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** (previously published in 12-Stepper)

**ROUTINE BUSINESS**
Friday Evening-Two early workshops were held at 6:15 pm:
Al-Anon in the Electronic Age
The Heart of Outreach: Carrying the Message to a World in Need
At 7:30, the DR Meeting was held and GR Orientation and Round Table Topic discussions.
Saturday and Sunday meetings opened at 8 am with the Serenity Prayer followed by readings of the Traditions, Concepts and Warrantees. Each day the roll call was taken
and hollers were hollered. Bonnie read the Alateen Guidelines per event guidelines. Translation equipment was made available. On Sunday we closed at 1:10 pm with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Vote Count-offs:
Saturday am: First count-off: 245
Sunday 11:51 am: 209

There were periodic “Bell ringers” during the day; a slideshow of pictures from the International was shown while other activities went on. People sang Step Songs.

Our Delegate, Patrick, reviewed the rules of the conference from WSO:
2 minutes if you come to open mike
Start and end on time
Avoid side conversations
Mute electronic devices please
Avoid any distracting behavior such as blowing bubbles
Clapping is ok after a report.
No Clapping with open floor discussions. We don’t want to let them know what we think about their position. We don’t want to affect a person who shared prior or next and didn’t get clapping hands.
If someone already expressed the idea, don’t get up and say the same thing—you can even sit down if you are on line to talk.
Assume good will.
Practice step 11, drink water, stay hydrated, spend time with friends, and take the steps.

John S., Our Immediate Past Delegate, Reviewed Voting Procedures (see A13 on ncwsa.org, under Service>Forms for details)

Note: A Consensus vote is often taken to get feedback from where we are in the discussion. We do not use Robert’s Rules. We do not make motions from the floor. If you want to make a motion, see the Chair. Calling the question is not permitted.

**MOTIONS**

1310.01: To approve 2014 Budget as presented.
Moved by Peggy, D23; Seconded by Jackie B, D10
Opposed: 1
Abstentions: 7

1310.02: To approve October 2012 Assembly Minutes as corrected.
Moved by Marty S, Sec. Seconded by Jackie B, D10
Opposed: 1
Abstentions: 6

1310.03: To affirm regional candidate nominations by consensus.
Sandi C: 1 abstention, 0 Opposed
Joan W: 7 abstentions, 0 Opposed

1310.04: Whereas NCWSA has funds above an ample reserve; we move that we make a contribution to WSO (AFG, Inc.) in the amount of $20,000.
Moved by Johanna M-M. Seconded by Claude D.
Amended to $25,000
For: 191
Opposed: 9
Abstentions: 9

1310.05: To amend contribution to WSO motion to a higher dollar figure.
1st: Tim C., D11
2nd: Lynn R., D11
For: 132
Against: 66
Abstentions: 12

1310.06: To approve the Treasurer’s Report.
Approved by Consensus

UPCOMING EVENTS
NCWSA 2014 Convention: April 4-6, 2014. The theme is “20 years, One Day At a Time.”
TEAM Event: The WSO has agreed on the date – September 6, 2014 in Alamo. This is not Labor Day weekend. TEAM Committee met at lunch break on Saturday. Sponsors’ R&R will be held September 19-21, 2014. Sandi C and John S will speak plus one unconfirmed out-of-state speaker.
3-Day Assembly will be held October 10-12, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza, Sacramento. Cutoff date is September 19, 2014 for reservations at $99 rate. Call (916) 338-5800 Group Code NCWSA Al-Anon.
Diversity Day will be held August 9, 2014 at LGBT Community center is San Jose.

SUMMARY OF MEETING
Committee Coordinators, District Representatives, Intergroup Representatives, Officers, and the Delegate delivered their reports.
We have a new Executive Committee – for an 18-month term, selected by the NCWSC. They are the second EC of this Panel.

EC Members, 2013 – 2014:
Susie D Secretary (North section)
Agota P (Central section)
Sheri W (South section)
Tom K (At-large)
Chris D Chairperson (At-large)
We Affirmed Candidates for Regional Trustee
At NCWSC meeting in May, the Committee nominated Sandi C as candidate for regional trustee, and nominated Joan W as Alternate.
At this NCWSA Assembly, the GRs confirmed those nominations. (See motions)

What does a well-served group look like? Does changing Area structure support the districts?
Individual Districts discussed for 15 minutes what are the top three challenges. Then we had a second round of people from different districts, to discuss further.
Our discussion this weekend about group and district challenges is all part of the larger discussion about splitting California into more than two areas. May 2013 Assembly we looked at the question, “What does a well served group look like?” At the Oct. 2013 Assembly we’re looking at the question, “What are the challenges that the districts/groups face?” Take these discussions towards what the issues are for our area and what we need to do to best serve the groups in our area. We will compile this information to use it in the Feb. 2014 Committee Meeting and the May 2014 One Day Assembly to continue this conversation to slowly move towards making a decision, if there is any decision to make. In the Three A’s: we are in the Awareness stage moving towards Acceptance and we are not in the Action phase yet.

The 2014 Budget was discussed and approved.
The NoCAC chair and co-chair weren’t able to make it and it was suggested that someone else read the NoCAC report. The Executive Committee voted not to have it read by someone other than chair or co-chair. The decision to not allow another Alateen to share the report was made because that person doesn’t have voice at Assembly, per our bylaws. Later it was determined that the Alateen present is a GR and thus does have voice and vote, so he was able to give a report.

Alateen Process Person Charli, and Alateen Coordinator Bonnie, are ready to make road trips if your district wants a visit about how to grow Alateen.
Diana, our Literature Coordinator, wore a literature coat -- a black coat with pamphlets all over it--as she delivered her report-about eBooks, audiobooks and Reaching for Personal Freedom published in three languages at once! And don’t forget the Conflict Resolution using our Twelve Traditions -- a set of colorful cards illustrating how to apply the Traditions to conflict situations. The cost is only $4. Give a set to your home meeting!

All issues of the 12 Stepper for the last 15 years are posted on the web.

Al-Anon Registration/Group Records Change Form (A-16) is available on our website NCWSA.org. Your Group’s CMA (Current Mailing Address) is very important that it be current! Please correct if it isn’t.

Public Information Question: How many meetings that you attend have an active outreach component?
Patrick B. stepped down as chairperson from The Prison Thought Force that was created at 2011 Assembly. Debbie O. expressed interest in keeping this going.

There was an extensive discussion on making a Contribution to WSO, since we have funds above our prudent reserve. Motion began with $20,000 and ended with $25,000 donation. There was some discussion of sending funds down to districts instead, and also questioning why don’t we send the entire $47,000 that we have in excess. The discussion included fear of financial insecurity.

Group Focus Box – the decision we made last year was called into question – at the time, it needed to be done quickly in order for us to maintain the information we had already gathered – but maybe we need to re-consider. Some members felt that we were not right concerning unity -- as if we were splitting from WSO on a core matter. It was suggested that we establish a thought force to follow up on this.

Gender Neutral Steps
A member brought up the issue of the wording being more gender neutral in the Steps. In the group she represents there has been a change in the language to let people choose the gender to use for God in the readings. John, the immediate past delegate, mentioned that this discussion comes up periodically. The Group Reps voted informally-- do not want to discuss today. So we will not discuss today. Patrick has had many discussions around this. There is the issue of whether or not we can change the Steps, and the issue of a forum or opportunity around what underlies the desire to change the Steps. The issue that we can’t get three-quarters of the groups to change the steps to be gender neutral today-- how do we honor the conversation even though we can’t change it now?
We decided to make a thought force that will report at the One Day May Assembly. We could consider having a workshop meeting on this at the TEAM event.
Patrick: The issue of KBDM has come up among the new group of delegates at the WSC. The KBDM questions can be modified to best use them for your district/group. Full name: KBDM Towards an Informed Group Conscience. We should use a method of decision-making that is in line with the principles of the program.
Sandy C, past delegate: The Board of Trustees started using KBDM because their board meetings were not going well, so they hired a consultant to help them. The consultant was well versed with our Steps, Traditions and Concepts. The consultant made sure that the KBDM was developed with our principles in mind.
John S, immediate past delegate, mentioned that using a Service Sponsor is important. Everyone has issues-- we aren’t coming here because we are so healthy. Having someone who has been there before can be really helpful.

ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS
Q. Why doesn’t the Assembly held in May nominate the Regional Trustee?
A. Guidelines—we followed the process in place. We will look at the guideline at next committee meeting, so that in future the Assembly could do the nomination.
Q. Can a group get de-listed if they use non-CAL?
A. WSO will not de-list a group. They will not be personally punitive. If a district wants to limit they can—but get a guideline in place first would be the suggestion. Also think about if you are being punitive. If you are going to take them off the list, tell them in advance. Be careful of trying to be the Al-Anon police.

Q. Can the 12-Stepper contain a summary of the issues that we need to take back to the groups?
A. Tom says he doesn’t think it is possible. In trying to consolidate we would probably miss something. It is better to really read the 12Stepper, the reports, and call people from back of 12Stepper. Your DR comes to NCWSC Meetings three to four times per year; your DR gets all the information. DR relates it to the GRs, GRs relay it to the meetings.

Q. Why was a prayer included in the packet? As there is no Al-Anon approved prayer, why was this included in packet?
A. It isn’t an official prayer; it is an Al-Anon’s prayer, an individual’s prayer.

Q. Can you correct information regarding cigarettes?
A. Each Al-Anon group has to make their own decision. It is an Outside issue, for the group to decide.

Q. When will new website be available?
A. Sometime soon. Member website WSO not online yet but they will let people know, or go out to website—you may notice it is new.

Q. How many districts that claim they are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization know that they are required to file an annual federal and state tax return or they can lose their tax free status?
A. Districts should be sure to file their taxes if they are a 501(c)3.

Q. What type of fundraising can a group do to raise money? I ask because my group used all group funds to send me (the GR) to Assembly.
A. Passing basket, passing baskets repeatedly, or passing a separate basket. Sales, craft fairs, donation drawings, Afternoon/Day in Al-Anon, car wash.

Q. Why do we need to contribute separately for arms of service?
A. See page 9 of the new 12Stepper.

Q. Why shouldn’t we only contribute to the district and let the district contribute to WSO?
A. See page 53 of Service Manual “having a budget”. Also see page 96 “Remaining funds may be used to support local area.” It is up to the group where to send funds and to take a group conscience on it.

