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 ordered in a topical fashion.

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**SUMMARY SECTION:**

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

Friday evening: GR Orientation /NCWSC coordinators meeting/ DR’s meeting

Saturday and Sunday:  
**Ground rules** at Assembly were presented:  
At mike speak only 2 minutes  
Start and end on time  
No side conversations  
Turn cell phones off  
Avoid side distractions  
When people sharing on issues, discussions, we don’t clap  
If someone already says something you plan to say, don’t get up and speak too  
Please stay on topic  
Be respectful of one another and presume good will.  

**Coordinators, Committees, Officers, and Delegate Reports** were shared.
Pat Q, Associate Director of Communications - Public Outreach/Media at WSO, gave a workshop on **Public Outreach**. Pat was also the evening Speaker.

**The Area keeping the Focus Checkbox** on Al-Anon Group Record Registration Form, A16, was discussed extensively using KBDM questions:

- **Question 1:** What do we know about members or prospective members needs that is relevant to this discussion?
- **Question 2:** What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue?
- **Question 3:** What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture)?
- **Question 4:** What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)? In other words, will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?
- **Question 5:** What do we wish we knew, but don’t?

The Assembly voted to continue the Checkbox.

**The 2013 Budget** was discussed, amended, and approved.

**Intergroup Reps and District Reps** gave reports.

**The Area Structure** was discussed in new business: we have the approval of WSO to make changes to our structure on a temporary basis that could become permanent later. If we are happy with our structure we can keep it as is. Information was shared about the history of NCWSA. The trial period for changing the structure is 6 years starting with the 2012 World Service Conference. We will be discussing this over many meetings.

TSAs were presented throughout, on the Past (Lois and Anne), Present, Future, Voices, Consistency, Prisons, the International Convention (“Let’s Celebrate” performed) and more.

The DR Choir sang “We are family.”

**MOTIONS AND CONSENSUS**

Voting member count, Saturday early: 234
Voting later morning: 257
Voting member count: (after lunch) 229

1210.01
**Motion: To Approve Minutes from October 2011 Assembly.**
(Minutes can be found on the www.ncwsa.org website, in the “Service” section)
Passed by consensus, with a few abstentions.

1210.02
**Motion: That the NCWSA should retain the Focus check box on the NCWSA Group Registration Form (A16) for NCWSA uses.**
Moved: Cindi N., District 11, Seconded: Clare P., District 14
Passed by substantial unanimity, Opposed: 20, Abstentions: 3
Motion carries

1210.03
**Motion: To accept DeDe’s proposal of Alameda County Fairgrounds for next year’s Fall Assembly Oct 25-26-27, 2013**
Moved: Elisa, District 5; Seconded: Reme, District 5
Passed by substantial unanimity
(Note: location of Fall Assembly was later changed due to lack of availability)

1210.04
Motion: To allow Facility Coordinator, DeDe, to book a community center or school for May 2013 one-day Assembly. She will try for classroom seating but in any case will provide chairs, not benches.
Moved: Jackie B.; Seconded: Marilyn, D14
Passed by unanimity.

1210.05
Motion: To Approve Amended 2013 Budget at $100,020 Income, $100,020 expense.
Moved: Jackie B., Seconded: Bruce
Approved by substantial unanimity, 5 no, 13 abstentions.

NOTICES:

SEND Group Record Change Forms (A16) to Carol G., 5314 Nelson Street, Sacramento, CA 95820.

ALL Fliers need to be approved by Charli, AAPP.
CORRECTION TO THE SUMMARY AS PRINTED IN 12-STEPPER (“Fliers need to be approved by Charli, AAPP, if Alateens are mentioned on the flyer.”)

International Convention (July 4-7, 2013, Vancouver, Canada) topic is The Spiritual Journey of Changing Me to We.

Please let your groups know to send all NCWSA donations (make check payable to NCWSA) to:
NCWSA Treasurer
P.O. Box 728
Vacaville, CA 95696-0728

Old PO box no longer works! See form A25 on website under Service>Forms on website.

ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS

Q. Can my group have another GR so I can move to another group to be their GR?
A. An Al-Anon member can only be GR for one meeting. If you attend regularly, elected by the group, you could stand for that. Give notice to the one you already represent first.

Q. A Neighboring town has no GR, does the GR get the 12stepper sent to the GRs home address.
A. Yes, if that’s the address they put on A16 group registration.

Q. Group members asked why our institutions seem to focus on state prisons (or appear to do so)?
A. Historically the districts of NCWSA have approached county jails, juvenile halls and other institutions as listed in Guideline 9. They provide volunteers, literature to take to meetings into these facilities.
As NCWSA Institutions Coordinator I have participated in District Institutions workshops to support the members going into county jails and juvenile halls. In other words, districts pick what county/city institutions to go into.
One reason NCWSA focuses on state prisons is due to the nature of the institutions, requiring so many volunteers and literature. The regulations guidelines and policy are extensive and are important to follow.

Q. What are the Al-Anon approved prayers that can be used at meetings. Can groups use prayer with their permission from other 12 step groups?
A. There are no APPROVED Al-Anon prayers. The Big Book is not used, not Al-Anon copyrighted. Al-Anon does not use any literature or prayer copyrighted by another organization – see Traditions 3 and 6. The Unity prayer is copyrighted by OA. It should not be used in Al-Anon. The Al-Anon declaration is recommended for closing.

Q. Is it a matter of autonomy when a group reads the AA promises as part of their meeting format? I attended a meeting that does this. I questioned this and a group conscience was conducted. The group elected to continue reading the AA promises. Is this ok as long as a group conscience is taken?
A. See page 101 of the Service Manual: "While individuals may use whatever they find helpful as part of their personal recovery outside meetings, Al-Anon does not include or recommend anything other than Al-Anon literature. When sharing at a meeting, members limit any mention of outside material to a brief reference. AA Literature is not used at Al-Anon meetings because it is written for and from the viewpoint of alcoholics and is not CAL. Reliance on opinions expressed in AA and other outside materials can distort the Al-Anon approach.”
Consider instead the reading on the gifts of the Al-Anon program, found on page 269 of From Survival to Recovery (B-21).

Q. Why is it important that NCWSA members who are in positions of service (GRs, DRs, Coordinators, Delegates, etc.) have both service and regular sponsors?
A. A personal sponsor supports you in your personal recovery and in your daily life. Service sponsors support you in your service work and that is their only function. They should have had experience in the service work you are doing. Personal sponsor may not be able to guide you in your service work. If service issue is really a personal issue, your service sponsor will refer you to your personal sponsor.

Q. It’s my understanding that Al-Anon meetings are open to everyone. I have an issue with meetings being Women only. Are not all Al-Anon meetings open to everyone if we so choose?
A. “All Al Anon meetings are open to all members,” service manual page 32. The welcome may not be as warm, but according to policy any member may attend any meeting.

Q. What can we do if a secretary is not following the meeting guidelines to where it is jeopardizing the attendance at the meeting?
A. We have conflict resolution fold out, also group inventory, ask for election of a new secretary. You need to be willing to be up front and discuss what the reasons are that you want to replace. When you do not talk about the problem the problem continues. If someone is not following your guidelines please bring it up!

Q. When meetings have closed or changed and form submitted, we still receive mail for those meetings as if they still exist. How do we make these permanent changes/deletions?
A. Please send the mail back to WSO or NCWSA, from whence it came. WSO will mark as inactive eventually. They give you about 2 years to not recognize the mail. Carol, the group records coordinator can do little but she will do what she can.

Q. Why aren’t AA members allowed to be GRs?
A. Service manual: Dual members in Al-Anon (Alateen) and AA. It is ok to hold service positions in groups. They cannot hold office beyond group level. There is a possibility of conflict of interest and for these reasons nor do they sit on WSO Committees. See page 70 and 79 of current service manual. This discussion has been going on for a long time and will be discussed at next WSO Conference.

Q. Is it permitted for GR to visit another District meeting to see and learn from their experience, strength and hope?
A. Yes, all district business meetings are open and you will find the schedule of them on the website service calendar.

Q. Do other district meetings have a provision for members to attend and personally ask for help?
A. District meetings are open – anybody may go. At the district meeting we have time for GR issues or any other issues one may encounter in service.

Q. Can an illegal immigrant serve as an AMIAS (be Alateen sponsor)?
A. Every applicant must pass a background check by fingerprint. Going through fingerprinting could trigger an INS alert for them. It is up to individual but could trigger a review. And the background check would likely not pass due to this as well.

Q. Why do we not have electronic literature?
A. Only two pieces of literature are being considered now for electronic, and will be available in 2013. Then we will see what will happen. They wouldn’t be solely available electronically (except for piece that is out of print). The 12 Stepper is posted electronically on our website.

Q. Are we violating the traditions by using Google phones, Yahoo groups, etc?
A. We don’t want to endorse any products; that would violate traditions. We use yahoo groups but refer to it as a list serve, so it doesn’t look like we are.

Q. Is there a list for districts to do a district meeting inventory?
A. A district can come up with questions from the list of meeting questions.

Q. There is some resentments brewing because of the number of 7th tradition contributions requested: group, intergroup, NCWSA, WSO, Alateen, Institutions literature can. This seems like too much money and too much time taken out of meeting to read appeals, explain, pass baskets, etc.
A. At all levels, Al-Anon is self-supporting. Groups pass baskets at every meeting. WSO sends an appeal 4x/year. NCWSA tries to send an appeal annually. The “pink can” can be sent just once a month, with the basket, explanation or not, as the group decides. Each group can decide how much time they will take, how often, to send around any appeal.

Q. Can the Agendas and schedules at NCWSA business meetings and Assembly be shortened so service volunteers only meet for an 8-hour day, 9 to 6 pm (and cover just voting items or procedural changes)? The late night and very early start times are hard on service volunteers, who can read reports in the 12 stepper or on the NCWSA list serve. It would be wonderful to have time to actually enjoy fellowship & the district regions where meetings are held. Are the very long days at NCWSA business meetings & Assembly good program?
A. There is a balance between the business we need to conduct and reports – where districts do reports at this meeting, they need to be heard, seen, and validated. Please give feedback on evaluation forms if this is an issue for you—the evaluation forms are reviewed and information brought back to the meetings.

Q. If a district received NSF Check, is there a recommended procedure?
A. In some districts, the person is asked to make good on the check and any fees. Remember, the NSF check might be a symptom of the family disease and we could have some sympathy for the person who wrote the NSF check. If there were no satisfaction, one would have to take the loss and chalk it up to experience – and not accept a check from that member again.

Q. Why is ASL not being included in interpretive services?
A. If someone wants to do service above group level, the diversity coordinators will be glad to interact with that person and see what we can do.
Q. What is proper reimbursement for a speaker or group rep when attending an event like Assembly?
A. NCWSC has approved using the current business mileage rate, although many of us donate some funds back to NCWSA.

Q. Is newcomer welcome CAL?
A. Patrick not sure if the one they are using is conference approved. Pages 25-27 of service manual offer welcomes that are helpful to new members.

Q. Has the provision been made to provide the money for professional translation for the next Assembly?
A. Yes. It was approved as part of the budget for 2013.

Q. When are we going to get more books translated into Spanish?
A. It helps to be squeaky wheels, go ahead and inquire at WSO about translation and including How Al-Anon Works soft cover. How do we do that? Call or email.

Q. What is the difference between a beginners meeting and an Introductory Meeting?

Q. With the economy “In the Tank” so to speak why is it so important to hold such a costly one-day assembly? If it is to disseminate information from the WSO Conference in a timely manner, why not move the three-day assembly to the month after WSC and eliminate the expense of the one-day?
Answer:

A. First, we plan way ahead and don’t know what the economy will be like 2 years down the road.
B. Second, change is hard and slow in Al-Anon. We have had a Fall Assembly “forever” and added a Spring Assembly for the Delegate’s report.
C. Third, the Delegates also meet to get our feedback. A single Assembly a year is not enough for communication both to and from the Delegate.
D. Fourth, we’ll consider it, along with electronic meetings, using less expensive places/ways to hold the Spring Assembly.

Addendum in email by Johanna MM, Alt Delegate:
At the October Assembly, I answered an Ask-It Basket question about the multiple requests for funds that go around our meetings. Each meeting collects a 7th Tradition for its own needs, which is its first obligation. Some send around a separate collection to send their GR to Assembly. WSO sends a quarterly appeal for individuals to donate to WSO, and they ask to have it read at 2 or 3 meetings each time. Some Districts and AIS's or Intergroups also solicit funds. NCWSA is supposed to send an appeal letter annually. Sometimes NoCAC solicits funds. And then there is the pink can for donations for Literature for Institutions.

I erred in my answer. I suggested that we can send the pink can around monthly rather than at every meeting. I'm sure I heard that somewhere, but it is not any established policy. Each group is autonomous in how they want to handle the pink can. Some don’t have it at all, though it is suggested and hoped that every group would. Some pass it around with the 7th Tradition basket every meeting. Some, like mine, pass it around every month. Some leave it on the literature table or Secretary's desk and let anyone come up to donate. The point is, it is up to a group conscience decision how often the can is passed around, if at all. Our Institutions Coordinator would like it sent around more rather than less, but how often is each group’s decision.

I hope I have adequately clarified my response. Please circulate this to your GRs, District Reps.
ROUTINE BUSINESS:

SATURDAY
Assembly opened at 8:02 with Serenity Prayer by all; Traditions (Juline), Concepts (Joan K), Warranties (Johanna) read.
Chairperson welcomed everyone.
Committee roll call was taken and district hollers were given.

Veronica volunteered to be timer.

SUNDAY
Assembly opened at 8:00 with Serenity Prayer by all; Traditions (Joe), Concepts, Warranties read.
Chairperson gave her report (see below under Officer’s report)
Committee roll call was taken.
Voting Procedures review - John S.
No lunch was taken.
Meeting closed at 1 PM.

Vote counts were taken:
First Vote count: 234 GRs, so 118 is majority.
Sat 10:15 am - Second Vote count: 257 GRs.
Sat 1:50 pm - Third Vote count: 229 GRs

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION SECTION:

Does NCWSA want to continue to maintain Group Focus as a separate identifier of a group?
Past Delegate John S., Presenter

- Group Focus – AAC, LBGT, Parents, Men, Women, Regular Al-Anon
  - WSO has removed the Group Focus identification box from the WSO group registration form.
  - Discussion (Knowledge Based Decision Making – KDBM) Should NCWSA maintain this data element (Group Focus) in our group registration form (A16) so we can search for meetings with it?

