-mail communications, and also from the interviews.

The EC was glad to hear that all the officers are experiencing personal growth and recovery in their Area service. Every officer stated they need to continue to work on asking for help, delegating to others, and letting go. Based on our interviews, we agreed with these self-assessments. Their positions provide unique opportunities and challenges for growth in this area and we encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity. By asking for help and delegating to others, other members are offered the opportunity to experience growth and recovery in service.

Assembly evaluations reflected an obvious awareness and appreciation for the way this officer panel is open to the membership and to each other, for being open to input, information, and suggestions, for how they have worked through issues as a group.
and then presented and communicated them, and for their style of communication, which was found to be transparent and grounded on KBDM. The membership appreciated their efforts to Keep It Simple.

Coming out of the 2010 officer evaluations, the EC has a number of recommendations and follow-ups. The EC has given them all careful consideration and deems them all to be of vital importance either in ensuring the continued health of our organization, in assisting in the work being done by our trusted servants, or in meeting the corporate requirements for NCWSA.

1. The EC found the Assembly evaluations to provide important input from NCWSA members as part of our officer evaluation process and requests that the EC continue to have the opportunity to review them after each Assembly.

2. The EC found the monthly officer conference calls to be a successful model and recommends they be added to the Chair’s guidelines to ensure that future panels continue the practice.

3. The EC feels the Treasurer’s duties are more than one person can handle and that this does not have anything to do with the individual but with the scope of the position as described in the Guidelines and Bylaws. We believe this puts NCWSA at risk and that the position requirements should be assessed and potentially revised. The EC strongly recommends:

   A. That the Treasurer’s Guidelines and Bylaws duties be reviewed in order to determine the best course of financial management for both the corporation and for Al-Anon members providing service in this position.

   B. That there be a minimum of two Financial Assistants (FA), two of them with specific responsibilities:
      i. FA1 – Collect, deposit, and report donations.
      ii. FA2 – Send receipts and thank you’s for donations and draft the annual appeal letter.

   C. That basic requirements, such as some type of financial or accounting experience and familiarity with financial software, and desirable qualities, such as time mgmt, people mgmt, and ability to delegate, be identified for this position.

   D. That software training be provided to incoming Treasurers as needed.

   E. A Thought Force of NCWSC members has been formed to address recommendations A-D. However, we feel additional participation by non-NCWSC members would be valuable. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Deb H at debhesse@comcast.net.

   F. That an external financial audit be conducted during the last year of every panel. This will provide the incoming panel the assurance that they are receiving proper records and confirm the integrity of the records (clean slate). This will also identify any issues that may need to be addressed. We recognize there is a cost
issue involved and request that a Thought Force be formed to research the feasibility, scope, and cost of such an audit and to report back at the October Assembly.

4. Based on numerous favorable comments in the Assembly evaluations, the EC found the Budget 101 presentation and abbreviated budget report format to be a successful model and recommends they be added to the Alternate Delegate’s guidelines to ensure that the practice is continued on an annual basis.

5. In order to best serve NCWSA members, the EC recommends the following election requirements for officer candidates and that this information be communicated to the Assembly membership so our elections are based on KBDM.

   A. Review both the guidelines and position duties stated in the Bylaws prior to standing for the position.

   B. Have a service sponsor.

   C. Provide basic information - NCWSC to draft a form
      i. Length of time in Al-Anon
      ii. Previous and current district and Area positions
      iii. Statement of why they are interested in this position and/or qualifications and/or what they can bring to the position.

6. The EC has discovered there are a number of corporate activities that are not occurring as required and have not for a while. Right now the various required activities are not contained in one document which makes it extremely difficult to identify them and confirm they are occurring. The EC strongly recommends:

   A. That a management audit be conducted to identify the required activities for NCWSA to operate in California. This audit is an opportunity for the Area to conduct a 4th and 10th step inventory of its practices and policies.

   B. That a corporate checklist be created that can be used by the EC to confirm that all required activities are occurring.

   C. Several members with professional experience conducting such audits have volunteered to conduct this management audit of NCWSA at no cost as a service to the Area. A report on this audit will be given at the October Assembly.

The 2011 officer interviews and evaluation will be conducted and finalized in time to report the results at the Fall 2011 Assembly. We are currently in the process of scheduling those interviews.

**Additional EC Action Items**

The EC is currently:

- Revising and updating the Corporate Responsibilities Timeline.
- Reviewing and updating the EC Binders.
- Reviewing and revising the EC Guidelines.
- Conducting Financial Assistant Interviews as needed.
• Drafting Financial Assistant Guidelines, especially to outline a cash management process.
We are also available to Assist with Conflict Resolution – None has been requested so far. This is at the Area, District, and Group level. Please let us know if you need such assistance.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted by Peggy P, EC Chair and North Section DR, on behalf of the EC
Diana S, Central Section DR
David B, South Section DR
Deb H, DR Member at Large
Charlene R, DR Member at Large

Diversity Thought Force Update, Susie D (D2)
Task force assembled last Assembly—about 50 people signed up. Diversity is very important to us. We met 4 times via phone meeting. We have 4 categories of recommendations. Final version includes 3 important attachments, which we hope to get into an upcoming 12 Stepper. Some of the questions and recommendations could be answered with current resources: literature, web site, coordinators. We need to educate ourselves first. Diversity checklist, which a group could use to check their own diversity. Lots of suggestions/recommendations. We would like NCWSA to set up a page on the website. There are lots of areas of diversity: don’t stop at the obvious. The only way to make it work is to focus on ourselves. This is another opportunity to grow spiritually. Participation, service at the Area level is great.