Q. Recently I heard that we aren’t supposed to use the word Qualifier? Is the word Qualifier used in the literature?
A. There used to be a list of objectionable words. One of them was “Co-Alcoholic.” “Adult Child of an Alcoholic” in 1982 was objectionable. In 1984 it was taken off list. There is no list of objectionable words in Al-Anon. Professional terms are discouraged, but not specified. There was a discussion on that term at the WSO this year.

Q. Do babysitters at meetings have to meet any safety requirements similar to Alateen sponsors?
A. This is not an Al-Anon requirement. However, most groups that provide childcare take this into consideration, as the safety of the children is important to the members.
Q. It is suggested we avoid treatment center language. Is there a list?
A. There is not a list of defined terms from treatment centers and most of the terms have become common usage.

Q. I’ve always been curious, what does Al-Anon stand for?
A. The Al-Anon name is an extraction from Alcoholics Anonymous. The original groups chose it in the 1950s. Please see the history book, Many Voices, One Journey, for more detail.

Q. Reading Conference approved literature – but changing language, what can be done?
A. If someone is reading CAL in a meeting but changing words, you can ask the person, “If you can’t read as written, please pass it to someone who can.”
Q. There was a question in the minutes that said it would be discussed at the next WSO Conference and that is “Why can’t AA members serve as a GR (Area level)?” Was it addressed and what was said/decided?
A. Please see page 65-67 of the 21st Conference Summary. There was discussion but there was no decision.

Q. The concept of abundant thinking isn’t in Al-Anon literature; can we take a closer look at this and reconsider it?
A. There is a Skills Survey on WSO members’ web site www.al-anon.org members’ section: an example of unlimited abundant resources. If someone lists the skill of public speaking, then use some of those people to create audio book.

Q. Are 900-950 meetings active in our Area? I notice there are some in my district not active but they still have meeting numbers.
A. We go by the list of registered – there could be fewer than 900 groups out there.

Q. If Literature comes from another Area, is it still CAL?
A. CAL is CAL. Still CAL if produced in another Area.

Q. Why can’t I order literature from another country, in another language?
A. This isn’t because of copyright, but because it would be too hard to maintain. If you go on vacation feel free to pick up a book in another language.

Q. With the high cost of printing would it be more economical to enter into a contract with a printer?
A. The 12 Stepper uses a low-cost printer. If someone wants to look at it that’s fine, I’m not sure it is high priority.

Q. Can there be a way for Al-Anon to have a visual presence. (And keep anonymity)?
A. There are seven pages of Al-Anon videos on YouTube; at least one is put out by AFG. People have questioned photos in Forum--none are Al-Anon members, they are actors. Public Service announcements are intentionally done with still photos-- with this method you can do voiceovers in different languages so can have a single version of the PSA and produce it with three different languages.

Q. Executive Committee-- why are they voting on who can read NoCAC report? Shouldn’t this be up to the GRs at Assembly?
A. Essentially, only those with voice can give reports-- in this case it needs to be given by someone with voice. The Executive Committee is the Board of Directors of NCWSA; that’s why they interpret the bylaws and guidelines.

Q. If area gives $$ to WSO, then would a District give overage to the Area?
A. It is up to district group conscience, but it is good to split excess funds between the Area and WSO. Each District has to decide.

Q. Is the Unity Prayer Conference Approved Literature?
A. It is not. Another fellowship has the copyright on the Unity Prayer. At one point we were asked not to use it.

Q. Should there be computers in a meeting?
A. Maybe a meeting could consider the question. Perhaps there is a reason to have a computer on or not? A meeting’s script may say “turn off cell phones, etc.” and this could be tailored to include computers, if necessary.

Q. When will there be a change to using the word God and possibly using gender-neutral language, particularly with regards to the Steps?
A. There are a lot of strong feelings about this. Service Manual, Page 164 “no changes are to be made in Steps, Concepts, Traditions, without written consent of three-quarters of Al-Anon groups.” In Many Voices One Journey, changes to the Steps is one of the entries in the appendix. When? It will be awhile if it does happen. We look at them as our legacies—written at a point in time—hard to change something that was a gift, and that has done a lot of good. People do modify the Steps and read them differently. Meetings will do what they do. In the spirit of unity, it strengthens our fellowship to read the Steps in their original form.

Q. How do we build NoCAC guidelines? Is it a dialogue that requires going above the district level?
A. We build them through a task force. ... past experience.... and approval through NCWSC and NoCAC while involving Alateen Coordinators and other trusted servants.

Q. Since many churches don’t want felons to have keys, why are we inviting them through institutions work? How are we different, in this regard, than AA/NA? They seem to be able to deal with people’s histories.
A. First service position was an old-timer giving you a key and saying you open the meeting next time. No one asked her if she was trustworthy. There are felons in prisons who committed murder: they are no different than you. I don’t ask anyone in here, “Did you beat your wife?” “Did you steal?” etc.

Q. Turnover—is it supposed to happen all at once?
A. Yes, in a perfect world. But it doesn’t actually happen that way 100 percent. With everyone starting together, there is the opportunity of experiencing growing together. Sometimes a person can serve out a partial term (i.e., one or two years coming in as a replacement) then do the next term.

Q. Why doesn’t Al-Anon have a hospitals component?
A. When AA started, they called it hospitals and institutions. We don’t 12 Step people who are detoxing. That doesn’t mean that we don’t take meetings into psychiatric hospitals--we do, also VA hospitals.

Q. In what ways can a district financially support groups?
A. Each group is financially self-funding, but district can support the groups by coordinating fundraising events. The groups vote at the district level about what the district does. There are multiple references in the Service Manual and they are indexed in back. Additionally, districts sometimes vote to give scholarships to groups where they particularly need it--one where there was embezzlement, for instance.

Q. When will the Area’s new website become available?
A. It was going to be presented now, but the Website Coordinator couldn’t be here— it will be soon, we will send email out to the DRs when.

Q. What does the WSO do with extra money from contributions?
A. WSO has let go of their staff because of lack of contributions. They work year to year. If they find extra funds, they will find a project to use extra funds. Printing How Al-Anon Works in paperback was one such project. The WSO starts from zero every year. The current Service Manual was delayed a year due to finances.

Q. Form for a new pamphlet— who decides what kind of new pamphlets will be made?
A. The pamphlets and literature come out of motions at the World Service Conference. Send suggestions to Tom C at WSO as he is responsible for literature; you can also send to Patrick B, our delegate, and have him send it along.

Q. Can an Area or District create literature on their own?
A. Conference Approved Literature process is in the service manual.

Q. What is an Intergroup? Could we form it and have it publish meeting lists?
A. In the Service Manual, see AIS, Al-Anon Information Group, page 59-60. An Intergroup does 12 Step work for the groups it serves: public outreach, publish meeting lists, Alateen. Intergroup is not part of links of service (i.e., not passing down or passing up information from one part of service to another such as District to Area). We use the terms “Intergroup” and “AIS” pretty interchangeably.

There are 2 major types of Intergroups. One is geographical—D6-10 is an example, districts that are close together. The other type is the overlay intergroup —the Spanish Intergroups, for instance—based on language. A meeting that belongs to an intergroup also belongs to a district. If you have an intergroup, your meeting sends representatives to district and to intergroup.

Q. How many liaisons can the intergroup have and what is their responsibility?
A. Intergroup autonomy— has a liaison to every entity it gets reports to/from. For every district they overlay, and to NCWSA. We have a position of liaison on the roster for every multi-district intergroup. They have voice at Assembly, voice and vote at Committee. We would like more participation from Spanish Intergroups-- one of the reasons we are investing in translation equipment, translators, etc. Intergroup District 1 doesn’t count because it isn’t Inter-district (it is completely within one District).

Q. Does an Intergroup representative have three years of responsibility?
A. Yes, with Panel.

Q. Was there a consolidation of the flip charts for “Is your Group Well-Served?” from the May 2013 Assembly?
A. Yes, the document is on the ncwsa.org website —under Service>Assembly Misc “What is a Well-Functioning Group?”

Q. Will ask-it-basket questions be in 12Stepper?
A. Yes!

Not Ask It Basket, but an important point:

Q: Bonnie suggested that we could increase Alateen participation by inviting Alateens to our group meeting. But don’t we need to be careful to have AMIAS there?
A: The question raises an interesting point. There is no age limit on who can attend an Al-Anon group meeting, and minors attending need to be welcomed as the group would anyone else. When a specific invitation by the group to teens in general is made, that
invitation creates an expectation of Alateen member safety similar to the mention of Alateen on an event flyer. Having at least one currently certified AMIAS in attendance and paying attention to the safety of the teen fulfills that expectation. If a parent or guardian accompanies the minor, it is reasonable to assume that person will be responsible for the safety of the minor.

If an Al-Anon member who is not the parent or guardian is providing transportation to or from the group meeting, that member must be a currently certified Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) and must be named on the travel and treatment authorization form (A22-7) signed by the minor’s parent or guardian.

Teens 18 years and older may choose to attend as Al-Anons without that attendance being subject to the NCWSA Requirement for Alateen Member Safety. This is another example of Alateen service other than actively sponsoring Alateen groups, and a reason to encourage members to become certified AMIAS.

Quotes: “Alateen is part of the Al-Anon Family Groups; Al-Anon meetings are for anyone affected by someone else’s drinking. If there’s no Alateen meeting available to you, you are always welcome to attend an Al-Anon meeting.” (The WSO website http://www.al-anon.org, under the "For Teens" tab: "Why should I attend Alateen?")

“In our Al-Anon groups, individual freedom is of enormous importance. Anyone who feels his/her personal life is, or has been, deeply affected by close contact with a problem drinker is eligible for membership in Al-Anon. We never take away this right to belong. Neither do we compel our members to believe anything or pay anything.” (Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010-2013, p 183; Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017, p 191.)

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Chairperson’s Welcome** – Yvonne de G.