Question 1: What do we know about our members’ or prospective members’ needs that is relevant to this discussion?

1. Placing principles above personalities enhances unity and contributes to effective leadership.
2. Members look for meetings that meet their specific needs.
3. Using only the name to identify a group’s focus requires reading all of the names of the meetings on the list.
4. Meetings with a particular focus attract members or prospective members interested in that focus.

Question 2: What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue?

1. We already have a database set up with this data element populated.
2. Shared leadership experience, combined with the spiritual principles contained in the Three Legacies, help overcome fears, and self-doubts about lost of unity.
3. CAL, WSC Summaries, and Guidelines augment the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual as resources to encourage and engage membership participation.
4. A vision of abundance can be created in Areas where these organizational supports are in place and utilized.

**Question 3: What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture), evolving dynamics of the world and our fellowship’s environment (technology, our Legacies and spiritual principles) that is relevant to this discussion? What are the pros and cons?**

1. Solutions can be found by practicing leadership through application of the Legacies and the wisdom of our past experiences.
2. Supporting our members’ needs requires flexibility at all levels.
3. Use of our spiritual principles in our business affairs is vital.
4. Our Legacies can sometimes be used as obstacles to new ideas.
5. Legacies are not always studied and utilized at all levels of the service structure; as a result, sometimes our leaders come ill prepared to serve.
6. We have not fully realized a culture of trust and a presumption of good will.
7. Our membership is predominantly Caucasian females over the age of 50.
8. Technology can be an asset to Al-Anon service when used properly.
9. The success of the Worldwide Fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups is dependent on Areas, districts and groups to ensure that "matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole" be a priority even though "each group should be autonomous"(Tradition Four).
10. Many members of poorly represented minorities cannot find like membered meetings.

**PROS**

- Our very existence is about meeting the needs of our members and future growth.
- Our Legacies and spiritual principles can shed light on and be woven into brainstorming any problem.
- Technology makes communication much more immediate.
- Our fellowship makes an effort to reach out and be inclusive of people of different genders, sexual orientation, religions, ethnicities, etc.
- Technology (e-mails, e-Communities, blogs, Web sites, PSAs, etc.) can enhance timely, more frequent communications, generate excitement and participation, and allow for local participation and involvement

**CONS**

- Members are unwilling to examine new ideas, preferring to rely on what has worked throughout the years.
- Areas are unable to implement new ideas when the Delegate is not able to adequately convey ideas from the WSC.
- Technology may jeopardize anonymity and hamper communication because it leaves out inflection, body language, etc. and negatively impacts those members who do not have access and/or the ability to use computers and the latest electronic equipment.
- Our membership may find it difficult to relate to others who are different; we may not always appear welcoming or inclusive.
- We forget to invite God/HP into our service work.
- Some members are unwilling to practice our Legacies.
- Our perspective may be limited by the lack of diversity in our fellowship.

**Question 4: What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)? In other words, will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?**

Our decisions will be consistent with our spiritual principles if we:

1. Keep principles above personalities.
2. Communicate clearly, with no hidden agendas.
4. Keep in sight our primary purpose.
5. Use a full understanding of all of Al-Anon’s spiritual principles.

**Question 5: What do we wish we knew, but don’t?**

1. Why does WSO want to remove the focus of the groups?
2. What would be an acceptable compromise between the needs of large areas and small?
3. What feedback has been received that would indicate specific issues? What solutions have been used to resolve them to date?
4. How has the issue been framed at WSO?

Comments:

One person commented that identification of meeting focus increases our number, that special focus is more inclusionary than divisive.

The data entry issue of group records – this could mean additional duty for data entry

Another person wanted to clarify that WSO wants us to move this information from check box to title of meeting. Names are still searchable.

Another person belongs to special interest group that isn’t in a checkbox. WSO didn’t like the names they chose. They think that having the focus in the name may make people go away. Specific group foci are inclusive. But in the name they could be a problem.

Some people come to Al-Anon wouldn’t come if they didn’t know of a certain focus. It is helpful for them to have more than one way to identify the group.

What we know about our membership needs: One way of increasing diversity is to focus on our similarities.

Focus isn’t divisive unless we think of it that way.

Where can we get copy of KBDM information? John S. will send out the questions

Focus meetings really allow new members or those with trust issues offer a place to share openly.

One person didn’t notice focus box, so any group fit.

Women’s’ meetings and issues of safety at any meeting – Finding meeting that feels comfortable.

Being able to find something quickly is important.

Why not have focused beginner meetings and then regular meetings without focus? Groups have focuses and that should be readily ascertainable. Check box serves that purpose.

Someone pointed out that whether we should have focus groups isn’t the topic.

Someone spoke about safety in meetings back in 1982, people drove to gay meetings, there is an Old-timer’s meeting, for instance.
Experienced database person spoke to that focus in different in checkbox than in name. How you search is different.

What are resources of time needed to keep a separate database?

Someone had questions – what will vote mean. Women in the title. Are we talking about the schedule? (printed). Paper schedule is published by the district. Checkbox used on website.

Alt Website Coordinator spoke to give information – he maintains maps that include focus, and also working with group records coordinator –

1. Is it dual maintenance? Yes
2. Is it more work than we are doing now? No.

WSO increasing their sophistication, coming up to the level we have been working at for a number of years.

Search function is not same as a category in a database. So searching names not the same as having a focus box.

Sometimes the focus makes a person hesitate to just go to a meeting.

John S. asks for show of hands of people who do not feel like they have enough information 12-15 raised hands. Ready to make decision – vast majority.

**Motion 1210.02**

*That the NCWSA should retain the Focus check box on the NCWSA Group Registration Form (A16) for NCWSA uses.*

Moved: Cindi N., District 11, Seconded: Clare P., District 14

Passed by substantial unanimity, Opposed: 20, Abstentions: 3

**GRs had Round Table discussions after lunch for 15 minutes.**

**Budget 2013 Discussion towards approval** - Johanna MM

Assembly 2010 – Santa Clara, very expensive. On budget then moved Committee lodging from Assembly to Committee. 9800 + to Committee and -5000 to Assembly. Budget we have for Assembly facilities – Coordinator says closer to $7000 than $3000 where it stands now. (As $6000, other half for other stuff). Where is it going to come from? Re-allocated, moved from one place to another, we have it.

Question on Donations looking high compared to last year.
Events generally self-supporting – is this a philosophy? Cost should be what they are, and we should have registration increase.

There was a suggestion made to do away with the one-day assembly. Johanna responded with talk about the WSO Conference and Delegate coming back and sharing the information being the purpose of the one-day Assembly.

Where is 2013 Assembly being held? Central – which is Bay Area and more expensive.

DeDe spoke to the general question – eliminate one day. Maybe something in between. No way to accommodate in classroom style. Maybe we can lower costs by going back to older style.

Debbie: hear Delegates report in one-day assembly – can we maybe do it another way, up on
YouTube?

**Motion:** To approve Amended Budget for 2013 at $100,020 Income, $100,020 expense, substantial unanimity, 5 no, 13 abstentions.

**Workshop on Public Outreach** - Pat Q., Associate Director of Communications – Public Outreach/Media at WSO

There are many new tools for outreach that are inexpensive, to reach those who haven’t yet found Al-Anon. The Best of Public Outreach, P90 is a “How to Do It’ service tool for public outreach activities.

The purpose of public outreach is the twelfth step. Attraction versus promotion: paralysis can result. Promotion: promising something that can’t be delivered.

There is a value of sharing with Al-Anon members what we get out of service. Pat was a group hugger. Size people up – can they handle a hug, a handshake, a high-five. People started treating him as if he was part of Al-Anon In group. Belonging.

Paralysis can happen around anonymity. What happens if we reveal our membership? Don’t use last names or full face in public media. Also, regarding family members, co-workers, don’t be interviewed and describe a situation that is recognizable to people.

Encouragement to let people know Al-Anon is available. It is really important for people to find this program.

Pat was interviewed on Straight Talk, and interviewer introduced him full name and talking on Anonymity. So he went on with interview but said, “you just broke my anonymity.” Providing safe haven.

You have to ask many times, anticipate the problems – they are accustomed to giving names, pictures, all to establish credibility.

Opportunities now:
- News items
- PSA public service announcements
- DVD broadcast
- Internet posting
- Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism
- Podcast
- Billboard campaign

WSO Al-Anon has a distribution service. Video on Al-Anon and Alateen’s role in Family recovery - this is about 2 years old. Now being done with French and Spanish subtitles. Being used in community access radio stations. $5 for DVD that is broadcast quality. 12 min long segment. Question asked: not for deaf, in English. The DVD is in the CAL catalogue. Include it in literature order. AV31.

Al-Anon podcast – 3 people from audience have participated in making podcasts. They are under “first steps to Al-Anon recovery” Mini-audio meetings. People who are looking for help find these some times when surfing the web. Some topics:

*How do you handle unacceptable behavior?*
*How do you handle drinking over the holidays?*
Anyone who is interested in participating in podcasts – write to Wso@alanon.org attn.: public outreach. Say that you want to participate in podcast. Can use a corded phone, cell phones don’t work so well.

On Al-Anon members website there is a skills and abundant resources survey, includes public speaking or communication. New membership survey is on the website too.

Podcasts – some in Spanish and French not quite as many as in English. Some are made for professional audiences and others for young people.

New tools: You Tube; Facebook Page

In Service Manual, WSO has been a publishing house for Al-Anon

Draw from larger group conscious-world wide communication tools – how we use them. WSO has a collection of videos on You Tube –

Doesn’t participation break Anonymity? – These are passive sites. Sharing information in order to attract people to a face-to-face meeting. Not the opportunity to reveal your full name
People publishing own clips on You Tube – ask to support principles to change name no longer violate logo and copyright logo laws or disband their site.

Purpose is to attract people to their first face-to-face meeting.

Make lists of stations that show which stations play PSAs. Appeal to members to focus on TV. Negotiated new contractors for radio and TV.

All are invited to participate in Podcasts.

Please go public within the fellowship about your successes and even flops.

Some options are: electronic bulletin boards. Spanish-speaking Al-Anon PSAs on buses.

Area Specific Information:

People who received a copy of 2011-12 PSA - Showed list of areas.  Airplay report: both in English and Spanish.

With any public outreach campaigns, please include what this service did for you personally:

Veronica, D12 San Francisco:  service in public outreach campaign. Helped her to grow up and get out of her head. They revamped their speaker meeting and their flyers for it. Created illustrations, added QR code – square barcode that you can scan with your smart phone takes you to their website. Veronica is willing to show anyone else how to do that.

David: bought 20 of the AV for the prisons. Inmates can play them on their internal television system in state prisons. Focus on how I say something, his growth increased from doing it.

Question:  PI coordinator for District 19 in Fresno, takes DVD to radio station, will not accept it, they need to have it recorded in their studio word for word. Let WSO know and WSO will take care of it – can send a transcript. Different stations have different formats.
They are playing it every quarter.

Diana, District18: Alateen sponsor AV31 used it in presentation with sixth grade classes. Spoke to an Alateen about how to present it. Show a section, engage, show a section, engage. She feels so elated when she leaves the room. AV31 is perfect with Alateen and with professionals.

Beth Ann, D31: formed a new group on Young People, wasn’t in the program a year yet when she did that, grew up with a parent super into service, began some real outreach to get members. Put flyers out, got new members. Service is taking responsibility for recovery for her. She doesn’t want to let others down

Debbie, D18: got a call couple of weeks ago AA member doing some outreach at probation dept. Glad to help, called institutions coordinator, media coordinator, went as standing Alateen coordinator. Room packed at juvenile hall. 4 people standing around, 6 foot table. Went around to booths, instead of waiting could go out and distribute.

Tom: 8 or 9 years ago he was public information coordinator. He went to an event with police officer, lawyer, counselor, was invited to talk about his story. There was suicide, homicide, genocide thoughts in his story. The gift of being able to be honest is huge gift to boost the recovery.

Nancy D, D26: in the mid to late 60s, D26 was part of D15 back then, they raised money to put posters in buses. She was a community radio producer at the time. Her name and voice was known she couldn’t identify herself as Al-Anon, but was able to do a series of programs. Felt silenced so much.

Chris A-C, Diversity Coordinator: Some years back there was a celebration of Lois birthday, she took bookmarks to public places. She met a woman invited to get on light rail and drop these bookmarks on the light rail. Got the fellowship of someone who was afraid of the fellowship. Sharing recovery with one another, that’s what she loves about recovery.

Louise, former institutions coordinator: She took literature into the institutions, many meetings now in institutions. Going into the prisons has been remarkable for her. She knows that some would be hesitant to go into the prisons, hear bars clang shut, etc. She went to Soledad for their birthday and one of the inmates shared what Al-Anon has done for him

Yvonne, Chair: She went into prisons, starting meetings, the guys were shaking and sweating and told their stories. They were grateful around the room. One guy said he is grateful for so and so. I never dreamt that you could unite a building, unity between all different peoples, they sit with each other.

Ruth, I will be very short. I am very short. It doesn’t have to be dramatic. Became Public Outreach person at the district after a couple of years. Sent info to school counselors and didn’t get any results. Maybe do that again. She does promotion. School fair. They go to school fairs.

Pat – please share with others!

**TEAM Events (together empowering Al-Anon Members) – Johanna MM**

TEAM events replaced Service Events by Regional Service Seminars (WSO set these up to make for more Unity, the Regional was once every 24 years in your Area).

Nov 2010 in Livermore – show of hands (few) that attended TEAM, Rick B. Executive director led GR bootcamp; Marsha (WSO Staff), JP (Trustee), offered workshops and so did some of us
We learned how to cooperate with the WSO. The committee – Delegate, Area Chair, Chair of the Site Committee – do phone calls with WSO to iron out details. Reached out to group reps to gather info on what we wanted to do.

Planning further ahead might be helpful. Looking at 2014 to have another TEAM in the area. Show of hands: substantial unanimity interested.