Education and Events
Develop and Build Partnerships
It Begins with Me
+Chair: we will look at this more at the October Assembly and will constitute a Task Force.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Group Records – Connie F.
Last 6 months, WSO implemented a lot of changes. GR coordinators are now able to update their database and add new groups. I expect that within a few months the NCWSA Database will be eliminated and I will only maintain the WSO record. Now when you complete A16 you do not need to send it to WSO. We have also put the form on the NCWSA website. At the bottom it has distribution list. Watch for instructions on how to fill it out. Shortly, the instructions will also be on the website.

Ncwsa.org>service>forms>A16. DRs please read the 3rd page of my report; I need to have a group conscience at our July committee meeting. Send feedback to me so we can do this before the committee meeting.
Voting cards have the current mailing address for your group. If it is incorrect, make the corrections on the voting card and I will be able to make the change without filling out an A16 form. Total Registered groups 813 = 21 Women; 37 Study; 15 Men; 34 Adult Child; 82 Spanish; 67 Alateen; 18 Parent; 29 Institution.

Written Coordinator Reports that were not verbally presented at May Assembly are at the end of this report or elsewhere in this issue.

PREPARING FOR ELECTIONS
Thanks to all the Coordinators, and Alternates. These are service opportunities available to you and members of your districts and groups. On Saturday night of the Assembly, there will be a Committee meeting to elect the coordinators. If you are interested in standing for a position, be sure you are there Saturday night. You should have received information about these. There is also information in the website: newsa.org/service/guidelines.

Each has the opportunity to answer 4 questions (tell us if this helps): What moved you to stand for this position. How is it different than you expected? What makes you proud? What would you do differently?

Alateen – Carla G.
I had done service at the group level, and I wanted what you had. In 2008 I was asked to be the NoCAC cosponsor. I had been the DAPP, and learned the power of Alateen. I learned here not to have expectations, except that I was going to learn a lot. Reality is that there is a fair amount of work. If I can keep my focus on getting to do this rather than having to do it, my experience is wonderful. Service is a wave: sometimes I’m on the crest and sometimes in the trough. Proudest accomplishment is seeing people get bit by the Alateen bug. Being able to see Alateens and hear how much it means to them to have a weekly meeting or the big doses of Growing Together Weekend and NoCAC. I would read more, and breathe in the troughs more.

Archives Coordinator – Chris M.
Acknowledged Irma, who was the reason she stood for this position. I wanted to stay connected to the Area and help preserve our history. Really I did not have room to store archives, and asked for permission to rent storage space. It’s up to me to create balance and ask for help. Organization is a strength, but detailed paperwork is not. Created Archive parties. I try to make service fun. I would have moved the archives sooner. I’m planning on starting an archives journal to continue the story from where Journey to Recovery leaves off.
Bylaws and Insurance

Bylaws/Insurance: they split the position.

Bylaws – Bruce H.

1) What moved me to stand for Bl&I?

I have found that Al-Anon Area level service has been a rich environment of wonderful and talented people. There are a variety of problems and experiences which have been both challenging and rewarding. Bylaws reminds me of an idea that I think about and come to a conclusion about, but then someone comes along and asks a related question which reformulates my original idea. Bylaws work, and it affects on my Al-Anon life is an example of the miracles one finds in the program and I have been able to enhance myself and give back through this position.

2) How has the reality of this position been (similar or different) to what I imagined?

Volunteer means I knew something about BL&I but as they say, more, much more will be (was) revealed. My Higher Power has allowed me to see the richness of this position. But please understand the position isn’t all, because working in the group of NCWSC has provided huge benefits to this person and for the position. The Bylaws makeup and the purpose are the best formulation of directions to guide this organization to reach its stated goals. This was previously determined by wonderful thinking before me but it doesn’t stop there. Because of time and the natural order of man where the ever changing thinking processes we all know occurs from day to day, means the Bylaws will gradually need to adapt to our new life situations as the future becomes the present.

3) What is my proudest accomplishment in this position?

To have the opportunity of working in this NCWSC panel with these people and to coordinate this work into two workable units for your Alternate, Joyce, and I to do together.

4) What is one thing I would do differently if this term of service started tomorrow?

It is a given that this work is an ongoing process. I have found that keeping in close touch with Area work: by reading reports, by reading the 12 Stepper and by keeping up with the on-line discussions with Bylaws & Insurance in mind will give you lots of opportunities to work on and contribute to the group. So don’t just sit there. This position is a book of infinite pages and chapters and it has no ending. As one would expect I am completing this panel but it is apparent that more changes are needed in Bylaws. So there is much that is exciting and necessary for the new coordinator and alternate. I would wish to be the fly on the wall so as to watch the progress and changes that occur down the road.

Insurance – Joyce D.

Would everyone who doesn’t like drama raise your hands: you don’t qualify for this program. My group was paying money for private coverage. My service sponsor suggested I stand. Alternates expenses are paid to get to Committee meetings. Does not need to be done this way, but trying to do all the things in this position is a lot. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life; it satisfied my codependent needs in a healthy way. Getting the certificate for today in 3 hours was my proudest
accomplishment. My original meeting had to move because they could not afford insurance. I’m proud of the fact that many meetings don’t have to do that. I’ve learned a lot.

Diversity - Janie L.
Lack of participation by Latino community led me to stand, but I have had an awaking about the breadth of Diversity. Greatest accomplishment is getting to know people of all walks of life, different diversity. Went to Gay and Lesbian festivity, which was exciting. It takes a lot of work and a lot of communicating. Started Diversity Quilt, but still not completed. Diversity has to work as well as communicate. Committee: Deb D18, Deb D10, vast area to communicate within. Being able to stand and speak in front of all of you is an accomplishment I’m proud of. I would try to be more aware of what I’m getting into; it’s been a spiritual awakening. I’m glad I ran; it’s been a rewarding position.