- How many people are attending their first Assembly? Many raised hands.
- How many Alateen GRs are here? 1.
- We have a visitor, Margaret, Institutions Coordinator of Southern California Area.
- We will approve the minutes, budgets, and we do have language translation available.
- We thank District 14 for their hospitality.
- See Chris and Veronica for translation equipment and translators. Thanks to those volunteering, to Carol G. who supervised the voting cards, to Tom the 12 step Editor for providing the 12 Steppers.
- There are boxes in the back for Assembly evaluations, and boxes for Ask It Basket questions.
- If you have new business you plan to bring up on Sunday, please put a note about it in box today so we will know what is coming tomorrow and can announce later.
- Beth Ann is the timer.
- Some people couldn’t attend: Charli D., our Alateen Process Person, Errol S., our website coordinator couldn’t be here nor his alternate, Chris D., so we won’t have any website demonstration today.
• We have Bell ringers today. There is a slideshow from the International Convention on the screen, and there are love gifts on one of the tables.

**Procedures**

Our Delegate, Patrick B., reviewed the rules of the conference from WSO (see Summary above)

John S., Immediate Past Delegate, reviewed the Voting Procedures. (Voting procedures can be found on [www.ncwsa.org](http://www.ncwsa.org), in the service section under “bylaws” – NCWSA Assembly bylaws.

• Members who vote – group representatives.
• Officers and Committee members have the right to vote but do not vote.
• Today we are doing corporate business – you GRs are the ones who vote.
• How do you vote? With the card! A close vote, we will do a countdown-people will stand and count off. We also do this to identify how many voting members are present.
• Please don’t force us to do a count-off by forgetting to put your card in the box by the door, if you step outside.
• We use consensus vote to get feedback from where we are in the discussion.
• **We do not use Robert’s Rules.** We do not make motions from the floor. If you want to make a motion, see the Chair.
• Calling the question is not permitted.

**Executive Committee opinion on 2 issues:**

1. Why are we not allowing a NoCAC report today?
2. Why are we not passing the hat for NoCAC?

The decision to not allow another Alateen to report instead of the NoCAC Chair or Co-chair is because he doesn’t have voice at the Assembly, only the NoCAC chair or co-chair does.

Typically we pass the basket for NoCAC, but we decided not to due to lack of information coming from NoCAC regarding finances.

Here’s the history: In 1988 there was a new Area treasurer; NoCAC asked to become part of NCWSA, and this was granted. They set up 2 checking accounts – a registration account that held registration funds. The second account was to pay their own expense through year. For 9-10 years it had all worked well. In last 4 or 5 years NoCAC stopped giving reports to the Area Treasurer. Our Treasurer didn’t let us know how severe this situation was – and this puts NCWSA in jeopardy. IRS is going after non-profits, and we are a large one.

We eventually got some info from NoCAC but didn’t have full backup for expenses. The Budget Committee came to the conclusion that we should relieve NoCAC of the burden of handling money. They recorded their conclusions. They requested that NoCAC report on a regular basis. But NoCAC hasn’t concurred.
That’s why we are more comfortable with not passing the basket today.

**Confirm Candidate for Regional Trustee** - Patrick B Delegate

18 Al-Anon members make up the Board of Trustees. There are 9 Regional Trustees and 9 At-Large Trustees. Terms are staggered such that 6 new Trustees are elected each year (3 Regional, 3 At-Large.) Trustees may also be appointed for a 1-year term in the case of a vacancy, as was the case this year.

SWRDM(Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting) includes California North, California South, Hawaii, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah (8 Areas).

Karen Rimmell, our current Regional Trustee, is chairman of the Board of Trustees. Each area nominates a Regional Trustee. NCWSC-District Representatives, Officers, and Coordinators, go through an election process for nominating candidate – 2/3 majority, we elect a candidate and an alternate candidate.

At the Committee meeting in May, NCWSC nominated Sandi C., and nominated as an Alternate Joan W.

Today we want the GRs to confirm our selection. The Committee reviewed the resumes, and made sure the qualifications were met: that candidate lives within Region, is not also member of AA, is willing to share a room, is available 45-60 days for service per year, and has a minimum of 10 years in Al-Anon.

**Joan W.** has served the Area for over 20 years. She was DR for District 20, started an LDC, and moved to District 9, starting one in District 9 too. She became the Institutions Coordinator for Northern California. Joan was also Alternate Delegate for last Panel.

**Sandi C.**: Positions Sandy has held - NCWSA Delegate 2006-2008, Alt Del 2003-2005, Secretary 1999-2002, Convention Chair 1998, Alt DR and DR in the 90s, NoCAC sponsor, Alateen Sponsor, and District Secretary. Sandi continues to support Al-Anon; it saved her.

Question: Is this a paid position? No.

**Motion**: To affirm Regional Candidates nomination by consensus. **Affirmed.**
- Sandi C. - 1 abstentions, 0 no.
- Joan W. - 7 abstentions, 0 no.

**Budget Discussion/Q & A** - Johanna M.M.
Budget committee compares actual and budget for full years (Johanna showed on screen)

Clarification: H&I Conference isn’t Al-Anon Institutions – it is an AA event – we don’t
necessarily break even.
Al-Anon events: Sponsors R&R, TEAM

Someone questioned the Total Convention Income line – 2012 so much less? Is 2013 trending to bring in more income? The Budget Committee proposed balanced income and expenses for all Al-Anon events, based on past performance.

Translation expenses were added to Diversity Coordinator’s budget. Committee – when a Coordinator goes to Committee (NCWSC) meeting the cost to go to Committee (hotel, mileage and food) is included in Committee Travel now, not in the individual Coordinator’s budget.

Institutions: $1400 spent on thank you letters, pink cans are free, pay for wraps (for cans), conference calls for prisons, and getting conference call going for district institutions coordinators. Cover expenses by NCWSA point persons – responsible for San Quentin, Folsom, Solano State Prison, and Soledad. Solano has many expenses – has the largest number of inside meetings – they need to copy all paperwork. Pink can funds go only to pay for literature; the other expenses go into the Institution Coordinator’s budget.

Donation to WSO: One group rep suggested that maybe we not live out of scarcity. Meetings are well attended and funds well donated. Also $5 is new $1. $1 was fine in 1950’s, now $5 may be a better donation for those who can afford it.

Why isn’t donation to WSO on budget? The budget is a plan. It is not something set in concrete. If we set donations at $20K and get $17K, all those committee expenses can be reduced. Officers and Coordinators can make decision to cut expenses. Districts are taking a look at prudent reserve. One person suggested we might not be listing the donation to WSO out of fear. Donations to WSO are made out of funds in excess of an ample reserve, rather than being budgeted.

**Finance Presentation Q&A – Treasurer Claude D**

Self-supporting: The Area depends on donations from groups. WSO depends on donations from Areas, from districts, from groups, and from sale of literature.

Concept One: The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon World Services belongs to the Al-Anon groups.

“Together the groups share responsibility for the survival of Al-Anon. They contribute their experience, strength & hope as well as their time, effort, and money.”

Upside down pyramid Groups>Districts AIS>Areas>WSO (top to bottom)

Q. Why don’t we have a central area mailing address for donations that doesn’t change?
A. Every three years new officers are elected. The Treasurer doesn’t handle the money coming in. The Financial Assistant does this – the EC and Treasurer find that person. That person goes to the mailbox which is currently in Vacaville. That person rotates every three years. So that’s why it moves. So far we haven’t found a good way to change this procedure. Every three years you can anticipate this changing. Johanna added–she learned at SWRDM that other areas have private mailboxes and have mail forwarded but it is expensive, so we have decided so far to keep as is.

Q. Is Information available about groups opening bank accounts?  
A. Back by the bins is a document, also can find on WSO. Do not use FEIN from district or area.

**Donation to WSO Discussion**

For the last 2 years income has exceeded expenses by approximately $17,000. We have $46,000 plus left in checking above our prudent reserve. We don’t want to give all of it away, although some areas do that – they wipe the slate clean.

**Motion** – Whereas NCWSA has funds above current reserve; we move that we make a contribution to WSO of $20,000.  
Made by Johanna MM, 2nd by Claude D.

Q. Where did the number $20,000 come from? It sounds like a small amount if we have $47,00 in excess.  
A. When we looked at it we had $40,000 in excess and we decided on $20,000.  
Motion is amendable; someone can make a motion to amend.

Some people thought we should send the whole $46K. Others thought we should look at sending funds down to the Districts for various reasons, including supporting Institutions work at district level. One person brought up the point that we could send money to the Districts rather than up to WSO, or we can consider that in the future. Another person noted that money travels up but doesn’t come back down. Lot of districts are in need of money and teens in need of programs; it is hard to see a lot of money going up rather than helping these districts.

Statement: Every arm of service first serves its needs, a group buys literature, supports outreach, etc. The same is true of Districts and Areas. All Districts should meet their needs first, and not send on to the Area if they can’t afford it. The Area doesn’t usually send funds the other way. Occasionally, if there is a special need, then a District could petition the Area, particularly for a broad/general reason– for instance literature out of Pink Can funds. Area doesn’t give money to a District to do District projects.

The prior Treasurer spoke - we didn’t contribute to the WSO during the last Panel. We could have sent $10,000 to WSO but instead spent $5,000 for GRs to cover ½ their travel expense, and $5,000 for NoCAC Scholarships.
Many people spoke about supporting the motion as it stands. We haven’t made contributions. At the Committee level we are talking about a formula to calculate each year. We have 6 months prudent reserve, and the actual guideline recommends 12 months, so that’s what we are left with if we send $20,000, essentially a 12-month prudent reserve.

A Group rep said there was a similar topic at her district – she wanted to point out annual budget around $100,000, would support donating a larger amount.

One person brought up that we are responsible for NoCAC and for Convention – if they are not self-supporting we cover that. We finance them and then get the money back.

Someone said we are making better financial decisions than before.

Someone suggested it is best go through Task force before we just do it.

There was concern about scholarships/funds for GRs to travel – someone mentioned that there is already in place a fund for supporting GRs coming from a great distance.

One group rep thanked the Committee and people who put time to this issue. She went to International, heard about the outreach we are doing globally and she absolutely supports the motion. Supports both- helping districts as well.

One group rep thought we could put money into public outreach –and supports giving money to WSO.

One person suggested the donation be to be half of what we have now.

One group rep appreciates the care. When he looks at budget 10% increase in donations this year and next year. If same optimism is used instead of fear what figure we would come to?

One person talked about when our Area had cash flow problems –that it was a result of transition in Panels. She is glad there is clarity in the donations processing. About $4,000-$5,000 per year would be good, and since we haven’t donated since 2008, if we donate $20,000, that’s about right. WSO does so much for us in PSAs, etc.