WSO like to share personal stories of recovery so people get to know them as Al-Anon members. We can design and ask them to participate or will design with us. 1 Day Event or 2 Day Event, can’t be comingled with another event (like Convention)

Patrick suggesting for 2014: Create a thought force to generate ideas for TEAM Event: include one DR from each section, 2 GRs from each section (North Central South), conference calls with Patrick, Delegate, and Yvonne, Chair, to talk about how it might be structured.

Any questions?

What kind of workshops? Similar to Day in Al-Anon, workshops, topics directly related to recovery but from a service point of view. Also how to encourage more service could be a workshop.

Question: some problem?

No not a problem solution, this is just an offering of a workshop. Small group for planning only, but hopefully this represents all, information flows.

Has to be on separate flyer from this event.

Comment: someone spoke that they went to attend GR boot camp. Was thrilled with the event, talked with a couple of trustees from east coast, had the executive director of WSO.

Suggestion from someone in diversity service in a district to include someone from Hispanic community in the planning.

How do we break barriers between English speakers and non-English speakers? Talking to Tom, world service literature person on books not being translated.

What are the financial implications of this for the area? It costs money, do what we can to make it self-supporting.

One person spoke to value of this event as a great opportunity for growth.

At TEAM event, diversity person from Virginia Beach, Janie was trying to find way to reach Spanish-speaking people. Biggest she has seen here at this Assembly.

Convention covers recovery related topics. TEAM events cover service related topics.

WSO pays for their costs coming out, we don’t pay those.

Generate thought force, including non-English speaking perspective.

**New Business: AREA STRUCTURE** – Patrick B.

History:

- California split in 1964 (into North and South)
- WSO Meeting Directory listed 69 meetings in Northern CA and 149 in Southern CA
- Service Manual (page 134) may only divide once.

Today:

- Northern California has – 800 meetings
- Southern California has -1,100 meetings

Trial Period:

- 6 years starting with 2012 World Service Conference
- Can’t go against Policy Digest (page 75-118 of Service Manual)
- If affects Conference Structure, need to send to Board by December 15th
- Area pays additional cost

Page 54 of 2012 World Service Conference Summary

Look at what are the needs of the Al-Anon members – how about develop a survey online and by paper – Open up for questions – and next steps

Questions:
Do you want to distribute to members singularly or to groups (like group consensus)? Task force would ponder this.

What other functions does our area provide, such as NOCAL, and how about that.

We are non-profit entity, if we became a different entity

If we decide as an area that we are happy with our structure we don’t need to make any changes

Think mostly people in service would reply but want to include others.

This is task force because want to do a

What problems might it solve for groups/members

District 1 meeting someone from here attended. Aligned with Oregon more than CA

Money piece what it would cost extra in trial period

Alateen perspective: size does matter. Each Area develops its own safety requirements.
Think through impact of current assets and division of that. Forum list can provide survey. Right raindrop fall on right nose?

Body this large is too large to discuss this.

Teleconferencing. Could do that rather than split.

Infrastructure – would all have to go in place. Trial period will take tremendous amount of work, depending on the structure.

Our districts are not serviced! It is hard to get to see all the districts. We would need to file paperwork that would split us into 3 if we choose that route.

Show of hands taken for thought force (go through KBDM questions) or task force (make a survey). The show of hands was split, so we went with a Thought Force to answer the KBDM questions instead of a Task Force to create a survey.

**DISTRICT REPORTS**

**District 1** – Stephanie, DR

District One includes Del Norte and Humboldt counties in California’s most northwest corner, spanning from the Oregon border East to Gasquet and Willow Creek and South to Redway. In addition to multiple weekly Al-Anon meetings in our larger population centers of Crescent City (Sun, Mon, Tues, Thurs); Arcata (Tues & Thurs);

McKinleyville (Sun and Mon); Eureka (daily including Sat morning, evenings: Sun, Mon, Wed, Thurs and at noon on Mon, Wed and Fri); and Fortuna (Mon and Thurs); there are weekly meetings in the smaller rural towns of Gasquet, Willow Creek, and Redway. Sadly, meetings in Smith River, Klamath and Ferndale have closed.

Alateen currently meets Tuesdays in Redway, Mondays in Eureka and weekly at Arcata High School.

On January 17, 2012 an informative GR orientation and Service Manual workshop was held in Arcata.

On February 4 we hosted a speaker meeting potluck for NCWSA Committee members in Eureka.

On April 21st our annual Day In Al-Anon drew nearly 100 people--about District 1’s total membership. An Al-Anon speaker from the Los Angeles area and Gratitude workshop were well received.

On May 5th a Writing Workshop on How Alcoholism Affects Intimacy was held in Eureka. WSO notified four members our shares will be published in the book on that topic or in the Forum. On June 18th the District Rep visited the Willow Creek meeting, shared fellowship and recovery. On June 22nd -24th Al-Anon members and families participated in AA’s HCI Camp Out near Bridgeville. From Aug 31st-Sept 3rd, Labor Day weekend. Al-Anon and AA held our annual Redwood Coast Round Up in Fortuna. Jack C was our Al-Anon guest speaker and facilitated a “Traditions in Relationships” Workshop.

From Sept 28th-30th Al-Anon participated in the annual Sobriety By the Sea event in Crescent City. Karen K from Central Point, Oregon, was the Al-Anon guest speaker and the Saturday workshop focused on results of working the 12 Steps as described on page 269 of From Survival to
Recovery.

From October 12th-14th the DR and FOUR voting GRs from District 1 attended Assembly in Seaside.

On November 10th a Sponsorship Workshop was scheduled in Eureka including an anonymous Ask-It Basket, a panel of experienced members, and a Sponsorship starter kit door prize including CAL and a teapot.

A monthly local Speaker meeting is held in Eureka the last Thursday of each month.

District 1 Central Service meets monthly with 8 to 12 GRs attending for discussion and planning. Our struggles include Public Outreach, unity in diversity, and willingness for Service commitments.

**District 2** - Susie, Alt (Sarah, DR, is away)

Susie has been alt DR for about a year, Sarah is going to be stepping down, so Susie will be stepping up.

The District includes Lake and Mendocino counties, Ranchland. It is the Southern corner of emerald triangle.

In district 2 there are 16 meetings held each week. About 3 years ago the district meeting was primarily attended by members from one meeting. Now there are 8 members coming from many different meetings. At least half of group reps have to drive over an hour to get to the district meeting.

The district is creating its own website, and they hope to have up and running soon.

Day in Al-Anon on January 26th in Ukiah, come on up and share the joy!

Group reps attending this Assembly: 4 from different parts of the district.

**District 3** – Sue M.

2012 has been a challenging year for District 3. I so wish I could report that at the District level we have many accomplishments of carrying the message to families that still suffer from this disease of alcoholism and that there is peace and serenity in the district. But I can’t.

Not to fear, Al-Anon has taught me to keep the faith in our Higher Power, keep reading the service manual, learning the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties, and one day at a time we will work through our own self will to get to God’s will for District 3.

Also, as DR, I just recommended to the district that we invest in a District Group Inventory! I hope my next DR report to the Area can provide some great learning from the adventure it promises it to be.

One issue that I am very excited about and would like to share today, as it may help other districts, is the issue of a dedicated Al-Anon Hotline. District 3 Al-Anon overlaps with at least 2 AA Districts. The AA Districts have been supporting the hotline. As the AA DCM said to me on the phone recently, “Do you see the irony here that AA has been enabling Al-Anon?”

So, our HP has recently provided a possible solution for District 3 – an “internet” telephone number! It is FREE to any individual or business so an email and phone number can be published when any one reaches out looking for Al-Anon.

I have just formed a committee but don’t have a Coordinator yet. I hope that, the next time we meet at Assembly, I can report that District 3 is carrying the message of Al-Anon to families reaching out for help and actually getting an Al-Anon member, not an AA answering service.

They currently have 17 meetings but Alateen closed this year.
**District 5 – Debbie C., DR**

**Meetings:** There are 58 active meetings in our district. I am thrilled to live in a district that offers meetings any day of the week, and often at various times of the day. Ten groups meet in the morning, and six at mid-day/afternoon.

Of our 58 meetings:

- Two are women’s groups, one men’s group, three adult child-focused groups (two of which are in Spanish), and two fragrance-free groups. Six meetings offer childcare.
- Five groups are Spanish-language.
- Seven are Alateen meetings, including five that meet in middle or high schools.

**Challenges and Solutions:** Last January, two meetings from Santa Rosa had to find new locations. It was inspiring to witness and be a part of this process. The way so many members pulled together to research and decide on new locations seemed to me to be a sign of healthy groups. I saw Al-Anon principles in action, such as Tradition 1 – unity, and Concept 4 – participation, as well as Knowledge-Based Decision Making.

Later on in the year, I was presented with my first real challenge at the district level. I was curious to see what Higher Power would put in front of me in the course of this service, but still it was a surprise when we were handed a serious and labor-intensive challenge regarding our treasury. As with the example from the group level, we applied and continue to use our program principles to see us through. I am especially grateful for the unity expressed in the kindness, graciousness, and understanding of our district members. And as always I am in awe of the dedication and commitment of our trusted servants to step up and make the extra effort when needed.

**Committees and Events:** The district has a finance committee now. There are principles of accountability and visibility that speak not only to our responsibilities as trusted servants, but also to our requirements as a non-profit corporation.

Our Holiday Bash committee chairperson runs an ongoing monthly committee meeting for this annual event, which is going into its ninth year. This year’s bash has a Western theme, “Riding the Road to Recovery,” and will be held Saturday Dec. 8. You all are invited!

Our events coordinator put together a committee to help the women’s and men’s groups host a summer BBQ/potluck/speaker meeting. It was a lovely event held in a park in September.

Earlier this year, before we even got an events coordinator, the district hosted a writing workshop. At the end of March District 5 and our neighboring District 11 (Marin county) teamed with the Area literature coordinator to put on a workshop based on writing for the WSO’s new proposed book on intimacy. Both of these events were very well attended and well received.

**Outreach:** Our diversity and public outreach coordinators are continuing to reach out to the Spanish-speaking communities. This year we began distributing a Spanish-language version of our printed schedules.

Our institutions coordinator has worked to open a couple of new shelter meetings this year.

Although most of the 26 officer and coordinator positions for the district have been filled, we are still looking for an Alateen outreach coordinator. In the meantime, GRs have been letting their group members know about the need for more Alateen sponsors, particularly those who could help fill the need for more meetings in schools.

**Services:** Our Literature Distribution Center is very active and running smoothly. We are grateful...
for the opportunity to serve not only our own district but also counties to the north.

To provide information, we have a voicemail system as well as help line volunteers, as well as printed schedules and a district website.

About half a year into this new panel, we finally filled the newsletter coordinator position and now distribute a bi-monthly newsletter.

Gratitude: I’d like to ask my district’s GRs to stand up and send them some love. It is always thrilling to see the enthusiasm and level of participation as groups send their GRs to be their voice and vote at Assembly, as a living connection to Al-Anon Family Groups worldwide.

**District 6** - Molly, DR – No Written Report

**District 7** - John A., DR

Attending Assembly: One GR and Alt DR. District 7 has 17 meetings, 3-4 Alateen meeting, one starting up in a special receiving home for children, they thought we would just agree, but one person working there – Alateen meetings can only be run by approved Sponsors. Starting up soon.

Almost all meetings are focus meetings, glad to see that. 7 is a small district in Sacramento, where the districts are really close together.

Go to local fairs – have tables, quarterly speaker meetings. They do fundraising.

Service – leave keys on table – one outgoing GR, if all positions get filled I will step up and be DR, and that’s what happened.

**District 8** - Tobin, DR

Here to share Experience strength and growth. District 8 has committees and coordinator positions. They are in Sacramento downtown, into Galt, up to Rancho Cordova, and West Sacramento.

It is truly a spiritual program, helping one another, how healthy we can be with ourselves and with our rooms and with our districts. They keep adding chairs. Thank you to all.

There is a Sacramento Area writing workshop first weekend in November with Diana, Literature Coordinator coming up.

They are encouraged to help one another, long time members cited, Javier, with Spanish-speaking group.

**District 9** - Roger, DR

District 9 includes portions of El Dorado and Amador counties in the gold country foothills east of Sacramento. We have a total of 14 Al-Anon Family group meetings that meet on a weekly basis. In addition we also have two Newcomer meetings and one Alateen meeting that is planning to move to a new night and location where an Al-Anon and AA meeting are taking place at the same time, with the hope of gaining improved Alateen attendance.

During 2012 we have had two District fundraisers that allow us to offer our smaller groups assistance. We continue to have our bi-monthly Open Speaker meetings where we are able to attract speakers from surrounding districts to share their experience, strength, and hope. These meetings have been very well attended by both long time and new members. We also have our bi-monthly
business meetings, which have proven quite productive and are well attended by the District Officers, Coordinators, and Group Representatives. Even several groups that have no GR’s regularly send a representative to our District meetings so that information can be taken back to their groups.

During this year I have had the pleasure and honor to visit every Al-Anon Family Group that holds meetings in District 9. While the distance between our meetings is great, the shared fellowship and recovery has been well worth the effort. When I leave each meeting I always feel very humbled and thankful for the blessings that Al-Anon has given me and I believe that the members in each group feel that they are an important part of the Al-Anon family.

Our District is also having a workshop on November 3rd that will have two panel discussions: “Sponsorship” followed by “Sex and Intimacy.” The panel will include five longtime members who are actively working their recovery program. The workshop will also include a writing component to encourage more members to share their recovery.

Our District still struggles with attracting more members to step up to service but we are hopeful that our “Higher Power” will continue to provide us with what we need. It has been a privilege to serve this year with such a fantastic group of GR’s and Coordinators who are willing to provide their time and energy to making District 9 “The Best.”

**District 10 - Ally, Alt DR**
District 10 stretches from the eastern border of Sacramento to Truckee up to Grass Valley and over to Folsom!

District 10 has 49 Al-Anon, 4 Alateen and 3 Prison meetings each week.

We hold a monthly business meeting and the attendance by GRs is excellent.

D10 participated in AA with Al-Anon participation - both Spring Fling and Auburn Unity Day.

D10 hosts a speaker meeting once a month- each month is sponsored by a different group.