Facilities Coordinator – Debbie O.
The thing that motivated me to stand for this position is my overwhelming desire to be apart of this recovery process. It was not my first choice; my HP had other things planned, I am learning to listen better, and be my own person not an image of the alcoholic. The thing I have received from this position is a greater sense of self. By listening to that which is greater than me. This position has taught me to do Let Go and Let God. In doing the requirements of the position and stepping back, I get to see other people grow and learn a better way to do things in their way. I have learned that a good leader walks beside, not in front or behind our fellows as the program states. Being a part of the bigger picture I am learning how to use the Traditions and Concepts better in my life. I am becoming a better person to myself and others, knowing I can’t please everybody allows me to do the best for the greatest number. I have enjoyed getting to know members in different districts that I would not have met on my own. To see how far and wide the solution extends beyond my world has helped me to see I make a difference.

I would not change anything; I have done in this position, because of the hurdles I have learned that suggestions are something to appreciate. I know if I took on the job today knowing what I know today, I would do it differently because of what I have done. I have learned to reach out to those I am responsible to, and to expect the same in return. I think it is called “Not Doing it Alone”.

Group Records - Connie F.
What moved you to stand for your position?
I had not served at NCWSA level for a few years and was interested in resuming service here. I reviewed the positions I had not served in and was reminded I always had an interest in how Group Records worked. I liked getting to know the GRs and thought it would be interesting to ‘see where our groups were’. I do not mind data entry and detail work. So it seemed the job for me.
How has the reality of your position been similar or different to what you imagined?
Similar- good thing I don’t mind data entry. I did get to communicate with GRs and DRs all the time and it has been great resuming a relationship with NCWSC.
Different - I underestimated the time involved. I discovered WSO has and is making major changes in Group Records and it has been great seeing this area evolve. When I started I was overwhelmed with software that didn’t work, major data entry (all groups had new GRs) and my personal life my ‘part time’ job was 60-hour weeks. Recently, I have been working with the Web Committee and WSO to revamp our database making it compatible to our Web Site’s needs as well as Group Records. I had no idea the direction this position would go.

What is your proudest accomplishment in you position?
Just One? This is a question that really touches me. Being able to participate in Service for NCWSA and renewing friendships from previous panels has been my proudest moment because without Al-Anon I wouldn’t have friendships to renew, energy or interest to be of service.
Aside from that, keeping current on records and being of service to the DRs and Coordinators to get the needed items to them timely and accurately always supports my sense of accomplishments. Being able to represent our Area in a ‘Test’ with WSO to bring the Areas Group Records Coordinators on line to make corrections to WSO database has been fun and challenging. Today we are near our goal of one database with link maintenance to our web group listings as well as a Google type map showing our groups. The job description for Groups Records has changed a lot and will continue before my rotation is completed.

What is one thing you would do differently if your term of service started tomorrow?
I don’t know what I would do differently because so much has changed. I would have liked to have time to investigate Group Records and voting registration. There may be opportunity for improvement in that area. I am actually satisfied with my term of service.

Institutions – Louise
My service sponsor was prior Institutions Coordinator, and my passion to serve people who cannot go out to meetings. It’s a new frontier, getting Al-Anon in state prisons. Getting into San Quentin has been my proudest accomplishment: it took about 5 years to get there. I would reach out for help more if I had it to do again. I want to thank Marin, Diana and Colleen, D 6 Teresa and ?, David from Monterey for Solidad, and Debbie H from Sacramento who does Folsom. We need more volunteers. Thanks to Yvonne; she has been invaluable to me. Thanks to you guys for donating to the pink cans, and for Jay and Tina for making the pink cans. New How Al-Anon works in softbound; we’d like to have one for every inmate, so please dig deep. Without you my job would be difficult.

Literature Coordinator – Sandy S
I was no longer working, so my sponsor told me I should stand for service. I was surprised I was elected. Being a part of NCWSC has been great. Nicer than I thought it would be. Gave me a chance to learn about literature and Forum. Ordering literature for Institutions has been great. Seeing the Forum subscriptions grow has been great. I was at H&I conference and met some of the inmates who we have helped with our literature. Would not do anything different.

**PI/CPC – Brenda W.**

I was drafted into this position; I started as the Alternate. Reality has been kicked up a notch. Coordinator position is a conduit; at the District level it is more on the ground. I have given some workshops, and I’m getting announcements from WSO. Feel like I get to play here: it’s all about ideas. Glad I got to participate in TEAM and do a workshop. Never stand for Alternate if you don’t want to be Coordinator. I got swept up in service fever at my District.

**12 Stepper Editor – Denice E.**

Attending Assemblies inspired me to serve at Area level. I wanted to be a part of it. I thought I would just cut and paste, but there was a bit more to it than that. Lots of people involved: subcommittee who review, printers, mailers, website coordinator. Requires a lot of people to get every issue out. Proudest accomplishment is to make it through the 3 years. Made changes to the process, so one of the issues is only on-line, which saved the Area money. Exceptional alternate. I would establish some guidelines for report: they come in lots of different fonts, types of software, etc. Would like to get rid of my procrastination.