One person also dealt with this issue in their area-shadow reserves around working capital. Instead of making it a shadow reserve, do a clear reserve.

One DR brought up that it isn’t “either/or,” that maybe we can consider “ both/and.” It is important to remember that we are part of WSO-it isn’t something else, I am part of the WSO.
One person brought up the question – do we know if WSO needs this money? Answer: Yes. Would it help them? Yes.

Patrick, our Delegate, spoke of the services provided by WSO– they had to cut out some services to have balanced budget. Increases were limited to cost of living, they reduced number of PSAs produced from 3 to 2, and they delayed printing of the Service Manual.

Someone added: it isn’t just that they need the money but we need to give.

Concept 12: article 12 –how much do I trust when I need help around financial matters? Within the culture of one person’s district they sit on a lot of money, above and beyond a 2-year ample reserve. That District decided to cut reserve in half.

Many people spoke in support of the motion. One person said “in giving we receive” – from prayer on Just for Today bookmark. We can spread message to the world through WSO.

Excess funds may be used to fund special funds such as special outreach.

“It’s God’s money.”

One person spoke of monetary fears in their district, that they had to believe there was enough money. By the end of that service she thought, “let’s give away that money.” This is the power of faith. Her district gives away quarterly.

One person referred to the July 5 reading in Hope for Today, on Tradition Seven. Support group by ..all kinds of support… support by performing service.

Service to the structure – WSO Areas groups, how do we care the message without the structure? China, Philippines, carrying the message is a vital part.

Someone asked: Is there more money coming in? Yes.

**Motion:** To amend motion to a different number: 132 for Keep original motion as written: (against this motion) 66 Abstentions: 12 The count is off (210 voted)– so we will take it again before we vote on final motion. By consensus, we are going to amend.

Count: at 11:51 Sunday- **209 votes**

**Original Motion amended:** $25,000 to be donated: as amended by Tim, 2nd by Johanna in favor: 191 Opposed: 9
Old Business: (Part 2) Continuing the “What does a Well Served group look like?”

Conversation - Patrick B

Patrick asked for a show of hands for those who continued discussion in their meetings? How about, in their districts?

2012 World Service Conference (WSC) set a trial period for Areas to review their structure and change their structure temporarily. By December we need to let them know if we want to have any additional people come to conference, other folks there as observer, as we can only have voice and vote of one delegate for Area.

We have talked about splitting again. We have approached 300 reps come to Assemblies.

Communication, Participation
One question is: “Does changing Area structure support the districts?”

Awareness, Acceptance, Action – we are probably still in the Awareness part of it. It is likely there are some different opinions about it.

Among your District, discuss for 15 minutes what are the top 3 District challenges. Maybe we should start to address district concerns now, and maybe knowing what the challenges are may help us.

What are the District Challenges? See chart that follows.

Now the Group Challenges – meet with 10 people or so in a group, go with people you don’t know now. Come up with top 3 Group Challenges.

The discussions this weekend about group challenges and district challenges is all part of the larger discussion about splitting California into more than 2 areas. At the May 2013 Assembly we looked at the question, “What does a well served group look like?” At the Oct. 2013 Assembly we’re looking at the question, “What are the challenges that the districts/groups face?” Take these discussions towards what the issues are for our Area and what we need to do to best serve the groups in our Area.

We will compile this information to use it in the Feb. 2014 Committee Meeting and the May 2014 one-day Assembly to continue this conversation to slowly move towards making a decision, if there is any decision to make.

In the Three A’s – we are in the Awareness stage moving towards Acceptance and we are not in the Action phase yet.
# TOP THREE DISTRICT CHALLENGES

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<tr>
<th># 1</th>
<th># 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Willingness to Serve</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Double winners limited to Group Level&lt;br&gt;o Financial cost of travel to District Meetings&lt;br&gt;o Sponsors</td>
<td><strong>Public Outreach</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Telephone outgoing message nightmare&lt;br&gt;o Attracting Alateen Members&lt;br&gt;o Retaining New Members</td>
<td><strong>Geographic Isolation</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Size of District - Miles, Topography, Weather&lt;br&gt;o Need to have Internet Solution&lt;br&gt;o Experienced Members to support New Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Getting GR's to Assembly</strong></td>
<td><strong>Educating our groups on the function of District, Area, and WSO</strong></td>
<td><strong>Increasing Participation of our Group Members</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Filling District Service Positions</strong></td>
<td>No Active Al-Alateen</td>
<td><strong>Public Outreach</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Getting Service Volunteers:</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Mentor Program Discussed&lt;br&gt;o People who have been in Service to share Experiences and Duties at a Service Meeting&lt;br&gt;o Materials for New Volunteers isn't provided to the subsequent volunteer i.e.. - The Service Manual.</td>
<td><strong>Reaching Outlying Groups:</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Better Serving Outlying Groups&lt;br&gt;o Poor Contact Information&lt;br&gt;o Put Officers Phone No. in Newsletter (i.e.. a possible solution)</td>
<td><strong>Appeals Letters:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Confusion at Groups</td>
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<td><strong>Communication:</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Language Issues&lt;br&gt;o Subcommittees&lt;br&gt;o Outreach</td>
<td><strong>Letting Go of Fear:</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Moving On&lt;br&gt;o Disunity&lt;br&gt;o Faith based</td>
<td><strong>Participation:</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Filling District Positions&lt;br&gt;o Subcommittees&lt;br&gt;o Outreach</td>
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<td><strong>Transitioning Alateens to Al-Anon</strong></td>
<td><strong>More Representation and Rotation of Service at District Meetings</strong></td>
<td><strong>Outreach:</strong>&lt;br&gt;ie. UCD, High Schools for Alateen</td>
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<td><strong>Members Stepping up for Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Alateen Sponsorship/Service&lt;br&gt;o Low GR Participation</td>
<td><strong>Demographics:</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Underserved Areas in our District&lt;br&gt;o Low Income Areas&lt;br&gt;o W.E.A.V.E.&lt;br&gt;o Salvation Army</td>
<td><strong>Serving Young Adults:</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Need Young People Meetings&lt;br&gt;o No Alateen Transitions&lt;br&gt;o 18 yrs. 20's yrs.&lt;br&gt;O Maybe Local Community College</td>
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<td><strong>More Group / GR Participation and more Member Participation</strong></td>
<td><strong>How to Grow Alateen</strong></td>
<td><strong>Enhance Public Outreach</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Service Rotation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Newcomer Retention</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sponsorship:</strong>&lt;br&gt;o Personal&lt;br&gt;o Service</td>
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<td><strong>Geographics</strong></td>
<td><strong>Participation from Local GRs at District Level including Diversity</strong></td>
<td><strong>Communication:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Bottom Up</td>
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<td>Outreach:</td>
<td>Alateen: Attracting and Supporting</td>
<td>Service: Attitudes &amp; Possibilities</td>
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<td>Institutions</td>
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<td>Tradition 6</td>
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<th>Organization Issues:</th>
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<td>o Service Beyond District Level</td>
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<th>Financial Guidelines:</th>
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<td>o Budgets / Procedures</td>
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<tr>
<th>Explore GR Term:</th>
<th>Outreach (Internal / External)</th>
<th>Encouraging Home meeting Participation, Growing small meetings, and retaining newcomers</th>
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<tr>
<td>o Increase GR's (incl. Spanish)</td>
<td>(Grow, Keep Members)</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Filling Positions and Rotation (Group)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Group Participation</th>
<th>Alateen - Outreach</th>
<th>Service Participation at the District and Group level to include service Positions and Sponsorship</th>
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| Rotation in Leadership/Service - Not enough     | Connecting with Newcomers - We need         | Retain Alateen (Funding Alateen) We need Help! / Support                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------| o Ideas                                | 3A: Outreach                                                                                   |
|                                                 | o Strategies for GR's                | Getting a Coordinator                                                                          |
|                                                 | o Serving 20's and 30's and Young Adults| Attracting Newcomers                                                                            |

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<th>Service</th>
<th>Commitment / Communication</th>
<th>Expand Public Outreach to include Alateen</th>
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<tr>
<th>Rotation of Leadership</th>
<th>Service Participation at the District Level</th>
<th>Diversity</th>
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<tr>
<th>Lack of Unity - To big of Area</th>
<th>District Meeting in Other Areas</th>
<th>Service / Service Sponsorship Maybe having an Intergroup</th>
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<tr>
<th>Greater Group Representation (GR's at District &amp; Assembly Levels)</th>
<th>Separation of Responsibilities Between Intergroup and District</th>
<th>Greater Outreach to our Diverse Communities including Helping Professions and Educational Institutions</th>
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<tr>
<th>Participation - Beyond the Group Level</th>
<th>Education:</th>
<th>Communication (Diversity) (Many Spanish, LGBT and Young Al-Anon)</th>
<th>Aiding and Orienting GR's in Understanding their Role</th>
<th>Service and Growth Transition: Member to Group to District</th>
<th>Public Outreach</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Difficulty Attracting Volunteers)</td>
<td>o Knowledge of Events</td>
<td>o Attracting Alateen Sponsors (Invitation)</td>
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<td>Connection with Personal Recovery</td>
<td>o Impact of Organizations above Group Level</td>
<td>o Building Bridges</td>
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<td>o The Why I should Participate?</td>
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<th>Representation Above the Group Level</th>
<th>Alateen Support</th>
<th>Resources - $'s and Support</th>
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<th>Low GR Participation</th>
<th>Low Group Participation in District Activities</th>
<th>Need to Improve our Cultural Outreach</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reluctance for Service</td>
<td>Communication:</td>
<td>Isolation from other Meeting and nearby Districts</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Overcoming Reluctance</td>
<td>o Building Confidence</td>
<td>o Lack of Diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Overcoming Reluctance</td>
<td>Communication:</td>
<td>o Accessibility (Wheelchair, Childcare, Language)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication:</td>
<td>Difficulty getting and passing on information</td>
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<td>Isolation from other Meeting and nearby Districts</td>
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<td>Alateen:</td>
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<td>o District</td>
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### TOP THREE GROUP CHALLENGES