D10 held an annual ice cream social in the spring. And we also held our first ever Day in Al-Anon this past September. The proceeds from those events helped to scholarship Alateens and sponsors attending Woods and NoCAC. 12 Alateens and sponsors were able to attend Woods from these scholarships. The proceeds also help the GRs of smaller groups to attend Assembly.

This year we created a Thought Force to discuss and problem solve over a meeting in our area that is not using CAL. A member wanted this meeting delisted. The Thought Force was created and after 9 months of speaking with delegates and poring over the service manual- the Thought Force concluded that the district is not the Al-Anon Police. If a member has an issue with a meeting- D10 will be supportive but also suggest that member attend the business meeting of the meeting in question. The district voted and approved this conclusion.

Thanks to all who were on The Thought Force.

Participated in Spring Fling in Sacramento, and Auburn Unity Day. D10 held an Ice Cream Social on March 17. They raised full scholarships for Alateens to go to the Westminster Woods. Then hosted first day in Al-Anon, raised $1700. Mostly they raise money for Alateens. They also raise money for new GRs to go to Assembly.

**District 11 - Kim R., DR**
Thank you to the Area panel for your continued service, support & leadership as we “carry the message’ in district 11, Marin County.
Another shout out to District 24 of Monterey Bay for the hospitality & fellowship this weekend, you are wonderful hosts. Thank you.

At this time, all of our 30 meetings, including 2 Alateen meetings, are continuing to grow and thrive. Even our Saturday 10 am Parent’s focus meeting membership is up—and we thought it was at capacity at 200—best estimates are approximately 250 regular attendees (!) and they have added a Beginner meeting on the last Saturday of the month, our second in District 11.

We continue to pass a meeting list to collect phone numbers for each new attendee that we offer to newcomers as part of their Newcomer packet. On that meeting list they will find a plethora of options and foci in order to locate a meeting that may best suit their needs. Should they have additional questions or just need someone to talk to, the phone numbers are right there. Our hope is that the 200 lb. phone is just a little bit lighter. Saving time at the end of each meeting for “newcomer shares” gives us an opportunity to give them a special welcome to AFG in our district.

Included on our current meeting list is a Saturday meeting at the San Quentin prison H-Unit. Following the principles of the program, the members of that group took a group conscience and made a request to be listed as a part of our fellowship in district 11. We are collectively humbled to realize that bars, walls or barbed wires do not spare any of us of from the effects of dealing with the disease of alcoholism in a loved one or family member.

With attendance up, it appeared that willing Sponsors were down. In an effort to increase awareness on the importance, significance and gift of this vital tool of our 12-step program, our Alternate DR, Mary C. of Mill Valley, hosted a Sponsorship Thought Force. Both lovingly and thoughtfully presented, many now feel inspired to both find and/or be a Sponsor. Details of both the event and the shares can be found on our marinalanon.org website.

We are blessed to have Diana S., our Area literature coordinator, as a regular member in our district. Earlier this year, she and Debbie C., the DR of district 5 up the road, organized a writing workshop for the upcoming book on Intimacy in Alcoholic relationships. Members from Sonoma & Marin counties had opportunity to meditate, write and then share on their experiences, strength and hope on this often challenging, and important topic.

A surplus of funds in or Alateen reserve allowed us to sponsor local Alateens to attend Westminster Woods last May. Inspired by the Sponsors R-n-R retreat and nudging from our Higher Power, a Thought Force is underway to resume Alakid in our district as well.

Lively discussions regarding use of non Conference Approved Literature fired up members, old and new, who are flocking to our Service Manual and discovering that the Concepts may be relevant to our personal recovery, after all.

Possibly inspired by some of these discussions, a new meeting has begun on Sunday evenings— the name? There Is So Much More: The Traditions & Concepts. Welcome!

Currently, all coordinator positions are filled and, at long last, we have a Public Outreach coordinator, Nick. We look forward to reporting on more outreach in the coming year, HP willing.

Working “smarter, not harder”, our Budget coordinator, Catalina has assembled a Budget committee to assist her as we look toward 2013.

Taking the time at our monthly district service meetings to read and discuss the “concept of the month” from The Concepts: Al-Anon’s Best Kept Secret gives us time to get to know each other and to share how service supports our personal recovery journeys. One GR, Nancy, voiced a prayer and asked for support for her group whose both attendance and service positions appeared to be flailing:
simple solution, her prayer was answered!

District 11 GRs and coordinators enjoyed pizza, salad and gluten free rice crispy treats with David B, our Area Institutions Coordinator and Patrick B., our Delegate at our August district service meeting. We happened to be studying Concept 8 and it was an “interesting coincidence” (really???) to have real life examples of “maintaining the vision” of our fellowship.

Most significantly, our local fellowship is learning and growing, mostly grace-full-y, by practicing and applying the spiritual principles of love, compassion and tolerance so that we may be living examples of what Al-Anon is all about-peace, love & understanding for those whose lives are affected by the family disease of alcoholism in district 11, Marin County. Come on by, we’d LOVE to have you.

**District 12** – Cynthia, DR

It has been another great year for our District. The theme this past year has been about service and working together. While we continue to face challenges, participation has grown from last year and this participation has become infectious and has created an enthusiasm to continue to expand our District.

We have approximately 48 meetings with approximately 20 GRs. We have all our major coordinator positions filled. We have approximately 15-20 members regularly attend the District Monthly Business Meeting. It has been an unexplained miracle to see our District come together.

We held A Day in Al-Anon on Aug 25, 2012, which was a big success and lots of workshops on different topics with lots of great speakers from all over the Bay Area. It was wonderful to see service and fellowship come together!

We sent out an appeal letter this year to the groups. The district is discussing using PayPal so individuals can contribute online and also maybe purchase the speaker meeting disks online.

Alateen is healthier than ever. Our District has one meeting with approx. 10 teens, who are able to attend NoCAC and other Alateen events, and a step study meeting. We continue to add new sponsors. The sponsors participate in the Sponsors R&R.

The Alateen coordinator participates regularly at the District Monthly Business Meeting so GRs know what is happening and can bring back the information to their groups.

San Francisco held NoCAC’s 2nd Fundraiser at Ocean Beach on July 21, 2012; it was a beautiful day, good food and fellowship! Lots to be grateful for, thank you HP!

The District Monthly Speaker Meeting has attracted a larger audience over this last year. The coordinator and the committee members have changed the format of the meeting to include a theme for each month, two speakers, and sometimes include fundraising for different arms of service.

Announcements for service and participation are a regular part of the script, which allows for more service opportunities throughout the district. The meetings are recorded, with the speakers” permission, and each group receives a disc at the District Monthly Business Meeting. Many members have requested a copy of these recordings, which has led to many months of meaningful discussions of how the District will provide these recordings to everyone within safe guidelines.

The GRs and coordinators have conducted these discussions in a meaningful, thoughtful and healthy manner. Everyone has had a voice. It has been a long process with positive results.

Institutions has vastly grown over the last year. The coordinator and committee members have started meetings at a senior living community, a meeting at Waldon House and a meeting at the
men’s county jail. There have been introductions into other sections of the county jails.

Our District held its first Institutions training. The Area Coordinator came to speak. Last November, Institutions was the theme at the District Monthly Speaker Meeting that included an AA/Al-Anon son/mother team. It was open to all, included a bake sale and was a great hit!

Our website coordinator has done a great job of reorganizing our website and working with our office worker to keep the meeting list updated and working with the coordinator to post events. It is this consistent upkeep of information that people can rely on to receiving information and getting the information out to all.

Our District has a new Public Outreach Coordinator and public outreach is off to a good start!!

A few business issues have arisen over the last year. The solution to solving these issues has been that the officers have brilliantly worked together to reach solutions. When needed, the GRs have been informed of the challenges of the District and that has resulted in healthy discussions towards solutions. A few GRs have volunteered their knowledge to assist towards creating a healthier District. It is just another reminder that challenges can be met and conquered with positive unity!!

I am forever grateful that I don’t have to be District Rep. alone!! That participation is the key to harmony and that the infectious service bug keeps District 12 growing!! Thank you to District 12, other Districts, and the Area for your support and for letting me be of service.

**District 13 - Agota P., DR**
The District 13, new panel of Officers, Coordinators and Group Reps had a busy past 9 months

- Happy to report that all of our service positions are filled with the exception of the Quarterly Speaker Meeting Coordinator. We still had a few speaker meetings just no coordinator.

- 21 of our 30 Al-Anon meetings in the District have group reps that regularly attend our district meetings. We have just recently added our first Men’s Meeting to our schedule.

- We had several planning meetings on District Finances, laying out the foundation for our Prudent Reserve, creating a Treasurer Guideline and in process creating a Financial Guide-line for our district.

- During 8 out of our 12 business meetings/year, we have our GRs/ Coordinators share about their growth through service. This puts back the focus on Al-Anon away from strictly business!

- We have an answering service for the public to find meetings and talk to members.

- Our website http://www.alanonmidpeninsula.org is in its 4th year! We have over a thousand visits per month. We have now a special page called Literature Corner with Al-Anon Literature of the Month and a Members Share on Al-Anon literature.

- Our members can order from our district’s literature depot through our website and pick it up at our depot or our district meeting.

- We have added two new Alateen meetings to our Coastside bringing it to 4 Alateen meetings a week for our district. We have 13 AMIAS certified through May 2013 and 9 Alateen Sponsors.

- Our Institutions Coordinator is working with the local Woman’s facilities and Juvenile Hall: Hope House to bring Al-Anon to their facilities. We have 10 volunteers ready to staff those meetings.

- Our Public Outreach Coordinator represented Al-Anon with literature and booklets and
volunteers from our district at numerous health fairs and school events this year. A two-day event is coming up next week at the local college.

· We have a volunteer for Diversity Coordinator. She will need some guidance and information from the area coordinator. I am finding myself quite busy being a DR but enjoying and finding the service very rewarding.

**District 14** - Marilyn, Alt DR
Welcome to District 14, home to 44 Al-Anon meetings, 10 Spanish Al-Anon meetings, one Spanish Alateen meeting and 13 Alateen meetings every week for a total of 68 meetings in Central and Eastern Contra Costa County.

We have wonderful GR participation at our monthly District meetings and have developed a GR action plan for activities that we would like to accomplish during our panel. Our GRs and Coordinators have been responsive and enthusiastic. This transition year has been interesting with an almost entirely new panel of GRs, all but one of our officers have taken their positions for the first time and we have only one Coordinator position unfilled.

Our 7th annual DIA will be held on February 2, 2013 where our featured speaker will be Bo T. Fliers for the day are in your folders in the bins.

The District 14 Literature Depot has been extremely busy with a move to a new Coordinator’s location makes it easier for members to access their orders in a more centralized setting, with most orders filled within 48 hours. Everyone loves the new soft covered “How Al-Anon Works”; some meetings are giving them to Newcomers as a welcome gift. The District supplies CAL Literature to Juvenile Hall, Kaiser and local institutions.

District 14 is incorporated, we maintain our own website and we publish a monthly newsletter which we no longer print, but is available electronically. We started with a mailing list of about 200, and in a little more than a year, regularly send out over 500 newsletters. We also include Spanish translation and news pertinent to the Spanish meetings. In addition, members can read first hand stories from our local members experiencing their recovery, District meeting summaries, and contact information for District Officers. The Newsletter Coordinators make this publication not only informative, sometimes five or six pages worth, but also visually appealing.

Monthly Speaker Meetings, sponsored by our District continue to flourish. Our Tenth Anniversary meeting will be held this month with our guest speaker, Carl H. from Hollywood. Lastly, we have a cumulative growth fund, supported by the District that by the end of 2012 will have enough to send at least three panel members to the International in Vancouver. We will hold a drawing of those who attend district meetings.

We truly are a strong and vibrant District.

**District 15** - Al-Anon we welcome you….sang a song for a report (doo dah..doo dah) lyrics wonderful
Report later submitted by Lorraine H., DR
As some of you heard at the assembly District 15 is doo-dahing our way to recovery!

Our district has had a great year with lots of fellowship!

Our area consists of Oakland, Piedmont, Alameda, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, and Hayward. We have 42 meetings in our area and of those 4 are Alateen and 6 are Spanish, along with a new meeting this year that is parents focused.

Our PI coordinator has been very busy getting the word out to the community with lots of events from health fairs, school and library events as well as getting the message out to the police and sheriff’s departments in our communities.

We had a wonderful Day in Al-Anon. It was well attended with over 100. Our theme was Harvest the Fruits of Recovery! We had several workshops, which included Al-Anon, Spanish, AA and Alateen. Our Day in Al-Anon included a silent auction, craft table, and abundant salad buffet,
literature table and an Alateen bake sale where money was raised to send our Alateens to NOCAC!

As the District Representative I feel very blessed to be part of such a wonderful fellowship. Although there is always room for improvement, I feel our district is very strong with fellowship and I am thankful to be a part of it as the District Representative. I appreciate all of the support and help from the trusted servants in District 15.

I am looking forward to what blessings life will bring in the upcoming year!

District 16 – Rosanna

District 16 is located in the East Bay and has meetings in Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and one in San Ramon. We have 18 meetings: 1 is Pre-teen, 2 are Alateen and 15 are Al-Anon. Of the 15 we have:

2 women’s meetings
1 women’s adult children meeting
1 men’s meeting
1 adult children and
1 with a focus on relationships

Our district business meeting is well attended. Every month, we alternate between the coordinators’ reports and the GR’s reports. We had a brief GR orientation in April. We also had one meeting close earlier this year due to lack of participation.

Sixteen of our 18 meetings have a GR. Both Alateen meetings have GRs and occasionally they attend the business meeting. The Alateens are treated as equals and we are grateful to see them serve.

In February we held our Family Flapjack Fundraiser to help send district teens to GTW and NoCAC. Last April, we held our DIA. The turnout was great and the event was a success because recovery happened. Our Fall Fest is next Saturday, October 20th from 4 to 9PM in Pleasanton. We are looking forward to a relaxing and fun evening of recovery and hope all who are able to, can join us.

In April, our Public Outreach Coordinator attended a high school health faire then shared the program a few months later in individual health classes at the same high school.