**Web Committee – Jim S.**

Was already on the committee helping to update the web site. Today the majority of Districts and AISs maintain their own websites, which has lifted a lot of burden. I did have some background in coding on websites. At the end of this year, I will have been in this position for 6 years. Now more people have knowledge of HTML, so it’s easier to have a committee to maintain the panel. Coming to Committee meetings is kind of like a reunion. I get a chance to practice my program. The only way to grow is being involved in service. All the emails from the website come to me, and 95% of them is spam. I was able to put some filters on that, so that now most of the emails are pertinent. Biggest challenge is to get committee members to help. Mike M does the calendar, Lori K does the meeting updates. This position is now mostly administrative; don’t really need to know a lot about the technical part of the website. Facilitating is important.

Q&A:

- Expenses reimbursed, including travel
- Where are meetings held?—all over—rotate
- Diversity could be a LOT of work; I don’t understand how task force will take over job from thought force and work with diversity coordinator.—Coordinator
says it’s just a matter of working together, all important, thoughts united into one. If interested, I’m sure you find the challenge and rewards. Chair: Diversity has been a special focus. We will have a thought force, and the task force will then take those ideas, which might change the coordinators job, or just get more people involved. Coordinator is a conduit for implementing some of the changes. Chairperson forms the Thought Forces and Task Forces from volunteers. All coordinators are supposed to have Alternates and can also form Committees.

- Is there coordination between the District websites and the Area website? Coordinator: Independent web sites can be autonomous, don’t need to have the same look and feel. There has not been any talk about standardizing. There may be some overlap, especially flyers. We won’t post onto the area website unless it has been passed through the AAPP, which the independent websites should also do.
- ImmPastDel: being a coordinator means to cause to happen, not to do. Lots of growth coming to Assembly and committee meetings.
- Thanks to Jim K for compiling the job descriptions and Joan for getting them printed.

**Who is willing to stand for Delegate or Officers? Have to have been a District Rep.**

- Johanna MM, Secretary, D14: Alt Del or Chair
- Joan W, Alt D, D9: Delegate
- Bonnie, AAPP, D18: Delegate or Chair
- Patrick, Chair, D14: Delegate or Alt Del
- Tom K, D12: would like to be an officer or coordinator
- Diana S, D11: Treasurer
- Patti R., D26: Treasurer
- Lisa, D23: Secretary
- Charli D, D26: AAPP

There has been some discussion about changing the requirements to be a Treasurer, but the EC recommends that the person who stands have experience.

Submit a blurb to 12-Stepper about your qualifications and desires.

**INTERGROUP LIAISONS**

No reports

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Assembly Bids**

May 2012 (Central): Diana D11 DR—we’re discussing but don’t have a specific bid. Chair: we’ve been discussing the bid process. If we don’t have bids at Assembly, we don’t get input from the GRs and the decision will have to be made by Committee or
Facilities Coordinator/Chair. We’re trying to get back to doing this with Assembly participation.
Clarified which Districts are in which section.
Assembly October 2012 (Southern). Chris D21, SCV, Milpitas, but not formalized.
David D24 says his district is also willing to make a bid.
Karleen: please bring bids to Committee, especially for the May Assembly 2012. Same for October, especially if we don’t have to sign before July.
Debbie, Facilities. Forms are available at ncwsa.org>service>forms>A9. It walks you through the steps of securing a site. It can be confusing but we’re trying to make it part of the process again.

**Workshops 2:45**
1) Public Information/Cooperating with the Professional Community - Brenda W.
2) The Gifts of Alateen - Carla G.
3) Dealing with Disruptive People in Group Meetings - Joan W.

**Seventh Tradition** was observed, about $280 collected

**Written Reports, not given verbally:**

**Alateen – Carla G.**
Welcome to Assembly 2011. What an amazing year it has been already. Alateen is alive and quite well in Northern California. I’m pleased to report that since the last committee meeting in February I have been able to participate in the following:

- Facilitate an Alateen Sponsor Workshop at the District 14 Day in Al-anon. Thank you Antioch Alateens for your assistance. You rock!!
- Spoke at the District 9 Workshop on Conflict Resolution and Alateen. Hopefully there will be new sponsors who say “yes” to Alateen service.
- Participated in the WSO conference calls in March for the Area Alateen Coordinators and the Area Alateen Process Persons (AAPP). Both calls were very informative, energizing, and motivational.
- Formed the committee and met with the Sponsor R&R planning committee for 2011. Event is scheduled for September 16-18, 2011 at Westminster Woods. The theme this year is Rejuvenate and Recommit. Please note that the NCWSA Guideline B-17 pg. 8 regarding Educational training and awareness programs states, “We recommend that Districts, Intergroups, AIs’s and Conferences who have Alateen Groups, hold regular meetings with Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) to discuss issues that come up, utilizing the tools provided by the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters and the NCWSA and other documents etc. which might be appropriate.” The Sponsor R&R is an educational training and awareness program. Participants continue to share how valuable it has been to attend. Please consider supporting your district sponsors who might not be able to afford to attend on their own. This event is open to Al-Anon Members involved in Alateen Service and Al-Anon's thinking about becoming Alateen Sponsors. Registration packets are available on the website [www.ncwsa.org](http://www.ncwsa.org) “calendar” and in the District Representative bins at Assembly.
Uploaded the WSO Modules for Alateen Sponsor training. There are currently 6 modules available. I have adapted Module I for NCWSA and have provided each of the District Representatives with a copy to share with the District Alateen Coordinator. This Module is titled, “Alateen Overview” and is good for an introduction to Alateen and Alateen Sponsorship. I am working on having Module II available at the next NCWSA Committee meeting in July.

Participate in and monitor the WSO eCommunities electronic billboard and information sharing hub for Alateen Coordinators throughout our worldwide fellowship. What an opportunity to see and hear what everyone is doing with Alateen.