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<td>Size of Group</td>
<td>Misunderstanding that Service is Part of Recovery</td>
<td>Attraction Getting the word out Keeping Newcomers</td>
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<td>Rotation of Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newcomer Retention</td>
<td>Service:</td>
<td>Unhealthy &quot;Sharing&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Being more &quot;Welcoming&quot;</td>
<td>o Rotation,</td>
<td>o More Experience</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o &quot;Stepping Up,&quot;</td>
<td>o Strength &amp; Hope</td>
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<td>o Outreach to Alateen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy Meetings</td>
<td>Spreading the Word Through Public Outreach</td>
<td>Awareness (at Group Level) of the value &amp; importance of Sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Rotation of Service</td>
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<td>o Education of Service &amp; Positions</td>
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<tr>
<td>and their relationship between Group &amp; District</td>
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<td>o Group Inventory</td>
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<td>o Attracting Regular Attendance</td>
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<td>Lack of Sponsors</td>
<td>More Male Participation</td>
<td>Lack of a GR &amp; give GR Support</td>
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<td>Not enough Info on Sponsorship</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>o Service</td>
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<td>o Sponsorship</td>
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<td>o Business Meetings</td>
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<td>Attracting Newcomers</td>
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<td>Diversity</td>
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<td>Dominance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members Feeling Unsafe</td>
<td>Stepping into Service</td>
<td>Need more Sponsorship and Service Sponsorship</td>
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<td>Uncomfortable with visitors and</td>
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<td>Professionals in the meetings</td>
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<td>Dominance in a Group</td>
<td>Being of Service</td>
<td>Tradition Violations</td>
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<td>No one wants to Step Up to Service</td>
<td>Non-Al-Anon topic brought up in a group to a Captive Audience</td>
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<td>Dominant Speakers</td>
<td>Willingness to Serve</td>
<td>How Al-Anon Works</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limiting Shares</td>
<td>o Helping newcomers</td>
<td>o What does the District Do?</td>
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<td>o Sponsorship</td>
<td>o Where does the money Go?</td>
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<td>o Dual Membership Shares</td>
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<td>Stepping Up for Service</td>
<td>Acquiring and Keeping New Members</td>
<td>Making the Meeting Welcoming</td>
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<td>Service</td>
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<td>o Welcoming</td>
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<td>How to Serve Newcomers</td>
<td>No Interest in Service (Outside Group Attendance)</td>
<td>How to inspire 7th Tradition from $1.00 to $5.00 in this economy</td>
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<td>o Not Overwhelming or ignoring Beginners Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alateen</td>
<td>Limited Sharing - Be Courteous and on Topic</td>
<td>Attraction / Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Should parents (Al-Anon Members) with teens encourage Alateen?</td>
<td>o Keep other affiliations outside</td>
<td>o Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Try Six Meetings before deciding if Alateen is right for you</strong></td>
<td>o Is profanity acceptable?</td>
<td>o Signs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of Service Rotation of Leadership</td>
<td>Available Sponsors</td>
<td>Retention of Newcomers / Members Public Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service:</td>
<td>Training - Workshops to Teach (More than 1 year Experience)</td>
<td>Financial Help from Group to send GR's to Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Commitment</td>
<td>o Sponsors</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Rotation</td>
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<td>o Workshops</td>
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<td>Business Meetings - How to Conduct</td>
<td>Difficulty Filling Service Positions &quot;Spirit of Rotation&quot;</td>
<td>Dominance vs. Newcomer Retention</td>
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<td>Robert's Rules vs. KBDM</td>
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<td>Distance to Meeting Access Support</td>
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<td>Share, Positions, Service</td>
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<td>Service</td>
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<td>Lack of Members Filling Service Positions (Need New Blood)</td>
<td>Dominance Taking the Floor for Too Long</td>
<td>Lack of Info on How to Find a Sponsor / Al-Anons Volunteering to Sponsor</td>
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<td>Willingness to Serve Rotation of Service Sponsorship</td>
<td>Dominance Controlling Personalities Dual Members</td>
<td>Lack of Child Care Facility Insurance Barriers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stepping Up for Service</td>
<td>Attracting &amp; Retaining Newcomers</td>
<td>Encouraging Members to Participate in Business Meetings</td>
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Service
- Filling Positions
- Rotation of Leadership

IDEA:
- Not Stepping Up
- Does it have to do with:
  - a. There are no musts in Al-Anon
  - b. Do things in our own way and pace
  - c. We push daily reader vs. How Al-Anon Works

Sponsorship
- Availability - Stepping Up
- Newcomers outnumber Experience to be a Sponsor

Encouraging Regular Monthly Business Meetings:
- Issues or Not
- Group Inventory
- Sharing what is learned at Group Rep Meetings
- When to Share Info
  **This is Connected to World Service**

Solution:
- Share it as Topic
- Share Notes in a Binder
- A Few Minutes Every Week

Newcomer / Member Retention

Filling Service Positions / Rotation of Leadership

Available Sponsors

Willingness to do so

Service:
- Not enough Volunteers
- Inconsistent Participation
- Lack of attendance at Business Mtgs.

Diversity:
- Members do not reflect community diversity

Resistance to Change:
- Not open to Format - Focus Changes
- Going to one meeting per week can lead to narrow perspective

Supporting Group Rep

Attracting Newcomers

Rotation of Leadership

Available Sponsors

Filling Service Positions:

Disruptive Members that effect "The Group as a Whole"

NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Group Focus Checkbox
Gender Neutral Steps
KBDM as outside tool
Standardization of websites

**Group Focus Checkbox**: Gwen was a GR for only 2 months when we voted on a substantial issue on the group focus on the box. We voted to keep the form, voted not to change with the WSO. At the time something felt off to her—unity felt off—like we were splitting from WSO on a core matter—we had an active discussion that didn’t really get finished. She would like to bring it up again.

John – Immediate Past Delegate, vice-chair, addressed the issue. One of the driving points of the discussion was that WSO had already changed their form—you would not be able to have a focus for the group unless you put it in the title. That was why we had urgency with a vote—to keep our database alive or not.

Do you want to discuss this now or maybe do a thought force on this? Do we need to bring that issue to the WSO level?
Patrick – A thought force couldn’t hurt to gather information. People wanted more discussion. The Policy Committee made the decision, not the WSC. The Policy Committee is the second largest group conscience, after the World Service Conference. World Service was getting lots of feedback from different groups that the focus box made an additional requirement to attend certain meetings. The reason for the change is that having additional focus/requirements was in conflict with our Traditions, which state that the only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend. They tried to come up with a word better than focus. He didn’t take a pulse of other Areas. Patrick can also ask on his next quarterly trustee call.

We weren’t sure we would “object” to the WSO removing the focus box.

The decision was made to establish a thought force.

**Gender Neutral Steps:** Laura, GR from D26 – It is her 1st time at Assembly in about 20 years – she is bringing up the issue of the wording being more gender neutral in the Steps. In the group she represents there has been a change in the language to say – we let people choose the god of their gender.

John S. commented that this discussion comes up periodically.

The Group Reps vote informally – do not want to discuss today. So we will not discuss today.

Patrick has had many discussions around this. There is the issue of whether or not we can change the steps, and the issue of a forum or opportunity around what underlies the desire to change the steps. The issue that we can’t get ¾ of the groups to change the steps to be gender neutral today – how to honor the conversation even though we can’t change it now.

If the Area wants Patrick to bring it to WSO he can. WE could do a workshop meeting at the TEAM event.

The feeling that it is futile is discouraging to the presenter.

At TEAM – could they discuss how to deal with the gender specific language? We will make a thought force that can report at the one-day May 2014 Assembly - chair of the thought force will report.

**KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) as outside tool**

Patrick: The issue of KBDM has come up among the new group of delegates at the WSC. Feel free to modify the KBDM questions to best use them for your district/group. Full name: **KBDM Towards an Informed Group Conscience**. We should use a method of decision-making that is in line with the principles of the program.
Sandi C.: The Board of Trustees starting using KBDM because their board meetings were not going well, so they hired a consultant to help them. The consultant was well versed with our steps, traditions and concepts. The consultant made sure that the KBDM was developed with our principles in mind.

**Standardization of websites**-website Coordinators are not present.

**Closing:**
John S. mentions that having a Service Sponsor is important. Everyone has issues – we aren’t coming here because we are so healthy. Having someone who has been there before can be really helpful.

Make a phone call, positive or negative, call Yvonne. Thanks for being here.

**REPORTS**

**District 1 DR Report** – Stephanie H., DR with 8 GRS!
District One includes Del Norte and Humboldt counties in California’s most North Western 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, Arcata, McKinleyville, Eureka, and Fortuna there are also weekly meetings in the smaller rural towns of Loleta, Redway and Willow Creek.
We are thrilled a new meeting started at Bear River Band’s Tishnon Community Center in Loleta.
Alateen currently meets Mondays in Eureka and hopes to resume soon in Redway and at Arcata High. We currently have 12 certified AMIAS and hope to open a new meeting in Blue Lake or McKinleyville.
5th May the DR and McKinleyville GR attended one day Assembly to learn about the Service Area split.
18th May annual Day In Al-Anon drew nearly 100 people: about District 1’s total membership.
   Guest speaker Joe S. from Tehachapi and his Maturity workshop were well received.
7th / 9th June Al-Anon members and families participated in AA’s HCI Camp Out near Bridgeville.
5th / 7th July Nine from District 1 attended Int'l Convention in Vancouver and one co-chaired a meeting. No one from our District has attended NCWSA Convention, but we hope to do so April 4-6th next year.
30th Aug / 1st Sept Labor Day weekend Al-Anon participated in the annual Redwood Coast Round Up in Fortuna. Betty Ann Z of Ventura County facilitated a workshop using the Living the Legacies workbook, and was Al-Anon guest speaker at the most spectacular salad bar ever to span twelve folding tables.
20th September we held an Al-Anon information table at Southern Humboldt Health Fair in Garberville.
Sept 28th Al-Anon had a speaker and workshop at the annual Sobriety By the Sea event in Crescent City.

October 25th / 27th The DR is here today in Concord with NINE GRs – a record attendance for District 1, up from only Four GRs in Seaside October 2012. Yes, we are concerned about that Service Area split.

A monthly local member Speaker meeting is held in Eureka the last Thursday of each month. July 25th three of us performed the bookworm CAL skit, and gave a talk about the use of CAL in our own recovery. In addition to two Speakers next Thursday 31st October, we will have tricks, treats and CAL prizes for those in costume as character defects, spiritual awakenings, newcomers, sponsors, or 1 of the 12 steps.