In July, the Diversity Coordinator and her alternate came to our district meeting and encouraged the GRs to go back to their groups and start talking about what diversity means, encouraging us to share on the topic and hold a diversity workshop. Several weeks later, we had two requests for a sign language interpreter at two meetings. We are still challenged with finding professional interpreters within the fellowship to serve or to allocate the funds to pay for this expensive but important service. We were also challenged this summer to learn about Warranty 3 and the importance of discussion and substantial unanimity.

Our district has a way of waiting until crunch-time to get excited about service but it seems to work for us. Members do step up.

I am grateful to be District 16 DR and for all of the recovery that comes from service.

District 17 – Delta, DR

District 17 AFG Report October 2012 Fremont, Union City, Newark Delta D. – District Representative Greetings from our FUN District, Fremont, Union City & Newark!

We have 14 meetings, which include 2 Alateen Meetings, 1 American Sign Language Meeting and a Men’s Meeting. Our greatest and proudest achievements would be the continuing success of our first Men’s Meeting for over a year now and our newest American Sign Language Meeting. We also have a successful Spanish Speaking Meeting on Saturday mornings in Union City with great participation. They are represented today by their group representative, Nancy (gracias por todo!).

I am very happy and grateful to report that our intergroup positions and committees are all filled
with very active participation. My Alternate District Representative is Maria M. and this is our second go around at our current positions.

We encourage service at all levels and that includes serving at institutions. Some of our members have been fingerprinted and cleared to facilitate meetings in Elmwood Correctional Facilities, Family Supportive Housing and Juvenile Hall in Milpitas and San Jose and hopefully others in Solano County soon.

Our birthday meetings, with speakers and fellowship, have been very successful and festive with a wonderful potluck and fellowship. Thank you Eva, our Birthday Coordinator, her committee and the Al-Anon members for their participation and support.

Thank you Joyce, for a great job on Public Information outreach.

Thank you Dorothy, for an amazing job with the district’s Treasury.

Thank you Lupita and Nasser for keeping us updated as the district secretary and alternate. Thank you for the district newsletter also.

Thank you to our Alateen sponsors for your commitment and not giving up and for those of you that will soon be stepping up as sponsors. Thank you to all the group representatives for your commitment, hard work and support.

Thank you Barb, and her committee for taking on our Day – In – Al-Anon “Celebrate Recovery” which will be on Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 9 AM to 6 PM. We have flyers with registration forms available for all of you that would like to join in our F.U.N. district event! We also brought meeting lists in case you would like to come and chair or speak at any of our meetings! Please do and we would be honored to have you!

We have only been in our current positions since January of this year and I feel that we are making great progress. We are a very small district but we have great potential.

**District 18 - Debbie O, Dr.,**

Hello all, my name is Debbie O. and I am grateful to represent 35 sites with 47 meetings taking place on a weekly basis. They include meetings in the cities of Angels Camp, Arnold, Ceres, Groveland, Manteca, Merced, Modesto, Murphy’s, Newman, Oakdale, Sonora, Soulsbyville, Tracy, Turlock, and Yosemite Valley. We include the counties of Stanislaus, Mariposa, and Merced and beyond.

We have a men’s meeting which will never turn away a woman in need. We have 3 meetings in recovery houses. One is in a transition home for young adults who are moving on from foster care. Our new Spanish meeting in Tracy had 3 members for the first time at our last district meeting. VERY COOL! We have 3 active Alateen Meetings. One meeting is in a home for at-risk teens and one meeting is at the same time as an Al-Anon meeting. The Al-Anon group is very supportive in sending their Alateen Sponsors to every Alateen event. The third Alateen meeting is our newest and it is at the same time as Al-Anon and AA meetings - all in the same building. If you want to come visit us I have put a meeting list in your DR’s bin. We would love to see you in the Central Valley.

We are having a Day In Al-Anon next Saturday Oct 20, 2012 at the Church of Christ at 901 W. Rumble Rd in Modesto, CA. Our Al-Anon speaker is Veronica P from San Francisco and she is the area Alternate Diversity Coordinator. Austin R is our Alateen speaker from the Good Group in Modesto and Belinda S is the AA speaker from Martinez. We are having workshops on Newcomers, Traditions, Concepts, and Sponsorship. We have put fliers on your table and hope to see you all there.

Our district hosts 2 events a year, one in October and one in March. Next year it will be on March 3, 2013 after our monthly meeting. Our Special Events Coordinator will concentrate on it
once our Day In Al-Anon is finished next weekend. The majority of our meetings host quarterly speaker meetings, which are recorded thanks to one of our groups. It’s a great way to help the group be self-supporting. Every panel we have the pleasure of being a part of NCCAA’s (Northern California Council of AA) 3-day event, which will be in October 2013.

We have 18 AMIAS and are waiting for one more to get the final Ok to be of service to Alateen. We have all of our district positions filled with the exception of our Alateen Coordinator and our PI/CPC Coordinator. It hasn’t slowed down out Public Outreach though as we have been handing out literature and the 2013 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism by the hundreds so far this year. The district had a God thing happen and ended up with 800 copies of the 2013 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism. We have almost gone through the first 400 by going to different health fairs and open houses all over District 18. So we are not lacking in sharing the message of Al-Anon.

District 18 meets every first Sunday of the Month at 1 pm. We allow 2 hours for our business meeting and they mirror what happens here. We hear from every group, every coordinator, and every officer. We have an average GR count of 17. This last Sunday was extra special for us as we had Patrick our Area Delegate come to give us a preview of what to expect at Assembly. We had 22 GR’s in attendance, which is the most we have had in the last 10 years as far as I know. It was very awesome to see and yes, I got emotional. I have gotten a lot of good feed back on his presentation from the GR’s. THANK YOU AGAIN PATRICK for serving us beyond the group level.

**District 19** - no report received.

**District 20** - Katherine A., DR

Had district rep resign in 2011 needed to pull district together. Saving money to fund Alateens, and 50% scholarships to AMIAS who are willing to take Alateens to NOCAC.

Have 30 meetings, lots of Alateen, Women, ACA, strong men’s group. Please visit our meetings.

District 20 achieved critical mass this year with a full complement of officers and coordinators in all positions. We will lose the Host Group Coordinator for our speaker meeting team in 2013, plus our secretary will not continue due to health reasons, however I am confident that we will resolve these shortfalls by January 2013.

Our team has continued to work diligently on our bi-monthly speaker meetings, where we are hoping to have an Alateen-run program with an Alateen host group sometime in 2013. We were disappointed that our Spanish-language Speaker meeting with translation had to be postponed, but hope to try this idea again in 2013, as well as inviting a "special" speaker from out of town. Our speaker meeting attendance has continued to grow.

We now offer a $30 reimbursement to host groups for speaker meeting food and refreshments, since we realized that some of our meetings are just getting by financially. This reimbursement has allowed more meetings to do district service and it has been a great boost to our host group sign ups, which are now displayed online on our Web site.

Likewise, D-20 is now offering 50% AMIAS registration fee scholarships to any approved AMIAS who is willing to drive D-20 Alateens RT to Alateen/NoCAC events, with the appropriate travel forms in place. I challenged D-21 and D-22 to do the same reimbursements, and now SCV AFG Intergroup is also offering 50% AMIAS scholarships to Alateen events. We are proud to have led the way on this effort.

We also made great strides in overcoming the SCV AFG Web site and directories problems, which still listed inaccurate information about D-20, through July 2012.

In January of 2012 we moved our postal address to a new PO Box in Cupertino, plus some of our meetings had changed locations, then some new D-20 meetings were created, so it was important that we were able to present accurate information online and in print, for both newcomers and those members wanting to contact us or find meetings. For that reason we created the D-20 Web site, District20AFG.com, which is updated weekly and has D-20 meeting lists and a host of other information about our district and Al-Anon/Alateen, along with links to NCWSA events and WSO's
free electronic literature downloads. We decided to "go green" and offer our complete, Master D-20 Meeting Schedule for free in a two-page, downloadable Google document found on our Web site. Likewise, we also offer other downloadable D-20 forms on the site, plus an email sign up sheet which can be taken to meetings to allow members to join our confidential D-20 list serve and receive all meeting and event notices via email (using NCWSA Event links). This has saved our GR's and the district some paper and copying costs, although we are always willing to make paper copies for those who are not online. It has been rewarding to go to meetings intending to announce events, only to have a member make the announcement before I have a chance to do so, since they already received the information from our list serve. People seem to be reading and enjoying the site, according the site statistics.

In early 2012 I offered to do a free re-working and revision of the SCV AFG Web site, to make it much easier for a new coordinator to learn to update immediately, without needing to know html or other coding language experience. If someone could type, they would be able to update the site after my re-design. SCV AFG did not take me up on my offer. As the former SCV AFG Web Coordinator from 2010, I know that the SCV AFG site desperately needs to be redesigned, as the current layered coding and formatting is just too difficult for someone who does not have Web design software or extensive html experience to manage. This has created problems for new Web coordinators and a needlessly steep learning curve taking most of the first year of service. It could be so much easier. I was sad that they did not let me help.

I became ill in March 2011 and had to curtail my participation in many NCWSA service events during my recovery process. I am (thankfully) healthier now and so grateful to be able to attend the 2012 Assembly in Seaside. It has been an honor to serve District 20 and I have enjoyed meeting those in service both at other districts and in NCWSA.

**District 21 - Chris A-C**

1.5 years no district rep, had to regroup, restart, and in process heard about EIN number. Little glitch with getting back together. Bank closed accounts, get EIN number.

Trying to find a special project for the district.

District 21 is part of Santa Clara Valley Intergroup. 30 meetings, in center of Santa Clara Valley, Variety of groups, Young Al-Anon group, men’s group, couple of women’s ACA groups,

3 institutions, Elmwood, Shelter, and one other. Have Spanish meetings.

Becoming Bilingual district. Hispanic group - Fostering ongoing relationship, coming to Santa Clara intergroup meetings, share different ideas

**District 22 – Louise, DR**

Greetings from District 22, which encompasses south San Jose, Morgan Hill, and Gilroy. We have a total of 18 regular meetings, three Spanish, and two Alateen. We have been busy this year and have hosted a Writing Workshop with NCWSA Literature Coordinator, Diana S, which was a rousing success.

Many of the participants in the writing workshop said that they were going to submit their writing for the new book on Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships.

We are now working on a Day In Service on January 19, 2013. Flyers are now out and should be in the DRs’ folders. The event will be at St. Edwards on Union and Highway 85. 15040 Union Avenue, San Jose, from 2 to 7 pm. Dinner will be served. We are also planning a public outreach event sometime in the summer of 2013.

Our officers include Kathy M-S as alternate DR, Anne C as treasurer, and Sundar M as secretary.
I am appreciative of all the hard work the officers have put in and the rest of the GRs.

**District 23 - Georgia, DR**

There once was a girl who was GR
Who decided to stand to be DR
Things began to get frantic
She started to panic
Oh, who’s gonna help me?  (District answers) “WE ARE!”

I am very grateful to all the members of my district in helping me with this new position. I want to thank my higher power for raising my hand to volunteer. Then I especially want to thank my sponsor, my service sponsor, and the past DR for answering my many calls and e-mails, for being there for me and for just listening. I’ve made a lot of good friends in this program and I am happy to see all my new friends here today.

Then I need to tell you what a wonderful district we have. Aside from our beautiful location, our members are what keep this program going. We have almost all our service positions filled at the district level. This includes a DR and an Alternate DR (only one of each!), Secretary and Treasurer, as well as coordinators for Alateen, Diversity, Institutions, PICPC, Website, “Way and Pace” (our local publication) and our upcoming annual event – the Craft Faire. We also have members serving for Answering Service, Schedule Coordinator, Schedule Sender, plus a few alternates for some positions.

We have meetings in two counties, and in two languages. Our schedule is published in two languages. We have Alateen and Ala-kid meetings. We have meetings whose focus is for men or women, for parents of alcoholics or children with alcoholic parents. We have men’s and women’s meetings in the minimum and maximum-security county jails. We have our own Diversity Committee. We have more than 40 meetings altogether, and several meetings every day of the week. Plus we have a 24-hour hotline.

There was so much in place already when I stepped into this position in May. I’m so grateful to all those who came before me. A few of the goals during my panel are:

1. To help everyone identify the wealth of resources available to us (which will always be a work in progress)
2. To work on becoming a more Green district

Meanwhile we’ve had some fun business meetings using icebreakers and sharing our favorite piece of CAL. We are also working on developing some workshops.

Finally, we were very fortunate to have a special meeting with a visit from Patrick, Yvonne, and Patti, which was very helpful and educational. I have learned so much already, and am humbly open to learning much more. It is truly a pleasure to do service with the members of D23!

**District 24 - Kim H., DR**

Welcome to the Beautiful Monterey Peninsula!

Your arrival here means you have completed all necessary requirements to attend our Assembly 2012, hosted by NCWSA and District 24 and arranged by our local event committee. I ask them to stand and be recognized for their willingness and nearly completed efforts of this weekend-The love gifts, hospitality, and organization is warm and heartfelt!

We encompass all of Monterey County, a hugely diverse area and vastly different in our entire
Our local membership has had the opportunity to be a part of:

• Bi-monthly district speaker meetings, with visiting and local Al-Anon and oftentimes AA speakers. Taking into consideration the fact that alcoholism is a family disease, we started offering licensed childcare, hosted by district, and now have families with children attending on a regular basis.

• Our Day In Al-Anon 2012 would have given many of the faint of heart reason not to attend—a new venue was being used and it was held on a very dark and story day. To the contrary, there were almost 100 people in attendance—even many from District 23 making the long wet haul! Again, the district provided licensed childcare, having almost ten kids in the room this time! We had an abundant potluck, a silent auction filled with many offerings including members’ original artwork, enthusiastic discussion workshops. Our speakers, Al-Anon, Barbara W. from Grover Beach and Dave R., AA from Modesto made the trek through the bad weather to share their recovery miracle. The day filled me up with breathtaking humility!

• Our first GR Funshop! The district hosted the day for anyone interested in determining what being a GR entails. We rented a classroom at Monterey Peninsula College, ordered pizza out after our district meeting and had a great day. A compilation of information was given to each attendee, all CAL, taken from the AFG Service Manual, Guidelines, Forum and website. John S. from Half Moon Bay came down to present to the GR’s his KBDM project about the use of the focus box on our group registration form—it was a fun, fact-filled, informational day!