I have updated the Alateen Coordinator job description to include the tasks for this position. This is an amazing service position. I look forward to working with the person who feels called to stand for this position next October. Feel free to talk with me if you are interested.

The Northern California Alateen Conference (NoCAC) Committee is in full swing. Please join me in supporting the efforts of Alicia, the NoCAC Chair and Melanie the NoCAC Sponsor for 2011. The event will be held in November. Monitor the website www.ncwsa.org for the registration package.

I continue to support district representatives and individuals as issues arise regarding Alateen Sponsors and groups. The road is not always smooth, but there is always growth and the opportunity to reason things out with one another. Thank you for allowing me to be a resource and to learn from your experience, strength and hope.

I attended the NCWSA conference and supported the Sponsors David and Jody who stepped up and provided a great experience the Alateens. Thank you for your service!!!

I will continue to work on the following:

- Modifying the WSO PowerPoint modules for Alateen for their use in trainings throughout Northern California. Reviewing the newly released and updated Alateen PowerPoint slides from WSO for use in trainings and presentations.
- Work with the Area and WSO to establish a Northern Alateen On-line Chat Meeting including identifying Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service who would serve as sponsors.
- Attending the NoCAC Bash (Camping Trips) in June and August.
- Developing Sponsor Guidelines for NoCAC with input from the NoCAC Committee, Chris M. and past sponsors. There are guidelines for all of the teen roles in the NoCAC Committee, but not the Adult Sponsors.
- Convening and facilitating the planning Committee for the Sponsor R&R 2011 which is scheduled at Westminster Woods for September 16-18, 2011. The event is for Alateen Sponsors and potential sponsors. The workshops and fellowship are very valuable to supporting Alateen in our Area.
- Continue to collaborate and cooperate with the AAPP, Bonnie M. to connect sponsors, districts and potential sponsors with resources and support to get new sponsors and meetings through the registration process.
- Working with Shawn A., Alternate Alateen Coordinator to produce the next version of Alateen Express, the Northern California Alateen Newsletter. Check the NCWSA Website for the new version.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to learn and grow through Alateen Service.

*Bylaws & Insurance – Bruce H.*

I am gratefully, Bruce H., NCWSA BL&I Coordinator with the following Projects:
Formatting/Correcting NCWSC position guidelines that come to me. This has been #1 Project this Panel.
I forward the completed guidelines which are placed in our Area Binder website; Committee Members are notified of this so they can update their NCWSA Binders.
I want to thank Joyce D., Alternate for her expertise, time, and remembering all the details in dealing with NCWSA insurance
In receiving insurance requests for groups and special events I correct the forms and Joyce D., Alternate BL&I Coordinator completes them with our broker (quick turnover).
I am involved with making sure that our Insurance policies are paid up.
I am responsible for our Corporate Time Line (located after B 18)
I am working on updating our Assembly and Committee Meetings Motions, Pass/Fail, to be completed this panel.
From time to time I assist in interpreting and correcting our Bylaws.
I sit on various ad hoc committees to contribute my position experience, e.g Long Term Planning Committee (on going), Sexual Abuse and Molestation Committee (completed).

**Insurance – Joyce D.**

We were contacted by Areas outside of Northern California for more information about how our policies work. Colorado wanted to know about our Officers and Directors Policy and Southern California needed information about the General Liability Policy and how it works to cover meetings. I put them in touch with our agent who is in Southern California and they have completed the application to get coverage. The scary part was that it meant people outside the Area were reading my reports. Glad I didn't make up stories. It is a joy to give service to so many members of our fellowship because of what I have learned in this position and to be reminded that we are a World Wide fellowship. Thank you Area members for this gift and to our leaders who saw the need and found a solution back in 2007.

We learned that requiring a WSO# before we issue a certificate for a new Alateen meeting can make it hard to secure a location so a meeting can be started. We expect to introduce a motion at the next Committee meeting that will allow the Insurance Coordinator to issue a certificate so long as the Alateen Coordinator and AAPP are aware that a meeting is forming and certified sponsors are involved.

Intergroup for AIS 6-10, greater Sacramento area, has stared the process of investigating how to cover their own meetings. I met with them in April to explain the need and ask for their help.

We have issued 16 certificates since our policy renewed in February. For the second year we have reissued all certificates for regular meetings that were requested the previous
year. This has eliminated the need for meetings to redo the paperwork and reduced the work load to satisfy the requirements of the facility where they meet.

Please remember that all meetings are covered by our policy whether the facility has asked for a Certificate of Evidence or not. The number of facilities that are asking for one is increasing. If something happens to a member or the facility is damaged in some way, let us know and if necessary we can help. The good news is that our premium keeps going down because to date we have had no claims!

**Facilities – Debbie O.**

I am your outgoing Facilities Coordinator, I have the privilege of helping you our members find our meeting sites. It is my job to review all contracts, facilities with the help of the local committee to make sure all our needs are met. I review all contracts that are completed 6 to 8 weeks ahead of time to make sure all items are completed or in the process of being done before the event. If they are not completed we can be without a meeting place, and all our members waiting at the door.

I am looking for a District in the Northern Section to host the Feb 2012 Committee meeting for the first weekend of **Friday Feb 3 and Saturday Feb 4, 2012**. Keeping in the rotation so all areas have the opportunity to be of service. You can find the bid form at NCWSA.ORG select Service, then select Forms and the form A-9 that has the guidelines or the requirements we will need. So if you are in **Districts 1 through 10** please contact me or submit the form with the bid in place.