November 16th we will host a 2nd annual Sponsorship Workshop in Eureka including an Ask It Basket, a panel of experienced members, recovery anniversary count down, and CAL and Forums as door prizes. About 40 attended our Sponsorship Workshop November 2012, and we hope even more come this year.

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.

We are hopeful our WSO Delegate Patrick might visit District 1 after attending WSO next spring and we are most excited and planning to attend the WSO TEAM event scheduled in Alamo 6th September 2014.

**District 2 DR Report** – Susie D., DR

District 2 covers Lake and Mendocino Counties. We have a population of about 150,000 people--or the number of people in Concord and Pleasant Hill combined--but in an area of about 5,200 square miles. From Fort Bragg, to Willits, and Ukiah, to Clearlake, we have 15 groups supporting 19 meetings, represented by 12 GRs, of which four are here this weekend.

We’re going through a number of changes this year, including

- For the first time in a long, long time we have a PI/CPC Coordinator, who’s in the process of not only contacting every meeting in the district, but actually visiting them. As a result, our meeting schedules are pretty much up to date, and that information is making its way to the Area website. Along the way, she’s actually gathered a few assistants who are helping to get the word out in their areas.

- Another first is the establishment of formal guidelines for the district. We’ve handled issues in the past as they’ve come up, and sometimes have made decisions on the cuff, so this is an exciting opportunity for us. We’re even entertaining the idea of a budget!

- Although we don’t have any Alateen meetings in the district right now, we have eight people who are currently exploring becoming Alateen sponsors, one of whom just completed the Alateen sponsor workshop. By the end of the year we hope to have Alateen set up in Ukiah, (which has about 10 percent of the total population for District 2 and is our most populous city).
• We’ve changed our district meetings from a single location to rotating around the district. Although this makes it difficult for those outside of the district to plan on attending our business meetings, it helps our GRs to visit different areas of the district and build their own network of relationships.

• We had a great service workshop a few months back, which included a pretty impressive panel, including our Delegate and our Area Facilities Coordinator. The feedback I got was very positive, and I highly recommend other districts take advantage of our Delegate’s offer to visit our groups.

• Traditionally, we have an annual Day in Al-Anon in Ukiah in January as our primary event. In 2014, however, we have energized members across the district and are actively planning to have not only our Ukiah event, but also an event in Lake County in April, and one on the coast in the fall. So, keep your eyes open on the NCWSA website for our events as you travel to the Mendocino coast or to Clearlake next year. For those who might be traveling North in January, we have an amazing pair of speakers booked for the event on Jan. 18 in Ukiah: Tom and Mary K. from San Francisco! We also have a pretty damn good raffle, if I do say so myself (and I do).

So that’s it for District 2. Remember, if you’re feeling blue, come recover in District 2!

**District 3 DR Report** - Bruce H., alt DR
Made of 3 counties—northern valley to Nevada border
• Two speaker meetings
• Finances good
• Establish KBDM for District Meeting format
• Dual Member attendance at DM, no voice/vote
• Alateen discussion, future officer discussion
• District Information Line developed and active
• Preparing H&I Conference, 2014
• Meetings—Al-Anon Meetings #16
• Service positions—15, Active—6, all filled

**District 4 DR Report** - Pam and Gayle, 2 GRs attending came to podium; DR and Alt DR not present

Pam, her 1st Assembly - Thursday Redding group
Gayle, her 1st Assembly – GR Tuesday noon Al-Anon
There are about 9 groups in Redding, a new women’s group, a new Alateen group, a new Mt. Shasta meeting, and an Afternoon in Alateen.

Yvonne gave book “My Journey in Service” to each.

**District 5 DR Report** – Gina R., DR
Large group attending, came up front.
What can I say about my District: we have come through the fire to be stronger than ever. We have learned more in the last year-and-a-half than any District I know. With
59 meetings, seven of them Alateen and six of them Spanish speaking, we learned to pull together and work with our strengths. This included starting a brand new babysitting meeting to fill a need on Saturday mornings. District 5 has gone from the brink of financial ruin to being healthy enough to give scholarships from both Alateen and the District’s main treasury. We have several GRs with us this weekend because of those scholarships. This District has learned to work hard to develop guidelines that will protect the District’s financial future. The District has learned a lot about tax law.

This District has also found help and solace in the Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties set forth more than 60 years ago. We found help by reaching out to the Northern California World Service Area. Many Officers and Coordinators talked to me at meetings or on the phone.

This past March Art B and Diana came to a special District financial meeting. In June, Art came back again, speaking at our District meeting about unity and, if you let your Higher Power do His job, He will work miracles for you. Now here we are all together and it is October.

In November, on Thanksgiving, we will start our Alathons; these 12-hour marathon meetings give experience, strength and hope to all who need them, especially newcomers. We have Alathons because we all have times when our families are our families. The Alathons run on Christmas and New Year’s too. On Dec 7 we will have our Annual Holiday Bash, with a brand new featured skit. By tightening our belts at the first sign of financial difficulties we are now able to say that this April 26, 2014 we are having a wonderful Day in Al-Anon, with breakfast.

In February we will be hosting the NCWSC Committee meeting. My hard working Coordinators, Officers, and GRs’ have made all of this possible.

I just want to thank them all in for helping me stay the course on this incredible journey. It has been a very hard road for District 5, but we are all the better for it.

I can say with certainty we have all grown together as a District in the Al-Anon program.

**District 6 DR Report** – Mollie M., DR

8 members came up front with Mollie.

District 6 has meetings in Davis, Dixon, Fairfield, Vacaville and Woodland. We have meetings in California State Prison Solano and Alateen meetings in the Juvenile Detention Facility in Woodland. We have Alateen meetings in Davis, Woodland and Vacaville.

We hosted a fundraiser on September 7, 2013, celebrating diversity. The format was a panel of 5 speakers who spoke for 10 minutes each and then interacted with the audience for 10 minutes. I learned so much about the importance of being open and inclusive to all members.

We completed the discussion from our inventory from last April. We used a 2000/2001 AFG Service Plan called “One Purpose, Many Faces, many voices, many ways to…STRETCH.” We responded to 3 questions in The Diverse District section. One outcome for me is to be more visible to the university student population in Davis.

We also completed the revision of our District Guidelines. We have updated our service position descriptions and added a co-signature for bank transactions.

The GRs who attend our district meetings are so supportive and encouraging to me.

I’m learning so much and feel blessed to be in this service position.
**District 7 DR Report** - John A. and one GR
District 7 Group Representatives continue to attend Assembly no matter where it is held. Even though not all of them are able to attend every meeting, the ones that do attend always come away with renewed enthusiasm.
District 7 holds a speaker meeting during each quarter of the year. Each meeting is sponsored by two Al-Anon Family Groups and always features great speakers, and tasty food treats which range from chili and cornbread and spaghetti and meatballs, to an Ice Cream Social. Proceeds from each meeting go to sponsor our Alateen program and provide scholarship assistance for GR’s to attend assembly.
We are in the final stages of completing our speaker meeting guidelines to ensure our speaker meetings continue to provide a quality evening for our speakers and attendees alike.
District 7 has a new Alateen meeting starting up. We have high hopes this meeting will fill a need in our community. We also continue to emphasize our goal for the District Representative and Group Representatives to visit as many meetings in the district as possible. We want all our meetings to know what the district is able to do to support them and keep them informed concerning what is happening in Al-Anon locally, in northern California, and at World Service.
There is always someone that steps up for positions at the district level, as they know how important rotation of service is. One of the people stepping down talked about their experience of stepping down; it was really moving hearing them. Rotation is important but can also be hard.

**District 8 DR Report** – Tobin R., DR
District 8 is in West Sacramento – 6 GRS here too,
- Interesting growth this last year. It is humbling to realize we only have a year left in the panel. More positions have been filled.
- Encourage groups to host speaker events, and Sunday night ACA group decided to sponsor and that was the entire focus of the meeting, great participation.
- Leery that they were going to rent huge facility, group was supporting it not district.
- Soups, etc. Event – 20 years in District 8, January 25.
- Reaching out – PICPC efforts, mail outs to professionals in area, health fairs, and state capital 1st Wed of September, a huge community recovery event. District 8 works on that.

**District 9 DR Report** – Heide, alt DR read report by Roger K, DR
You might be wondering where the heck is District 9? Well...District 9 is located in the foothills just east of Sacramento on the way to Lake Tahoe. We have 14 Al-Anon meetings that take place every day of the week, so no matter what day of the week you might need a meeting, we have one in our district.
We also have an Alateen meeting on Monday nights, and are excited each week to welcome new members.
Roger is our DR, and he is a great DR. Many of you know him and have gotten to experience that fact. Our District’s GRs have worked very hard this year to bring information to their meetings as well as stepped up and led the way for our membership to grow and move in a positive direction towards their Al-Anon serenity. Last year in our District we had two fundraising events, which funded our community outreach programs as well as giving scholarships to let GR’s go to the assemblies. At these fundraisers, not only did we have wonderful speakers, but also great fun and fellowship. Our next District 9 fundraising event will be on Saturday Jan 11 at Discovery Hills Church in Shingle Springs, and the speakers will focus on Recovery as our goal! There will be a potluck lunch, fun silent auction items and, most of all, great fellowship. We hope to see some of you there.

Our District also had the opportunity to be part of the 62nd Al-Anon birthday party in Sacramento, where we, yes, had to endure the non air-conditioned 106-degree weather, but in return received the priceless gift of camaraderie and fellowship knowing that we were not alone, and that next year we will all bring personal fans and laugh about what happened last year.

During this past year, we at District 9 sponsored a workshop that included the topic of sponsorship, listened while a panel of Al-Anon members shared their experience strength and hope about sponsorship and looked at topics from having a sponsor to being a sponsor, service sponsorship, and Alateen sponsorship as well. In addition, at our workshop, sex and intimacy was the second topic presented, and each participant was given the opportunity to write on this all-important and not much discussed part of our lives. Our sex and intimacy workshop was about trust and opening our hearts in healthier ways. We all listened and wrote and many shared. The workshop proved to be a safe and comfortable place for our membership to share our most intimate thoughts and feelings, and many commented that it helped them begin a more honest dialog with themselves.

We are having another workshop in just two weeks that will look the topics of detaching with love, as well as adult children of alcoholics. Both topics have great significance to most Al-Anon members and we welcome any and all to come and join us on Saturday November 9 in Cameron Park. You can check the website for the flyer on this event. Hope to see many of you there.