• This December we will have our second annual Evening of Gratitude. A night containing no official speakers, but an event intertwined with fellowship, spirituality and a circle meeting of gratitude. You’re all welcome to attend!

The list of efforts of our trusted servants throughout this year are numerous and many, showing evidence of a Higher Power when one takes the time and a look. I am humbled and grateful to be a part of!

**District 25** - not present

**District 26** - read by Jim M., GR

District 26 has 31 meetings. In the last year they started one new meeting, 10:30 am meeting Friday. Meetings have had to move within district.

The district attempted to start an Alateen meeting, after trying for a year, but too few attended for it to be viable.

The previous panel bought service manuals for every GR.

½ of the GRS are new to district service. The district changed meeting from 1-1/2 to 2 hours, once a month.

The DR, Ellen, produces a monthly newsletter.

Recent district events: holiday marathon meetings, art in Al-Anon event, also information at Solano Street Fair.

A focus in the district is: “how to encourage more sponsorship.”

**District 27** - Mary R., DR

This is Mary’s last year as district representative.
District 27 includes Stockton, Valley Springs, Lodi and Galt and has 17 meetings, including 3 Spanish-speaking meetings.

They participate in a Unity day in Ripon in January and a Spring Festival in June.

**Intergroup Reports**

**District 6 – 10 Intergroup**: Denise, alt chair
The Alternate Chair position opened up so Denise arm shot up.
Intergroup meeting – if you haven’t gone, try it.
Strong personalities trying to come to a serene conclusion.

Kellidee is doing a great job but doesn’t like to come to these Area events. Many positions filled, shout out to District 8, Recovery happens at the Capital – District 8 stepped up and covered Public information portion. Have employee at bookstore had to cut hours were able to put some money back into reserves.

**Santa Clara Valley Intergroup**
Explained what Intergroup does – business.
Courage to Change Day is on 27th. Speakers: Tom W from Oakland, Janine from Marin.

Alateen: 45 AMIAS, 5 pending AMIAS, giving intergroup scholarships to go to NOCAC, half scholarships.

There is one bilingual Alateen group.

Intergroup collects recycle. It doesn’t seem like much but last year had over $1K, $1146.18 this year so far, into NOCAC fund. Over $4K in NOCAC funds over the years.

**Hispanic East Bay Intergroup - Servicio De Informacion Hispana Del Noreste De La Bahia Integrupal.** - María Carmen
Located at 113 West 10th Street, Pittsburg, CA 94565 925 432-1821, 1 (866) 686-8189

The Intergroup Office is having a great response from the members and growing each day with more members attending. The intergroup meetings are every 1st Sunday of the month.

The Intergroup has 21 Al-Anon groups, 9 Adult Children Groups and 5 Alateen groups, 35 groups altogether.

The Intergroup has 4 committees: Public Information, Institutions, Records and Alateen.
Public Information is passing the message in all the areas with their subcommittees and the list of volunteers.

Records are working on always having an up-to-date directory.

We also have the bulletin called “El Cometa” that is printed monthly and distributed to all the groups.

Hospitals and Institutions are working on opening the doors to Al-Anon in the different institutions. The Committee has opened the doors of Al-Anon in Soledad and in Casa Del Sol in Concord.
The Intergroup has been working on opening more Alateen and Al-Anon groups. We have been having workshops once a month on the first Sunday of each month. Also we are motivating members to become sponsors.

We have our literature depot providing literature to all the groups in our area.

**North Bay Original Intergroup - Janie**
North Bay Intergroup had a Spanish speaking mini-convention. More people came than before. The main speaker was from Guadalajara; the Alateen speaker from Pittsburgh.

They are working hard to reach out, and also sending pink can money.

Janie has been speaking at different meetings. Brought some young girls and couldn’t translate for other people.

We will keep an eye on translation for next assembly.

**Thought Forces, Task Forces**

**Thought force on Prison Meetings** - Patrick B., Chair

Northern California is a pioneer, so not so much experience from other areas. We created thought force at last assembly. They met over the telephone, developing a list of questions to answer around this topic. They discussed KBDM questions on this topic. Not quite ready to give more detailed report. Will have more information at one day Assembly in May.

**Convention Guideline Task Force Report** – Debbie O, Chair

After 10 months of every other Wednesday night conference calls with Amparo-Current Convention Chair for NCWSA Convention, Bonnie-Alateen Coordinator, Chris-Current Past Chair of NCWSA Convention, Charli-AAPP, DeDe-Facilities Coordinator and Kim-Past NCWSA Convention Chair, and myself we have gone through the Convention Guidelines twice, working on the final draft as we speak. Chris D has been our Secretary since Charli stepped as down as the record keeper, and will be sending the revised unfinished version to Yvonne along with the committee members. I want to thank all the members of this committee as I haven’t been in the best frame of mind with personal issues and they have loved me anyway. I am still grateful to serve Al-Anon and see my growth.

**Coordinators’ and Committee Reports**

**Alateen Liaison’s Report – North/Central/South**

**Central Alateen Liaison Report** - Emily

Working with NOCAC committee, spreading the word of coming to Assembly, trying to get to come to Assembly, the teens just don’t care. Talking at various meetings if they have any concerns, questions – asked to talk about a fundraiser for Dec 15 for growing together weekend. Emily is available for speaking.

**NOCAC Chair Report** - Cat, Chair & co-chair Christina

At the March 24 camping trip there were 48 people; 75 people at fundraiser; 40 at Castro Valley. Last Chance Dance will be held Oct 27 from 4-9 at Grace Lutheran Church in Hayward. NOCAC is the 3-day convention. They are passing a can today for donations and have t-shirts for sales. More teens can come, the more money they can raise for scholarships – scholarships are more important, getting tons of requests, passing baskets now.
The members of Alateen in our Area were offered the opportunity to participate in a Thought Force with members of WSO during NoCAC (our Northern California Alateen Conference). Unfortunately, we weren’t able to generate enough interest in qualified members by the Oct. 1 deadline. But there are more opportunities coming up.

In the coming months, the WSO Alateen Work Group will be conducting a series of Alateen Task and Thought Force meetings to get input from Alateen members on topics of importance to Alateen. Several meetings will be held via conference call, chat meetings, or other electronic means, and are open to Alateens from every Area!

What the WSO Alateen Work Group Is Looking For:

- Alateen members aged 13 to 17, with at least one year in the program (older teens may be utilized for some topics; see résumé form).
- Alateens must complete the Task/Thought Force Résumé Form and submit it to WSO.
- The topics to be discussed are on the second page of the résumé form, along with any specific requirements for that topic.
- Please encourage as many teens as possible to submit résumé forms.
- Please ask them to include as much information as possible about themselves, their Alateen experience, and their desire to help Alateen to grow!

WSO is also adding Alateen audio podcasts to our Public Outreach Web site! We want to record a series of conversations with Alateen members to demonstrate to visitors (teens, parents, and professionals) what Alateen is about. The podcasts will be posted in the “For Teens” section of the www.al-anon.alateen.org site, and will include a mechanism for visitors to post comments (see the “First Steps” Al-Anon podcast section to see how this will work). The topics to be discussed in the podcast recordings will include:

- What is alcoholism? How does alcohol affect the family?
- What is Alateen?
- Why should I go to a meeting?
- How will Alateen help me?

This weekend at Assembly, we have Pat Q. available to meet with Alateen members for a more informal discussion.

I’ve attended the NoCAC bashes and have been pleased to see how well our Alateen Safety Procedures for NoCAC events have been working. This year’s NoCAC committee is awesome! I hope you will come and support them at the Last Chance Sock Hop fundraiser, Oct. 27, and at NoCAC in Modesto, Nov. 9-11.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the first annual Oregon Alateen Conference (OAK). Not only was the conference a wonderful opportunity to see how other Al-Anon World Service Areas address Alateen Safety issues for events, I met more of my extended Al-Anon/Alateen family, heard some great speakers and grew through the workshops I attended. An added bonus was the drive to and from Oregon with another AMIAS and an Alateen. We talked for about 25 hour all told, sharing and exchanging ideas.

I was able to attend an AMIAS workshop in San Jose. The format was really well thought out with Al-Anon speakers interspersed with Alateen speakers.

I chaired the Sponsor R&R event on September 14-16 at Westminster Woods. A total of 61 Al-Anon members participated with nice mix of experienced Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS), new AMIAS and Al-Anon members interested in becoming certified to serve Alateen. We did have translation equipment available this year. Every year the event gets even better and the participation grows. Participant evaluations were quite positive and will be shared with next year’s planning committee. We don’t have the final figures yet but expect to be fully self-supporting again this year. Thank you to this year’s planning committee – Lisa B. (co-chair), Carla G., Charli D., Chris M., David B., DeDe W, John M., Lee B., Nancy A. and Yvonne D. They were a wonderful group to work with this year!!
The 2013 Sponsor R&R has been scheduled for September 20 – 22, 2013. Save the date!

An Alateen member or AMIAS from our Area sent a sharing in to Alateen Talk and is included in the current edition. WSO sent me 25 copies to share.

Our wonderful Lisa B, Alateen Express editor, has published the fall 2013 edition and has put copies in your folders to give to your Alateen groups. She received some great sharings from Alateens and AMIAS so you won’t want to miss reading it online on our Area website.

I have a lot of catch-up to do to get the AMIAS-ca-no list up to date and accurate

Archives Coordinator’s Report – Chris M and Diana C (Alt)

Since May, we have continued gathering additional archives including the old Forums from the Literature Coordinator. Summer Archive Parties were small but productive. We researched and created a new display on the History of the International Convention. We gathered duplicate newsletters and conference summaries from the archives and are making them available this weekend. We found a great Alateen detachment piece in an old Alateen Talks that we shared at the Sponsors R&R and plan to share at NOCAC. We continue compiling and reviewing details for the past 10 years and making plans for a second edition of the “Journey to Recovery – A Fifty Sixty Year History”. It is not too late to send in your District or Coordinator history for the book, otherwise we will do our best to compile highlights from past 12 Steppers.

Other Archive resources and things to know:
The Archives Starter Kit with General information and tips is all available online. Groups and Districts can create and maintain their own Archives. Keep it Simple. Diana has been busy creating archive binders and has provided a copy to those Districts who have requested one. If your District is interested in an Archives binder, please contact the alternate Archives Coordinator, Diana C. @ dcotta@dimare-ca.com. Attached is an updated listing of “What to in include in your Archives”

Archive displays are available for special events and will be provided upon request. Sharing area archives at events is a great way for the fellowship to learn about the past. We plan to have a display at the Yosemite Conference. Please allow at least 2-3 weeks for Coordinator to access and assemble records for a new display.

Did you know, the AFG headquarters has a history book, that makes a great literature and discussion book complete with questions, check out, “Many Voices- One Journey! Some delegates at the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting put on a great skit using this book and we are working on getting a copy that might be used at a future area or district event.

Bylaws and Insurance Coordinator’s Report – Joyce D.

In an attempt not to bore you with a subject, which I know you all think is terribly exciting, today there are only three things I believe are important to tell you about BL&I, Bylaws & Insurance. This coordinator position (NCWSA Guideline Sec III.A&B) is responsible for maintaining, distributing and encouraging members of the NCWSC Committee (officers, coordinators & DRs) to keep the Bylaws with the Guidelines and Forms, current & accurate. Doing that with this organization is a little like herding feral cats. If I’m successful no one sprays me to mark their territory. More importantly it helps me work on my character defect that reacts in fear if there are no rules or musts to help me feel safe!

The three things that I think are important for you to know:

1. At ncwsa.org under the Service tab you can look at our Bylaws that include Appendix A which are the Guidelines and Appendix B that are the Forms we use. Some are current, some are out of date and by using them we learn about changes that need to be made in how we do our business as we grow and change. We had an example of this yesterday when we discovered that the Group Records Form had the wrong address. We have checks and balances built into the Bylaws with the Guidelines and Forms. The Guidelines and Forms are easier to change than the Bylaws. (45 days notice to change Bylaws) I highly recommend that through the KBDM process and using what NCWSA has developed as reference you can develop ones for your group,
district, Intergroup wherever you need clarity.

2. As of 2010 a new law requires that to open a bank account which does not charge any fees, a non profit group must have a TIN (Tax Id Number) aka EIN. WSO has a FAQ and guideline that gives step-by-step directions so you can apply for that TIN for your group. I have put a copy of it in the DR bins so they have them for any GR who needs to know how it works.

3. If the facility where your group meets says, you have to have liability insurance, this is where you get excited about this subject - don’t panic or worry about how you can afford it or what that means! You can get an Evidence of Insurance certificate at no charge to your group! Make sure your group knows the way they pay for it is to make regular donations to NCWSA. You can call me, email me or just apply for this certificate by completing the form A26a at ncwsa.org, click on the Service tab and Forms. If it’s a special event the form is A26b. How many would like to see what that looks like?

Thank you to Kim H D24 (please stand) my alternate for her help to process these applications! And to Karen F from D10 (please stand) who when I asked for help was willing to allow us to use her mailing address because it’s not safe to have it come to mine.

Because I learn so much and get to practice my program and make progress, I thank you for letting me be of service.

Diversity Coordinator’s Report – Chris A.C. and Veronica P. (Alt)
Apology made that they didn’t get translator for this event. The Area has requested professionals. We had people who were bilingual sit next to monolingual.

Thank Lupe who has been helping with Spanish community.

Can check out the translation equipment for local events if you like, can train people how to use it.

Highlights: Invited to District 16 with Veronica, to give a special talk on Diversity. Chris was especially impressed to see a young person as a GR for her group at that district. The members asked questions and generated ideas on how to get the word out to underrepresented groups and attract them to our meetings.

Increased participation from young mom’s brought up in a District 21 meeting. Put this topic for discussion at the next assembly. Urge you to discuss back in your district.

We can find ways to get people to come to our groups who wouldn’t normally due to childcare, etc. We could be putting out literature that would attract others cultures.

Young bilingual Vietnamese woman in Chris’ district would like to get the “Just For Today” card translated. Chris is working towards this.

Chris participated in a diversity panel for D12 that included a young African American and a transgender person. What we found was stated so eloquently in the Hope For Today on Oct 11th: “no matter how different we feel we are all very similar; no matter how similar we seem, we are all different.”