The next event will be the Conference Assembly for 2012 with we are looking in the Central Section, being mindful of other events, as this is a very busy month for our area. Taking into consideration the Delegate needs a couple of weeks to compile his or her information and be ready to present it to the Assembly. **So if you are in District 11-17, 25 or 26 look for Schools, Senior Citizens center, any place that would allow us seating for 350 with tables, sound system, space to bring in lunch, see me for more information.** The July 2012 Committee Meeting will be in the Southern Sections of District 18 through 24 and 27.

Our next meeting will be:

1. **July 29-30 2011 Committee Meeting(Northern Section)**  
   Holiday Inn Express, El Dorado Hills, CA. 95762  
   [www.hiexpress.com/eldoradohills](http://www.hiexpress.com/eldoradohills)  
   Ph 866-833-8779 with a cut off date of July 14, 2011

I have updated room rates for the Oct Assembly, due to the economy which are in the highlighted area.  
**If you haven’t booked you room yet, now would be a good time.**
2. October 7-8-9, 2011 Three Day Assembly Host (Northern Section)
   The Village at Squaw Valley
   1750 Village East Road
   Olympic Village, CA. 96146
   Phone #: 888-767-1907 ask for NCWSA
   Or the website at www.thevillageatsquaw.com For online booking Code is 40A9RJ

   Cut off date Friday September 9, 2011

   Room Accommodations:
   One Bedroom with Village View.................................................$ 129.00
   One Bedroom with Extra Den..................................................$ 149.00
   Two Bedroom with Village View...............................................$ 199.00
   Two Bedrooms with Twin beds.................................................$ 209.00
   Three Bedroom Suites.............................................................$ 299.00

   All rates are per night and have a $12.00 resort fee, which covers high speed internet, parking in heated underground garage, use of the fitness center, and conference services.
   The group rates are good two (2) days prior and two (2) days following this event.
   Check In time 4 p.m. and Check Out 11 a.m.

   Important Note: Book early this facility is very popular and has no fudge space. If they are sold out which they do very often the other accommodations in the area are as well.

The Officers asked me to set a meeting site for our turnover meeting and the information is as follows:
3. October 28, 29 2011
   Comfort Inn & Suites
   10380 Twin Cities Rd
   Galt, CA. 95632
   Ph 209-744-7800 as always ask for NCWSA Cut off date Fri Sept 30, 2011
   Room Accommodations:
   Standard Single or Double Queen Bed ........................................$85.04
   Based on Double occupancy, each addition person per room is an addition $10.00
   Room rates includes a hot deluxe breakfast.
   Check in time is 3 PM, and check out is 11 AM
   Note: If we book at least 20 Standard rooms with two queen bed being occupied under our contract the group rate for Friday Oct 28, 2011 will go to $80.32 automatically.

Friday Oct 28, 2011 Committee Meeting 6:30PM to 10 PM
   Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 604 “E” Street, Galt, CA. 95632
   We will be using the Social Hall and the Fireside room. There is a regular Al-Anon meeting at 5 PM in the fireside room, so if you need a meeting there you go.
I didn’t book the kitchen, but Ed Lindquist just said let him know if we want it and it is ours.

Saturday Oct 29, 2011 Committee/ Turn Over meeting
Littleton Community Center, 410 Civic Dr., Galt, CA. 95632
We have the site from 7 AM to 6 PM. with the site ready for use at 9 AM or whatever the committee decides. We don’t have a PA System at this time, but can be added as the committee is working on purchasing our own system. This will need to be looked at and confirmed by July or Aug as to assure we have a PA System at the meeting. We do have access to all amenities on site such as the kitchen. We do need a committee to organize, set up and break down both meeting sites to original condition. Galt is in Dist 8 so if you or someone you know from that district would like to take this on I am here to help.

I am looking forward to turning over my position and working more on my personal recovery. I have found that my life has grown leaps and bounds through service, and my family has grown beyond my wildest dreams. Now it is getting to be time to let someone else grown.

Participation is the Key to Harmony, Love in Service, Debbie O

Institutions – Louise M.

Hooray! We are now in Folsom. We meet once a week on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. Mule Creek should be starting soon. We are now working with San Quentin to get us in on a week night and up “the hill” where we could have meetings with the lifers and other general population. Right now we are in “H” unit where the maximum jail time is 10 years and most are ready to be paroled soon. The population of inmates is not long term and we have inmates coming and going. We would like to get a core group going up the “Hill”.

We are growing. We have four meetings on Sundays and three meetings on Tuesdays at Solano. At Soledad we meet in the gym and the group has now grown to 90 inmates. The group has been divided into two groups and can now only meet every other week. We do not have another room nor time to accommodate the two groups weekly. We meet at Deuel Vocational Institute at Tracy once a month for perspective parolees. We are in county jails in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Sacramento plus juvenile halls in Santa Clara and Salinas. We still need volunteers to go in all the prisons so please check the flyer enclosed and contact Louise M or Yvonne D. In Solano the inmates have set up meetings within their buildings. One of the meetings had to narrow down membership to twelve as they don’t want their meetings too large to handle. There are three meetings now run by inmates within their buildings.

The AA Hospitals and Institutions Conference with Al-Anon participation for 2011 was held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Fresno on May 6,7,8 2011. It was an extra-ordinary conference. Many thanks to Sheri W and Helen R as chair
and co-chair. They did a marvelous job. The next H and I Conference will be up in the Redding area next year.