District 9 has an exceptionally strong institutions program this year: we continue to have Al-Anon meetings in progress at a recovery center and we have begun Al-Anon meetings in the jails as well. In addition have begun Alateen meetings at juvenile hall, with great results. The response has been remarkable and participation is growing. In addition, our district sponsors open speaker meetings five times a year on Saturday evenings at 6, where not only Al-Anon members but also friends and family can listen to great speakers and enjoy great snacks and desserts provided by our membership. At all of our District events we provide free childcare and encourage all of our membership to participate. I am grateful to be part of this wonderful group in District 9 and am looking forward to our next year with enthusiasm and appreciation for those who step up and do service, as it is the key to our recovery.
**District 10 DR Report**  - Wendy L., DR
They have more than 20 people from District 10 attending Assembly - lots of abundance!
Wendy first starting Al-Anon as a “me” program, now it is a “we” program.

Holler: “District 10 has found the key, it opens doors to serenity!”
We are a metropolitan area covering 87 miles, capturing Truckee, Grass Valley, Colfax, Auburn, Loomis, Roseville, Rocklin, Folsom, Orangevale & Fair Oaks. There are 55 registered meetings, including four Alateen meetings and four Folsom Prison Meetings.
We continue to expand our presence through public outreach (Recovery Happens--Auburn), monthly open speaker meetings, participating with AA events (Spring Fling and Unity Day) and beginning to break barriers at local jails.
We have provided forums for our members to learn more about Al-Anon & Alateen through a Day-In-Al-Anon and our spring FUN-raiser. We have provided scholarships for our members to attend area events, especially our Alateen events.
We have four parent-focused meetings, meetings with childcare, men’s meetings, adult children and women’s meetings. There is a meeting that meets the needs of all every day in District 10!
District 10 has historically been abundant with members in service and participation. As a District, we are very fortunate to have so many people devoted to Al-Anon recovery. The greatest and most humbling thing of all, in my opinion, is how well we come together and work through Group Rep issues. Although we are powerless, we have learned the power of a business meeting! We are able to spend a great deal of our time using our district meetings to study the Traditions, Concepts, and service manual, which always enables us to come to a group conscience on matters that have no easy answer.
We have used pamphlets such as “WHY CAL” and “ANONYMITY” to learn more about how our program works, and this has been a huge growth potential for all of us. It’s an honor and privilege to be a trusted servant. I continue to grow and appreciate the service position as a District Representative.

**District 11 DR Report** – Kim R., DR
many members attending from district 11
- In 2013, they hosted a Committee Meeting in Mill Valley.
- The put on a “Play date in Al-Anon” headed by new event coordinator Brenda.
- They flew in 2 speakers from Texas for another event.
- At the Fall Dance 301 people attended. They needed 300 to break even, may be doing it again.
- Yvonne was their speaker, also came to District meeting.
- Bruce PICPC came to District meeting.
- They have 2 new meetings.
- Send regular donations to WSO and NCWSA.
- 3rd edition of district newsletter.
- Financial practices – tomorrow’s early bird meeting they will share.
• They have a DR from Hispanic meeting coming to district meeting.
• They have committees.
• Learning to work smarter not harder.
• Institutions coordinator Mary – working on juvenile hall. Abused women’s center, please send prayers.

**District 12 DR Report** – Cynthia B., DR

• 42-45 meeting, consistently about 22 people at District meeting.
• Held a Day in Al-Anon.
• On Nov 16, at our Day in Al-Anon, 10-5, District 12 will host its first writing workshop at noon. Flyers will be posted.
• Hoping to host next August Committee meeting.
• Bruce from Area outreach came to speak in their district. They discovered that individual outreach has been going on. She is hopeful that over the next year their public outreach can get more organized.
• Speaker meeting 2nd Sunday of each month
• Institutions – county jails, recovery centers
• Outreach Alateens – went to Oregon Alateen convention
• Challenging side of district – asked Art to come to speak in January about incorporation – should they keep being a corporation?
• Appreciate everyone’s support. Always cries for at least 3 seconds.
• Getting over taking it personally.
• Service has been getting stronger in the district. 18 people show up for this assembly, the most participation they have had.

**District 13 DR Report** – Agota P., DR

• Our panel is in our second year serving our district. We are learning every step of the way. I think by the time we finish up our 3 year commitment, we will be ‘Talented Beginners’!
• Our district meetings are well attended and well steered by our Chair person. We just conducted a District meeting inventory and in the midst of analysing the results and coming up with suggestions for some possible changes!
• The district now has 35 Al-anon meetings and 3 Alateen meetings. 1 Alateen meeting not attended that well.
• Our website [http://www.alanonmidpeninsula.org](http://www.alanonmidpeninsula.org) is drawing average 2,500 visits per month. We continue expanding it with more information about public outreach, news items, and literature order pages.
• We still have an answering phone service for the public to find meetings and talk to members. Although with very little activity.
• Special thanks to our Institutions Coordinator we have now 1) an Al-Anon meeting at the San Mateo County Jail and 2)a twice monthly Alateen meeting at the Juvenil Hall’s girls unit in Redwood City.
• Thanks to our PI coordinator we have participated in several Health Fairs at the local colleges and high schools and at AA’s Unity Day in South San Francisco.
Also the coordinator made a slide show presentation about Al-Anon at the United Airlines Mechanics Employee assistance training program.

- Our New Diversity Chair person is still defining her plans and how she can serve our district. She is getting help from the area Diversity Coordinator and alternates.
- We have identified our Prudent Reserve, and are resuming our Financial Planning meetings to create Financial Guidelines, timelines for our treasurer as well as budgeting procedures.
- Since last October we had our District’s Holiday Party, in June: Day in Al-anon, in September: Half Moon Bay BBQ and speaker meeting and a writing workshop with Diana S. We have been busy!
- There is much more to do! We are learning and keep growing in service!

**District 14 DR Report** - Carla G., DR

Thanks to Sue and her team, host committee for this Assembly.

Speaker meeting every month on 4th Sat – one of Spanish meetings hosted and had English and Spanish shares.

Welcome to District 14, home to 45 Al-Anon meetings, 10 Spanish Al-Anon meetings, four Spanish Alateen meetings and six English Alateen meetings every week for a total of 65 meetings in Central and Eastern Contra Costa County (from Discovery Bay to San Ramon to Martinez).

I’m very pleased to be of service in such a wonderful district with amazing Al-Anon and Alateen members. This year we had the opportunity to host our first ever Men’s Day in Al-Anon in October and to have our monthly speaker meeting hosted by one of the Spanish-speaking groups with wonderful English/Spanish shares from Al-Anon and Alateen members.

We continue to explore how we can share more information about the fellowship with the community, and had Bruce from Public Outreach attend our district meeting to ensure that, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen will always be there.

Our eighth annual DIA will be held on Feb 1, 2014 in a new location; our featured speaker will be Norm W of Tijeras, NM. Flyers for the day are in the bins and on the back table.

District 14 is incorporated, has a thriving Literature Depot and a hotline number for phone inquiries, and maintains our own website. We have a healthy treasury and were able to send three individuals to the International in Vancouver.

Tonight you will be able to participate in our monthly birthday speaker meeting when we bring it to the hotel instead of our regular location at Kaiser Walnut Creek on the fourth Saturday of each month. Please join us tonight at 7:30 pm.

We truly are a strong and vibrant District. I want to thank the members of D14 and the Area for their support during this past year of personal challenge. I’m delighted to report that, one year later, I’m able to attend the Assembly, my Dad is in remission from lymphoma, my sister is cancer free, and last weekend I was able to legally marry my spouse.

This is a testament to the power of being able to live through anything with the love of the program one day at a time. What an amazing year it’s been!
**District 15 DR Report** – Lorraine H., DR

We currently have 39 Al-Anon meetings (eight are Spanish), four Alateen meetings (one of which is Spanish). We have meetings in Alameda, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Hayward and Castro Valley.

Our district, with the direction of our PI Coordinator Kathleen, has been very busy this year with many events, from school fairs to health fairs to neighborhood events throughout our area. One recently had over 3,000 attendees.

In September we had our annual Day in Al-Anon. It was a very hot day! Our theme this year was “Step into Recovery.”

We provided Al-Anon meetings in English and Spanish, Alateen meetings and AA meetings. We had a Raffle and silent auction. Members provided salads for the salad bar lunch. We had an Alateen speaker, Al-Anon speaker (Yvonne), Spanish Al-Anon, and AA speaker

Our Alateen bake table made over $500, which will be used towards Alateen NOCAC scholarships. We had over 100 attending and were able to bring in a final dollar amount of approximately $1,700 for our district.

Our Alateen coordinator (Nancy) has been busy with new sponsors and AMIAs. We have seven Alateen sponsors and 13 AMIAs.

We currently have 21-23 kids going to NOCAC--our district will be providing full and half scholarships.

I am so grateful and blessed to be the DR for such a wonderful district that is growing in recovery and continues to expand to carry the message to those families who have been affected by the disease of alcoholism.

District 15 had the Assembly do a Macarena 12 step: the Al-Anon-a!

**District 16 DR Report** - Rosanna H., DR

- 17 meetings: all with a GR and/or an alternate GR except pre-teen. They include: three women’s, one men’s, two adult child-focused, two with babysitting, one Alateen, one Pre-teen, and two have a newcomers meeting

- We updated 2002 DIA guidelines as well as district service position guidelines.

- DIA 2013 was well attended and the Al-Anon, Alateen and AA speakers were fantastic.

- DIA 2013 Writing Workshop with Diana S (Area Literature Coordinator) and Serving in the Institutions Workshop with David B (Area Institutions Coordinator)

- Patrick (Area Delegate) shared on KBDM at our June district business meeting.

- Several meetings are giving the paperback copy of How Al-Anon Works to newcomers.

- 10 district members attended Sponsors R&R. Seven were AMIAs. Two started their AMIAs paperwork that weekend. Four partial scholarships were given by the district. The Alateen Coordinator’s registration fees were paid for by the district.

- We are looking at our prudent reserve.

- We created a Thought Force on website shares.
- A member wants to create and fill the position of Institutions Coordinator. In November, we will consider whether to create a position within Public Outreach or have a separate position.

- About 17 members attended GTW (Growing Together Weekend). The district spent $400 in partial scholarships and the Alateen Coordinator used $632 from the Alateen account.