They are putting together a task force on Diversity to tackle the topics presented in the thought force on Diversity and Chris needs help and guidance on this. Survey on WSO work

Chris would like to challenge every district in this Area to come up with a Diversity Coordinator to help carry out this very important work. Get creative in your public outreach efforts and see how you can spread the word around to an underrepresented group in your local area. If you would like us to come out and speak with you, just connect with us, we’d love to come and talk with you.
WSO survey details: survey every 3 years and helps the WSO in providing recovery in underserved areas. 11-13 minutes to complete
Go to members site www.al-anon.org, click on members tab.
- Password – your group name and end in “afg” – take the membership survey.

In closing I’d like to say, look around you, say hello to someone you don’t know, put out more Spanish literature in your meetings. Flash a smile to that limited English speaking person who showed up in your group. Put on your brightest Al-anon recovery suit and color your world.

**Executive Committee Report** – Lisa B, Chair

Sadly the EC member from the Central section who also held the position of EC Secretary had to resign and the DRs from the Central section will be holding a quorum during this Assembly to elect a new member. Rosanna has been elected new EC Secretary.

Since the last Assembly in May the majority of our time has been interviewing Financial Assistants for this Assembly and the 2013 Convention. We are in the process of revising the interview “Questions for the Financial Assistant”. Prior to interviewing potential Financial Assistant we ask that they review the Financial Assistant Guidelines (B4.1), the Guidelines of the events and the draft of the Financial Assistant’s Checklist. In addition to the NCWSA Treasurer and Alternate Delegate the EC Chair is supposed to receive copies of the event deposits, logs, deposit slips and bank receipts. Unfortunately despite our effort to provide the Financial Assistants with a checklist to keep them on task and reviewing the procedures with the FA during their interview process, some information is not getting to us.

**Officer’s Interviews:** We interviewed the Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP), Charli in July at the NCWSC meeting. In addition to our interview we reviewed the AAPP Guidelines (B31) with Charli. Based on our conversation with her, revisions were made to the guidelines and were reviewed by Sandi C. They have been given to Yvonne the area Chairperson prior to being posted on the website.

We will be interviewing Patti, the NCWSA Secretary this weekend and plan on interviewing Yvonne, the NCWSA Chairperson before the end of the year as required per the Bylaws.

We have reviewed the NCWSA Executive Committee Checklist for 2012-2014 and Corporate Responsibilities Time Line and find that most items are being completed in a timely manner.

As was previously mentioned at the May Assembly and July committee meeting there is one recommendation that was made by the previous EC in their September 15, 2011 Management Audit Report which is that an audit be conducted by an outside auditor a minimum of one time within the three year panel. Our area Treasurer, Claude checked the NCWSA files that she has and found a copy of “Audited Financial Statements for 1999 and Review: Financial Statements for 2001 & 2002. As mentioned previously the estimated cost for such an audit would cost the area approximately $10,000- $15,000. The NCWSC members felt that the cost of a detailed audit was not affordable and it was suggested that we conduct an agreed upon procedures audit and that we set aside enough funds over this panel to pay for it. It is the Executive Committee’s recommendation that we arrange for this to agreed upon procedures audit be conducted before the end of this panel.

We reviewed the 107 May 5, 2012, Assembly Evaluation Forms. Overall the evaluation of the Assembly was excellent. The workshops were well attended and received high scores, and the Delegate’s report received high scores as well. The majority of attendees gave the lunch a neutral score and the Facilities score was high. Yvonne has been given the evaluation forms and the EC summary of the forms.

**Summary of May 5, 2012 Assembly Evaluation Forms**

There were 107 evaluation forms collected. Not all categories were marked on each evaluation form.

Scale: 1=poor, 3=neutral, 5=excellent

Overall (score: number of responses) 1:1 2:0 3:8 4:35 5:30
Workshops

1:1 2:3 3:11 4:37 5:45 Workshops attended: Sponsorship: 50, Writing: 17, Conflict Resolution: 29

Delegate’s Report

1:1 2:1 3:13 4:40 5:48

Lunch

1:18 2:12 3:25 4:14 5:10 N/A: 16

Facility

1:1 2:8 3:11 4:55 5:30

**Things You Liked:**
Clean, TSA, speaker (Yvonne), work-shops, stayed on schedule, power points, humor, travel distance, interesting, informative, room set-up, table set-up, KBDM, the chance to come together (unity), easy to find location, love new panel, district hollers, delegate’s 2–part report, GRs’ role, well organized, spacious, good snacks, seeing/meeting friends, hotel personnel were helpful, great ES&H, learned how the business works, restaurant food was good.

**Things You Would Like to See Done Differently:**
Provide coffee/tea/juice/fruit/healthy snacks even for a fee, more room at registration table, better visibility of visual aids, pre-arrange lunch/buffet, let restaurant know we are planning to have a large number dine at their facility, more food choices in walking distance, more restrooms, better regulation of room temp (too cold), windows in meeting room, no “L” shaped rooms, don’t put AV screen behind people, presenters edit reports to fit allotted time, be clear on start time, start when flyer says to start, chairperson can talk slower, side conversations made it difficult to hear presenters, longer and more workshops, more time for Q&A, handout of delegate’s report, professional/qualified translators, quiet around translator, translation equipment ready when meeting starts, agenda/literature/docs in Spanish, speak slower for translators, workshops near latter part of the day, treasurer’s report too small on screen, 1.5 hrs. for lunch, fridge in rooms, 7th Tradition done when most attendees are present, too much info crammed into a small window of time, skit or singing between delegate’s report, some reports were too in-district to be of value, better mike usage, more interaction, workshops on how to encourage service, written purpose of voting cards, less chatting from assembly, less sarcasm from speakers, gear presentations towards newcomers, explain acronyms.

**Facilities coordinator report** – DeDe W.
I have many things to report on so I will try to give a summary of the most current items facilities is actively working on.

**Locations and rotations** - Many people have expressed an interest to me in having the area help them find locations other than hotels to host area events. Some districts don’t have hotels that are large enough or they are way beyond our budget to host an event. If we consider more schools, community centers and fairgrounds these districts that have been unable to host events in the past may get the opportunity. This would also let us rotate between North, Central and South in a way that could help us share the burden of travel.

Budget - Currently the facilities rental budget for both assemblies is $3500. Given this fact – something has got to give. We are exceeding this budget easily while we are making accommodations for our members. Having classroom seating at both area assemblies has been really taking our budget over the top. The one day assembly use to cost just a few hundred dollars to put on but as we made decisions to add tables and other accommodations we now have been paying
$1400 and up. Simply put ouch! I will be asking questions this weekend in my search for us to work together to find solutions to our facility needs.

Convention - This is NCWSA’s event. It’s annual and it needs your support in every way. Please take the time to fill out the survey that has been given to you regarding convention. I look forward to seeing all you at the 2013 Convention March 22, 23, and 24, 2013 in Sacramento, Ca. Please see the flyer and go to NCWSA.org for more info.

Hotel Reservations - When area signs a contract with a hotel or finds a site we will then notify everyone of the date and place and how to make a reservation. On the flyer there will be a cut-off date. This date will let you know that you need to make a reservation by that date in order to receive our group rate IF rooms are still available in our block. Many of you unfortunately experienced waiting to long to make your reservation and were unable to get a room at the preferred pricing and location. It would be my suggestion that when we post the information for any upcoming events make your reservations right away. I can be much more helpful if I have more time before our event to secure a larger block. We didn’t sell out until a month prior to this event and that wasn’t enough time to negotiate more rooms at our group rate.

I look forward to continuing growing and learning with you all.

Group Records Coordinator Report – Carol G.
Hello, fellow “fun-seekers!” Since starting this position, I’ve learned some very valuable lessons. Don’t keep putting off what you CAN do TODAY! It’s been interesting to keep trying to do the “perfect” job. Obviously, I’m fighting a losing battle on that one.

The best lesson I’ve learned so far is one I have the most difficulty remembering. Ask for help. It seems pretty simple, but I keep thinking I should KNOW how to do everything. Recently, I came upon a roadblock that would’ve kept me from being able to provide us with new voter card labels and registration sign up sheets. I just happen to mention that I needed prayers getting the solution, and a very kind offer of help appeared.

I won’t embarrass the individual who came to my rescue. I just want them to know how truly grateful I am for their expertise and “know-how”. It involved about an hour and a half of their time along with considerable patience to walk me through the process. I was amazed at how humble this person was. It made me grateful to be in a program of such self-less generosity. I also need to thank the previous GRC for her continual support and love. Please keep sending in the changes to your groups, and I will do my best to keep them updated.

Institutions Coordinator Report – David B.
A lot of exciting things have been happening in Institutions service in our Area and I am very grateful for the opportunity to carry this service message from both our “Outside members” and “Inside members” to you and our Fellowship. I hope you read the last two reports from the One Day Assembly and the July NCWSA Committee Meeting, as our Institutions TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) continues to build upon our experiences, strength and hope from past panels in carrying the Al-Anon message to incarcerated individuals today.

First, your contributions to the Pink Cans have helped support new meetings started by District Coordinators at county facilities in San Francisco, San Mateo and Solano Counties. New meetings in the state prisons that currently have Al-Anon meetings have started as well. Working with the District Institution Coordinators has been a great and rewarding experience. Our Fellowship continues to expand and your financial participation is critical to our service. Please pass along our “Thank You” to the members.

The NCWSA Institutions Conference Planning Committee has been busy at work preparing for the 2013 Hospital and Institutions Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. This event will be held in Foster City April 5-7, 2013. Emily C is the Chairperson and three District Institutions Coordinators from the surrounding Districts have been involved in this effort. Anyone interested in helping may contact Emily at efdchandler@gmail.com. The committee has chosen to expand programming into Sunday morning to support and encourage those either doing Institutions service or considering this type of 12th Step work. There will be information sessions followed by a meet and
share session to help make connections with other members. We are suggesting that Districts and AISs encourage and support their Institutions Coordinators to attend. Also, each Group might encourage its members to attend in support of the Districts’ efforts. The registration is $10 – maybe your Group will consider registering just one person to hear the recovery.

The inside members at Soledad just celebrated their second annual celebration ten months late. This is the norm for events in prisons due to logistics and security issues. Tobin R, Sacramento, was their guest speaker and I heard that it was an incredible gathering of fellowship, food and sharing. Some exciting things happened just this week. On Tuesday Teresa T, our

Point person Teresa T and I met with the Solano State Prison staff. One result was their offer to open Thursday night for Al-Anon meetings. Two days later the staff at Old Folsom Prison invited us to take meetings into the new women’s facility in November. The populations will double when the second half of the incarcerated women arrives in January. This may provide another opportunity for a new meeting.

We are working on a new project to provide outreach material to families of the incarcerated individuals at two prisons. The World Service Office (WSO) provides four Al-Anon Welcomes pamphlets for free. Adding in the small leaflet questionnaires may provide an outreach acceptable to the Institution administration. The financial feasibility is very attractive using these pieces of Conference Approved Literature (CAL), as there can be hundreds of visitors a week.

In closing, our fellowship inside the institutions continues to grow as well as their outreach to their families and friends. Supporting the Districts with literature as they carry the Al-Anon message into new facilities demonstrates our Fellowship’s care and willingness. Thank you for your participation in carrying the message of Institutions service to our Fellowship. Please contact me if you have any questions. In gratitude and service.

NCWSA INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE Why the Pink Cans?

The Institutions Committee was organized for the purpose of carrying the Al-Anon message to those who are confined in state prisons, jails, juvenile detention centers, group homes, shelters and other similar facilities (see G-9).

Institutions provides support to registered Al-Anon meetings, as the incarcerated individual most likely will have little or no money to purchase Al-Anon literature. Some Institution meetings have members who are transient within that organization and others are more long term. State prisons will have individuals spending 15 years to life.

The Pink Can, with your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars, pays for the books, pamphlets and other Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to meet the needs of each type of facility.

The object is to spread our limited donations from districts abundant with membership and their donations to others who are not as fortunate. With this we ask Districts that are able to provide literature to the Institution Meetings to please do so.

In the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011, our Fellowship donated a total of $18,298.67 to the Pink Can Fund. NCWSA Institutions purchased $18,481.45 of AFG books and literature. That year the literature went to the 13 weekly meetings in five state prisons, as well as to county jails, juvenile halls and recovery centers. As of October 2012, there are 21 meetings in the state prisons. Two more are scheduled to start by December. Also added were six weekly meetings in county adult facilities and one weekly meeting in a juvenile detention center. The growth continues.

There are 14 other state prisons, 4 federal institutions and 25 state prison fire camps in NCWSA. There are also 46 counties within our area. Most counties have their own men’s and women’s jails
and a juvenile detention center.

The long-term vision is to disperse literature in a fair and equitable manner to as many registered Al-Anon Institution meetings as possible.

Institution members are not paid for their service, nor are they reimbursed for expenses for carrying the message into these institutions, regardless of the distance. It is not unusual for an Institution volunteer to drive well over 200 miles for a weekly or monthly institution meeting. These travel expenses are a personal contribution by the individual.

NCWSA Institutions Committee suggests that the Pink Can be passed separately from the 7th Tradition basket to avoid subtracting any support from the 7th Tradition.

The Institutions Committee service for weekly meetings in state prisons was started in 2009. Institutions Coordinator Louise M started writing to the state prisons in 2006 requesting to bring in Al-Anon meetings in to prisons. She was joined by Yvonne deG as her alternate Institutions Coordinator in 2007.

In August of 2009 Louise M, Yvonne deG and Dan M started the first Institution meeting on level 2 in Solano State Prison followed a week later by a weekly meeting at security level 3. The California Training Facility in Soledad was the second state prison accepting an Al-Anon meeting and the weekly AFG meeting started in December of 2009.

The meeting at H Unit at the San Quentin State Prison started in October 2010.

After that, the Al-Anon message was carried into the Deuel Vocational Facility in Tracy on a monthly basis.

A weekly meeting was started at the Camp at the Old Folsom State Prison in November 2011 and is now in the mainline population. The Deuel Vocational Institution started a weekly meeting in 2012.

We are humbly grateful for the generous contributions, both financial and in service, of the Al-Anon Fellowship that makes this service possible. Without your continued support, this 12th Step service would not be possible.