Please continue to pass the pink cans and send us your old Forums. It is your donations that help us spread the message. Our inmates take pamphlets and forums to give to their loved ones during visiting hours and also send them home. WSO has now printed How Al-Anon Works in paperback and will cost $5.00. We are planning to buy each inmate in our prison meetings a copy of the book, so please be generous in your donations. Also if you cannot join us in the prisons, consider applying for the correspondence service which involves writing letters – men to men, and women to women (not a lonely hearts club.) All letters go through WSO. Please see your DR for more info.

Thanks again for your donation and your support.

Literature/Forum – Sandy S.

It’s an Honor and Privilege to service as your Literature/Forum Coordinator. My alt is Kim H. I’m excited to be a part of this years Assembly.

LITERATURE REPORT:
The books and pamphlets on the literature table are for display only, to show you how much Conference Approved Literature is available. The binders of the Forum are to show you the history of the Forum.

Al-Anon’s Newest Book, Many Voices, One Journey (B-31) is available. The price is $16.00. This inspiring book is the story of the growth and recovery of the fellowship and its members over the past 60 years. How Al-Anon Works is now available in soft-cover (B-32). The price is $5.00. Just a Note: I have ordered 1317 copies from WSO, so we have a great head start of making this book a success. Courage to Change CD-ROM (B-16 CD-ROM) has been dis-continued, it is available while supplies last, and the price has been reduced to $5.00 US. This CD-ROM is for use in a PC computer. The format also doesn’t allow coping or downloading.

I have brought with me today the 2011 Catalog (S-15) Remember—when you buy from your local Literature Distribution Center, you support your local services. For a list of LDCs please go to: (http://www.ncwsa.org/ldc.html)

FORUM REPORT:
The Forum is a bigger part of our shared recovery as members of Al-Anon Family Groups. Everyone’s recovery is stronger when we reach out to a wider circle of support and participate in Al-Anon beyond the group level. The Forum can keep our group meetings fresh with stories and discussion topics shared by Al-Anon members from across he US, Canada, Bermuda, Puerto Rico and around the world. Our challenge is to help members understand how The Forum can be relevant to their recovery. In order to do that, we have to first make The Forum more visible to the fellowship as a whole.

Our first job is to make sure that every group in our Area takes advantage of the complimentary copy of The Forum that they receive from the World Service Office each month. It’s a new Al-Anon content that adds to the wisdom found in our daily readers,
other books, and pamphlets. Many groups are not making use of their free copy; other
groups never even see it. Our second job is to encourage more members to make The
Forum a part of their personal Al-Anon program—by reading the magazine and by
writing for it. When more members read The Forum, we help each other to discover that
special statement that is “It’s just what I needed.” When more members write sharing’s
for The Forum, we discover new ways to the Al-Anon principles to today’s challenges.
(Reminder: GRs are the Forum Representative to their group. Please refer to Seventh
Tradition Pamphlet (S-21), Al-Anon Group Representative (G-11) and our Service
Manual (page 45).

I’ve brought with me the Forum subscriptions order forms. If anyone would like
to order the Forum today, please fill out an order form, along with $11.00 made payable
to AFG. I will be happy to mail all of them to WSO. There is a place on my literature
table for you to place them in.

PI/CPC – Brenda W.
Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012: The WSO is now accepting orders for Al-Anon Faces
Alcoholism 2012 (AFA) magazines. The deadline for placing your orders is 5 p.m. ET,
Wednesday, July 6, 2011. I have attached a copy of the announcement, which includes
tips on how to share this information. You can go to the WSO members website address
at www.al-anon.alateen.org/members and get order forms for your district. It’s a good
idea to put out a couple of reminders to your home districts and groups and one last
reminder right before the deadline!

PI/CPC Coordinator gets connected to WSO – Since I became your coordinator in
February, all of my contact information has been forwarded to the WSO. While it took
some time to make this transition, I am pleased to announce that I now have access to
WSO “Ecommunities” website and that I have been receiving all updates to that website
which include announcements regarding Al-Anon and Alateen PSAs and press releases.

New DVD for sale especially for Public Outreach: I received a complimentary copy of
this new DVD, AV-31, entitled Al-Anon and Alateen’s Role in Family Recovery. Price is
$5. This video is a public outreach tool for members to show to three primary audiences:
1) Adults who might be affected by someone else’s drinking 2) Teens who might be
affected by someone else’s drinking 3) Professionals who might be in a position to refer
patients, clients, customers and students to Al-Anon and Alateen meetings. Each program
on the DVD is 10-12 minutes long. You can play all three separately or mix-n-match. Be
sure and review the options ahead of time before showing to your audience, especially if
doing the mix-n-match. This DVD requires an alternate player other than Windows
Media Player to run properly, but other than that, it plays on any equipment designed to
run DVDs. Free software downloads of players can be readily found using internet search
engines.

Please relay the following information to your groups: The Monday May 23rd and
Sunday June 5th “Dear Abby” columns will direct readers to call Al-Anon for
information about local Al-Anon meetings. It is possible some newspaper will not run the
columns in their entirety but each column will appear full-length on the internet on each
of those days and can be accessed by going to www.uexpress.com/dearabby/. (I tried to go in ahead of time, but I guess they leave it blank until the day of publication). It would be appropriate and helpful for members to send thank-you notes to newspaper editors who print Al-Anon contact information. However, just be sure if you write a letter that you ask to remain anonymous, since thank-you notes sent to “Dear Abby” may appear in print. Just as an aside, Al-Anon has gotten quite a few mentions in national media lately. How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics was recommended reading by an actress in Oprah magazine in May and ABC’s General Hospital daytime soap actors participated in a brief PSA on April 28th about Al-Anon and Alateen following a show where the plot included a fatal DUI.