For additional information, please write to the NCWSA Institutions Committee, 1 W Campbell Ave, Rm. Q-82, Campbell, CA 95008 or email to Institutions@ncwsa.org

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**Literature Coordinator’s Report – Diana S.**

**Welcome to the Fall Assembly for all new and returning GRs!**

I am your Literature and Forum Coordinator, from San Rafael, District 11, with my alternate Charlene R from Redding, in District 4. Contact us at any time about ideas for Conference Approved Literature (CAL) or The Forum. Please browse the back table where you can read over lit and gather free pieces too!

**News on Conference Approved Literature -**

1) In 2012, we’ve done **five writing workshops on “Intimacy and the Alcoholic Relationship”,** with about 185 people attending in Petaluma (D5 & 11), the Delegate’s Spring Assembly in Concord, San Jose (D20), the Day in Al-Anon in Fremont (D17), and just yesterday one more in Sacramento (D8). Most have all been focused on getting members to send shares into WSO for the new book on intimacy, as well as illustrate how to send shares to The Forum. **They still need 300-500 more shares to publish this valuable book.** Keep on writing and sending in your shares. Every share I have heard at workshops is a one of a kind and worthy of publishing. There are Intimacy Share Sheets with more info and directions on how to send in your share on the WSO site, [http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/intimacysharing.pdf](http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/intimacysharing.pdf)
You can also write a share online at the WSO link, http://al-anon.org/members/intimacyss.php

Thanks to all the DRs and committee members who are helping make these events so helpful to the new book writing effort.

**I am taking a holiday and winter break from doing workshops but below are the next ones.**

**UPCOMING WRITING WORKSHOPS, TENTATIVE, DETAILS TO FOLLOW:**


2) Charlene and I have **published 9 LIT HITS**, quotes from our CAL for Area Officers, Coordinators and for DRS to send out to GRS, too. **We are in process of putting these on the NCWSA website.** So keep an eye out and they will appear soon. Every quote has been found fairly fast, usually in the same or next day. Good hunting and fun to see what you might know about CAL!!! You may also send suggested quotes to either of us at any time!

**News on The Forum**

3) Remember, **three articles from each month’s magazine are published online. The Forum has made a commitment to go to an online format** in the future. We await the date when this happens.

4) **Get your members ready for the transition by suggesting they read an article online and share about it at meetings.**

**Other CAL news . . .**

6) **Keep ordering the new book Many Voices!** Everyone I have heard speak about it has loved the history and recovery in it. Also, **How Al-Anon Works in soft cover is also still being sold.** Stock up your meetings for newcomers to receive it.

7) **Online and publishing news:**

   WSO has said they will publish **Having Had a Spiritual Awakening**, now out of print, in 2013!! I’ll keep you informed.

   **The next new book is the three Legacies workbook on Steps, Traditions, and Concepts!!** I believe it will come out next spring, in time for the International Convention in Vancouver!!

8) **REMEMBER my original report had an error on the first piece of literature.**

   The blue booklet I showed at Assembly as the first piece of literature, "Alcoholism - The Family Disease", was not the first pamphlet. It was distributed in 1961 with the pamphlet "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions . . ." Distributed in 1951, the first pamphlet was "Purposes and Suggestions for Al-Anon Family Groups." This title has been changed over the years to "Purpose and Suggestions." You can read more info about it in Many Voices. Wanted you to have accurate info to share with your districts and members.

**PICPC Coordinator’s Report** – Sue M. and Cindy D (alt)

2011 has certainly been a year of prayer, experiment and learning for Northern California Outreach.

At the May Assembly, I rolled out “The Outreach Challenge”--a simple form stating an Outreach Project from the P-90, The Best of Public Outreach, literature. Only one NCWSA member submitted a project for approval.

I am still encouraging the Group Representatives to become familiar with the valuable resource P-90 on the Al-Anon website. Please, check it out yourself and then take it to your group! There are wonderful projects that require no group funds and only a little volunteer time. You don’t have to re-invent the wheel---pick an approved WSO project and do it! For example: There are printable letters to Professionals (spiritual leaders, counselors, doctors, etc.). If the GR brought copies of the open letter to clergy to a meeting, for example, volunteers could be asked to hand-deliver, mail or send by homing pigeon the letter to pastors/rabbis/other spiritual leaders, who frequently deal with
families in distress and may not know about Al-Anon.

However, as I continue to pray for direction, more has been revealed to me this past year. “In-Reach” is the new “Out-Reach”. The news of a “Do Not Refer” policy for the first time in Al-Anon history is sad to me. The very first order of Outreach I would hope to be Tradition 11: “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion;” There is no point to putting effort and money into Outreach if there are unhealthy groups that can’t offer the Al-Anon solution to keep people seeking help in a program of recovery.

So, the Outreach Challenge until I see you again in May is “In-Reach” as the new “Outreach”. Please use prayer, the Service Manual, the group inventories in conference approved literature, have meetings on Traditions and Concepts and have a critical eye when it comes to your group.

Sometimes, we have gradually gotten off track and don’t realize how far off we have come. I have had sponsees invite me to their home group that they love so much only to find that the group had changed the words to the steps, had alcoholics breaking their anonymity and a professional giving counseling advice as examples. It had become so “normal” that no one could see it. We are NOT a support group; we are a program of recovery.

If I can be of any assistance to your district or group, please don’t hesitate to email or call.

2013 NCWSA Convention Chair Report – Amparo M.
I want to first of all thank everyone for the love and support through this wonderful experience as Convention Chair.

I’m excited to share that, as a Team, we have accomplished a lot of things and are asking everybody here to continue giving us your support towards a successful Convention.

Take the Pre-Registration Forms to your groups, tell them about the $10 tote bags, and let them know how they can get $5.

T-shirts from past Conventions, but most of all, I’m here to encourage & motivate you to join our team in taking the role as Recording Secretary, Host/Hostess, Entertainment, Male Alateen Sponsor & Spanish-Speaking Liaison or to volunteer as an Alternate for any service.

We also need people to Pre-Register early and buy the Dinner Tickets so we can fulfill our contract requirement with the Hotel. So Please, Please, be a Team Player and Register Today!

Spread the message, be the Helping Hand. Thank You.

12 Stepper – Tom K
It has been a group effort, with alternate Laurie. She helped with formatting, made it a nicer looking newsletter. Also received help from Art B., Johanna, many others. First newsletter created in SF in 1931 by Ruth B. Tom lives in SF. Many voices, one journey has this story.
Next issue isn’t printed on paper, simply posted on the website, the December issue.

Website Coordinator’s Report – Errol S.
Errol took us through website on the screen.
Contact Us Button – general correspondence goes to Errol
Goes over the map and the list as ways to find meetings.
Searching – how it works or doesn’t work so well.

OFFICERS REPORTS
AAPP Report – Charli D.
As of this week we have 78 active Alateen Groups and one in the registration process. The annual group update process was a real trial for me and for the districts. About ten groups had
irregularities, and I was a bit confused on the process. The outcome, though, has been that the groups are now being reactivated with currently certified AMIAS as sponsors and Current Mailing Addresses. The CMA is vital to all group registrations, but particularly crucial for Alateen groups. Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) are eligible to be considered as sponsors of Alateen groups, events involving Alateen, and giving rides to Alateens. Northern California has 327 currently certified AMIAS, and 7 more have been cleared and are awaiting final certification from the World Service Office. That’s a total of 334 AMIAS! Let’s hope that all will recertify next spring, and that we continue to certify AMIAS at the current rate of about two per week. Fall and winter are the best times to begin the process of applying to be an AMIAS, as once recertification and annual updates start in March; the World Service Office processing slows somewhat.

I have updated all the forms, and now have a “training packet” that walks District Process Persons through our process. DRs are receiving the table of contents and those items that are not published on our or WSO’s website this weekend. That includes a sheet on how to get event flyers approved for posting to the NCWSA web site. DAPPS may request a complete paper version of the training packet. I am also available to visit districts to discuss and walk through the process. The NCWSA Chairperson will soon assign a Task Force to revise the NCWSA Requirement for Alateen Member Safety (B-17 Guideline), primarily to bring the language into conformity with current usage with the World Service Office.

Alternate Delegate’s Report – Johanna MM
As Alternate Delegate, my major task is to chair the Budget and Audit Committees. Elsewhere in this issue you will find the proposed budget for 2013. The NCWSC (“the Committee”) approved this budget in detail; it is presented for your approval in summary form. We think it is a reasonable budget, and it is balanced. Hidden within the coordinators’ budget is a greatly expanded allowance for professional interpretation for our Spanish-speaking members. The Committee wants us to commit to full inclusion for our Spanish groups.

A budget is a plan for spending. I have learned that if I want to make HP laugh, I should tell him my plans; however, as a corporation we do need to have a general idea of where we intend to spend money. It gives us goals and guidelines. There are mechanisms in place to adjust these as we go, which is certainly necessary since we make these plans far in advance.

I am available to talk to your districts or groups about anything Al-Anon related. My contact information is included at the back of the 12 Stepper.

Chairperson’s Report – Yvonne De G.
I again had the privilege of attending the South West Regional Delegate Meeting (SWRDM), which is a 3-day event for current and past Delegates, current Area Chairs and alt Delegates; This SWRDM was in Aptos Santa Cruz. I had the privilege of attending my first SWRDM last year in Hawaii thanks to district 14’s generosity of sending their DR once a year to a Service Event. There is an Area Chairperson on line discussion group that I am a member of for the United States.

I facilitate an Officers conference call once a month.

I signed insurance forms, in cooperation with Joyce D (Bylaws and Insurance coordinator)

As Chair I work closely with the Facility Coordinator that involves some sightseeing and more signatures.

I have Facilitated 3 Northern California World Service Committee meetings and a one-day Assembly.

I reviewed the One-day Assembly evaluation forms. There was very good feedback overall, so we
will continue to focus on the Delegate’s report and workshops as this is an informative Assembly.

In lieu of KBDM I have formed some Thought and Task Forces one of the results is updated that we have Financial Assistant guidelines. We started updating our guidelines in the last panel and it is my goal for this panel to have complete updating of the guidelines and have them correspond with each other.

As NCWSA Chairperson I have participated in conflict resolution and was asked to facilitate a group inventory conflict over the course of several months.

And thank you to those districts who have invited me to Facilitate or come and speak at their meetings, DIA’s or conduct a workshop.

Thank you for the privilege of letting me Serve.

Delegate’s Report – Patrick B.
I gave my main report at the May Assembly, so this is more of an update. If you were unable to attend my report of the World Service Conference in May, you can access the slides on the NCWSA website. You can also read the Conference Summary, whether you heard my report in May or not, which is available on the WSO members website (www.al-anon.org). This is a great way to stay informed and help pass along information through the links of service. You can also find summaries of past Conferences.

I have visited 8 Districts, so far in 2012 and have two more visits planned before the end of the year. My goal is to visit all 27 Districts by the end of this panel. In some cases, I have attended the District business meeting. In other cases, I have participated in District events. For example, I was asked to do a workshop on Conflict Resolution at the District 10 Day In Al-Anon, for which we used the new Conflict Resolution Wallet Card (S-71). Please contact my, if you would like me to visit your District at delegate@ncwsa.org.

As part of my service as Delegate, I am on two committees. One of the committees is the Literature Committee, on which we review drafts of new and revised pieces of literature as part of the Conference Approved Literature process. We also consider ideas for new literature that are brought forth by Al-Anon members. I am also an at-large member of the committee to elect a Regional Trustee for the Southeast Region. For this, I reviewed resumes for all of the Southeast Regional Trustee candidates.

Speaking of Literature, I wanted to give a brief update on eLiterature. As you may have heard, the Policy Committee has approved the use of third-party providers to distribute Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature electronically. This paves the way for a trial of The Forum and Having Had a Spiritual Awakening (out-of-print book) in electronic format. The trial will provide more information on the impact of eLiterature on the fellowship as a whole, including Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) and Literature Distributions Centers (LDC), which rely on the sale of literature to support other services. I will keep you posted.

Lastly, the theme of the 2013 World Service Conference is The Spiritual Journey of Changing “Me” to “We”.

Secretary’s Report – Patti R.
As Secretary, I record the minutes from each Committee meeting and Assembly and present the Committee or the Assembly with the minutes from previous meetings for review, corrections, and approval. I also maintain the roster of officers and committee members, including coordinators and district representation and a yahoo group for the same.

As part of my duties I read the roll call at committee meetings and assemblies. I know I may not get a chance to meet each and every one of you here at Assembly over the three years of our time together but I will do my best to try. I am thrilled to be a part of this coming together of representation of groups throughout northern California, I love that feeling of connection and it is one reason I am in service at the Area level.

The day-to-day work at this job is demanding, and I struggle to keep up with it. It is hard to ask for
help or even to know what kind of help I need. I come face to face with my need for perfection, my fear of doing the job wrong and my fear of criticism. These are some of the reasons I do service - so I will have to grapple with my character defects, and have the great company of others involved in working their own program around similar or different issues. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service and to be myself.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Claude D. (Johanna presents for Claude)

Thank you all who have been sending donations. We greatly appreciate your support. NCWSA donations are to be mailed to:

**NCWSA Treasurer PO BOX 728 VACAVILLE, CA 95696-0728**

The NCWSA website has a DONATION FORM that can be downloaded and used to mail in your donations: www.ncwsa.org, select SERVICE, click on FORMS, click on “Donation Form A25”. It is recommended that you use this form when you make a donation.

**IMPORTANT:** The post office will stop forwarded the mail in beginning 2013. Please take to all the groups you go to so they know the Vacaville PO Box is place to send donations. Put in group WSO# is the most important thing. All the rest of form too is important.

The tax returns were timely filed by the outside CPA.

The Financial Statements to Sept 30, 2012 in GR folders. There is a new chart of accounts. With the blessing of the budget committee and EC, we created a separate account for Institutions pink can collection and expenses. WE do pay sales and/or use tax. Buy literature from WSO, WSO does not charge sales tax, we do pay it, take it out of institutions fund for institution literature. Archives was paid for full year in January (storage).

To meet our donations budget we need to receive another $12,000 this year. So far we are under budget on expenses.

If you have questions or want to communicate with me, you can contact me by email at: treasurer@ncwsa.org. I will do my best to respond in a timely fashion.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patti R., Secretary NCWSA**