WSO has revised its website: Instead of al-anon.org, it’s called www.al-anon.alateen.org. This new website has a more dynamic style (pictures that change) and quick links to orient newcomers and help them find meetings. There are podcasts by professionals you can download and view and - of particular interest to those involved in public outreach - a link for permission to reprint Al-Anon information at the bottom of the website.

PI/CPC invited to conference call: I have been invited to participate in DR conference call on June 14th at 7 p.m. and will do so!

Web Site – Jim S.
Include here are duties of the NCWSA Web Site Coordinator. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive. Know, follow and update the B30-NCWSA Web Site Coordinator Guideline located at http://www.ncwsa.org/pdf_files/B30-NCWSA_Web_Site_Committee_Guideline.pdf or www.ncwsa.org → sidebar Service → Guidelines → B30.

DUTIES OF THE NCWSA WEB SITE COORDINATOR
Chairs all committee meetings.
1. Sends notices of all web site committee meetings to the members of the committee.
2. Selects as many members of the web site committee as necessary to perform the duties.
3. Supervises the activities of the web site committee members.
4. Attends the area exchange meeting at both the beginning and end of the term of office.
5. May attend the NCWSA convention and NCWSA H&I Conference - there is no reimbursement for costs incurred.
6. Prepares a written report for all area committee meetings and assemblies, and provides a copy to the 12-Stepper Editor.
7. Prepares expense reimbursement reports and submits them to the Treasurer.
8. Approves expense reimbursement requests of web site committee members.
9. Prepares and submits an annual budget request to the Budget Chairperson.
10. Maintains communication between all officers and coordinators as needed between area meetings and assemblies.
11. Answers phone calls, e-mail questions and addresses problems as needed.

Respond to all e-mails sent to website@ncwsa.org, contactus@ncwsa.org, changes@ncwsa.org & info@ncwsa.org. These e-mails include:
- Calendar event updates. Currently maintained by Mike McT.
- Dependent District Meeting List updates. Currently maintained by Lori K.
- Forward Calendar update items to Mike McT. And Meeting List updates to Lori K. If an event flyer mentions Alateen forward to the AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person) for approval before sending for update to the calendar.
- Help find Al-Anon/Alateen Meeting’s in Northern California for requesters.
- Request help from Past Delegates and past Web Site Coordinators if the answer to questions are not readily available.

Other areas of responsibilities:
- Pay Netwizards each quarter for use of their Internet Service Provider; submit for reimbursement to the NCWSA Treasurer.
- Adding copies of the 12-Steppers.
- Monitor Alateen Meetings listed in Dependent, Independent and Separate Web Sites in conjunction with the AAPP to be sure only certified and approved WSO Alateen Meetings are listed with a valid WSO#.
- Maintain alias e-mail addresses for NCWSC Officer’s, Coordinators and Delegate with Netwizards.
- Updating all other areas of the website unless a committee member can take over responsibility for a task.

If there are any questions or would like more information about this position please contact me at: Jim S. jl-stewa@pacbell.net or website@ncwsa.org

Announcements:
Recycling bins in lobby by main doors, will benefit Alateens.

Don’t forget to complete and turn in your evaluations. Turn your voting cards in.

If you got any pearls out of the workshops, please submit to the 12 Stepper.

Showed off Diversity Quilt. Diversity Quilt needs a few more squares but will probably be ready for October Assembly.

12 Stepper Editor: Assembly Edition cutoff date 7/24/11. Send material to both Secretary and Editor

Event D26 June 4, half-day in Al-Anon in El Cerrito

Convention 2012 Chair: Squaw Valley April 20-22, Theme but need logo: Steps up Slippery slopes. July 10 1st Convention committee meeting, in Belmont.

Literature/Forum Coordinator: encourage people to use Forum, write for it, subscribe, has collected 8 subscriptions today. CTC CD discontinued, will be selling for $5 now until gone. Softcover B32. If you have a butterfly, she has a book for you.

DeDe, Serenity in Yosemite Al-Anon chair, hopes that everyone will come. Nov 18-20.

Facilities: changes for October, room rate changes, 2 bedroom, down to $199/night, could be as low as $40 per person. Get GRs there. October 7-9 is the 3-day Assembly, which is the Election Assembly. Participation is *very* important, so arrange carpooling, room sharing, whatever will get folks there.

Archives: archives parties July 9 and Aug 13 in Soquel, inventory, lunch, displays, history continuation,
Insurance: all meetings are covered by insurance. Ask for certificate only if your facility asks for one. Yes, it covers childcare. NCWSA.org A26a for meeting A26b for special event.

Alateen coordinator: CD in DRs folders includes Alateen training, customized by Carla, as a way to stimulate interest. I’m happy to do training; just ask. Don’t forget Sponsors R&R in September for anyone who is or might someday be a sponsor for Alateen.

PI/CPC: Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012 deadline 7/6/11 5 PM EDT. Order forms on member website. New DVD especially for use in public outreach. $5 cost. One for adults, one for teens, one for professionals who might be able to refer, plays 10-12 minutes each. Will not run on Windows Media Player, but a player it will run on is downloadable for free.

Jay: pink cans –ask him if you need it

Kathleen D17, DIA Sept 24, Fremont

Louise, Institutions, Yvonne and I will be glad to do training in your district.

Juaneta, DR 7, Quarterly speaking meeting July 30, El Dorado Hills, fundraiser for Alateen, Carla G speaking, 7-9 PM. She will also do a workshop later in August.

Debbie D5. Host committee, discussed Love gifts; take them home.

Respectfully Submitted,
Johanna MM
NCWSA Secretary