- One meeting had no GR for many years. They received district information on a regular basis via email and site visits. That group elected a GR in August and they are represented at district and assembly meetings.

- Attendance at the monthly speaker meeting and district business meeting is consistent and good.

- We will supply and staff the Al-Anon literature table at Yosemite Summit Conference again.

Challenges to grow from:

- Family Flapjack Fundraiser had a high Alateen presence and low Al-Anon attendance. The event did not raise funds for district Alateen scholarships to Area events such as GTW and NoCAC.

- DIA 2013 did not raise enough funds to be a fundraiser.

- Filling the position of Public Outreach Coordinator has been a challenge.

- In a one-month announcement period, no one was able/willing to step up to chair the district’s Fall Fest.

- Closed Tuesday Alateen meeting due to lack of attendance, despite valiant efforts by Alateen Coordinator and Alternate, as well as Alateen sponsors and GRs, to let members know the group was in danger and encourage members with teens to attend. There is still an active Al-Anon meeting at the same location.

We Work This

(sung to the rhythm of MC Hammer’s “You Can’t Touch This” performed by DR Hammer and the D16 Trusted ‘We’re Here to Serve’ Servants)

We Work This
My my my my District is not that large
And I am not in charge
Thank you to our HP
For the gifts of service, recovery
Livermore and Dublin throwin’ down
Super dope home groups in P-Town
One group’s in San Ramon
16 groups with a Rep of their own

“Yo, welcome newcomer”
“Paperback copy of How Al-Anon Works”?

We Work This
“One Day at a Time is how we’re livin’”

We Work This
“Yo, let me bust some recovery lyrics”
We Work This
Four new GRs, this year
We gotta like that, now makes us wanna cheer
We voted, this spring
on 17 scholarships to the Woods fling
we’re dolin’ hold on,
supporting R & R, AMIAS’s goin’ on
like that, like that
Supporting our mission, we got their back
Let ‘em know that they are great
our AMIAS are first rate

“Collaborating with District 14”
We Work This
“AMIAS training is how we protect our members ya know”
We Work This
“Hands in the air for Bonnie and Charli”
We Work This

KBDM with Patrick
Sharing the knowledge, it’s fantastic
Now we know,
Thought Forces help the information flow
no motions are made
till we’ve addressed questions that were laid
on the table we learn
taking our time takes away the spurn
the process legit
taking our time, we don’t quit

That’s recovery because we know
We Work This
Break it down (Dance like you mean it)

STOP Alateen Time
Closed one meeting, it’s true
No teens were attending, it’s a sad thing to do
So the Monday group is strong
lots of teens feeling like they belong

Pancakes is what they’re flipping
Raising funds so they can be trippin
Together we can trump
Just for a minute let’s all do the bump
“Keep coming back it works”

Yeeeah

We Work This

First Tuesday of every month"
“Thought Force on Website Shares”
We Work This
“Yo, what’s up with our Prudent Reserve?”

Break it down (dance like you mean it!!)
STOP Happy/Crappy Time
STOP Service Time

D-I-A in April
Diana helps us write
David shares on jails
And recovery takes flight
An Institutions position we are considerin’
Meetings in the jails would be thrillin’

We’re updating guidelines
As we watch our district gel
It’s Recovery, go Recovery, we love recovery
And 16 sure is swell

We Work This
Progress Not Perfection
We Work This
Easy Does It
We’re Outta Here
We Work This

District 17 DR Report - Delta D., DR
Greetings from our FUN District, Fremont, Union City & Newark!

Our district currently holds 10 meetings, which include 1 Alateen Meeting and a Men’s Meeting. Unfortunately, our American Sign Language meeting was closed due to lack of funds for ASL interpreters, but the seed has been planted. Our monthly birthday meetings, with speakers and fellowship, continue to be successful and festive with a wonderful potluck and fellowship. In July we held a successful Alateen panel titled “Alateen Speaks to Al-Anon.” We had community participation from a Newark police officer and a school counselor. The panel was held in collaboration with Alateens from San Francisco and Half Moon Bay so kudos to the Alateens and their sponsors. Thank you Eva, our Birthday Coordinator, her committee and the Al-Anon members for their participation and support. We are very active in public outreach and have participated in many health fairs around our district.

This year, all of our meetings and intergroup completed a group inventory to find out if we were a well-served group. This provided the opportunity for many beginners to experience what is a group inventory and how does it work. Our small district has been incredibly blessed with our finances; allowing us to make monthly donations to both NCWSA and WSO for $100 dollars each. We were also able
to sponsor two AMIAS to R&R weekend this past September and we’ll be splitting costs with another nearby district for the costs of sending three AMIAS to NoCAC. In addition, we suffered great loses this year with the passing of long time members of Al-Anon with a long standing commitment to service in Olga and Dottie from District 15 and Nancy N from our own district. In return for their service and contributions we made a donation to each of their memorial funds.

Adding to that was our incredible Day In Al-Anon that was held in August. The theme was “F.U.N. (Fremont, Union City, Newark) In Recovery” and as soon as I heard the theme of the event, I knew it would be a success. We had AA and Alateen participation. We held workshops such as “spirituality”, “comedy workshop” and “1 bed, 2 programs.” We had a spin wheel, amazing donation baskets and FUN stress balls to give out to the attendees. The entire district came together to make this such a FUN event but there were also some critical lessons learned. Yvonne and Tobin were speakers. Set up comedy club and Veronica was in charge of that.

Our biggest lesson learned was our duty to protect speakers’ anonymity. When you invite someone to speak as an AA or Al-Anon member, that is what they are, members of a program, and should not be promoted by their profession, whether they are a famous actor or comedian. This is a program of attraction not promotion and we must adhere to our program’s principles and traditions.

We also addressed peoples’ concerns about our inclusion of what were labeled as “outside activities” to our Day In Al-Anon that included yoga and zumba. This is a program of personal recovery and Al-Anon policing is not necessary. I was reminded of John S.’s workshop on Conflict and Resolution and the key takeaway was that no one intentionally hurts a meeting, person or place. And although there is no intention to hurt anyone, personal opinions can immediately dampen the joy and spirit of an event or meeting, especially if those who gave the opinions are not present. But God will take care of us. We are not here to save Al-Anon. We save Al-Anon by focusing on our own personal recovery and if we offended anyone here for including outside activities, here are our amends. So can we move on and have some FUN?!?!?!

We worked a District Group Inventory – “I now know my character defects” said Delta (laughter) “you have to be a strong leader to take that.”

**District 18 DR Report** – Debbie O., DR
Many members are attending and they introduced themselves.

Hello all, my name is Debbie O and I am grateful to represent 38 sites with 50 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. There are three Alateen meetings, one men’s meeting, one Spanish meeting, and one meeting in a home for teens transitioning out of foster care into the adult world.

Word has it that a meeting may be starting in Mountain House, and they are asking to be a part of District 18. As suggested by one of our GR’s for our district holler, “The Message is Simple, Recovery is Keen, Everyone is Welcome in District 18.”
Our **Group Records Coordinator** is great keeping our meeting lists updated and shared with our GR’s and coordinators, which help newcomers, know that they have choices.

Our **Answering Service Coordinator** has an army of members picking up and returning calls for prospective members looking for help and getting them to meetings. The **Institution Co-Coordinates** are busy adding recovery houses to our list of weekly, bi-weekly and monthly service commitments. We have six at which to share the message on family days. We have just added one in Angels Camp on a monthly basis, one in Modesto on a monthly basis—they are wanting us to do it weekly. The coordinators are working on it now. They have a facilitator for each site and they are doing a great job of suiting up and bringing new and old members with them to share ESH. This committee is strong in the Twelfth Step process.

The **Alateen Coordinator** position is still open. As the DAPP, I am happy to say we have 19 AMIAs, with one working on her fingerprinting/scan portion of the process, so we can have one male and one female in the Angels Camp, Murphy’s, Arnold area. I had a call from a member in the Murphy’s area concerned about an eight-year-old in their Al-Anon meeting and what she would hear there. What a great problem to have! We all qualify for Al-Anon and there is no age limit for our members.

We have a **PI/CPC Coordinator** now and the **Outreach Committee** is meeting monthly and working hard to keep us active in health fairs, community events. The Juvenile Hall has included us in their open house again this year. Our 2014 *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* magazines are being shared with our community.

**District 19 DR Report** – Sheri W., DR

District 19 covers the Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings County; it is a large area, to say the least.

We have noon meetings Monday through Friday, all taking place at the same location. Start your week off with a step, and so it goes. We have a fellowship on Wednesday called Write on Spirituality. They read some literature, write a little and share a little. Unique group!

In Visalia we have the Alateen groupies. Mary O, our Alateen Safety Coordinator, is their sponsor. At the same location there is an Al-Anon and an AA meeting going on. Our other Alateen meeting at the Courage to Change meeting also has an Al-Anon and an AA meeting simultaneously. Cheryl and Roger have done a wonderful job, and now they have Karen on board as a new sponsor.

We have so many wonderful meetings in our area it would be difficult to mention them all.

As many of you know, Greg F was our DR for this term, and I have the privilege of serving the last year of his term when his work schedule changed. I call it my God thing. At that meeting I was stepping down as the PI Coordinator to step up to be his Alternate, and he was having to step down, and here we are.

Our Al-Anon monthly speaker meeting has improved in attendance when the format changed to AA/Al-Anon speakers. Meg, our Coordinator, reports that there is hardly an available chair.
We’ve had a couple fundraisers this year, “Super Event”, as it is called. Members contribute a crockpot of soup to share, bowls are provided, we sell tickets for baskets that groups have contributed and have a speaker come in.

We also had an ice cream social. You can guess: Ice cream and toppings; we brought in some fruit to make it not so bad. We made it an Al-Anon/Alateen speaker event. Unfortunately, the Alateen’s HP left her a little nervous, so she did not end up speaking this time.

Hospital and Institutions has not had a coordinator in our area this term, so I know of one group that sponsors Salvation Army, another that sponsors the 11th hour, another inpatient program, and that’s how it has worked. Our last district meeting there was some interest for the service position.

We are working on getting the bylaws and guidelines to the service positions at our next district meeting for members wishing to serve.

District 19 is now in the works to have their own website. We now have our Coordinator Lisa and an Alternate Christine keeping us all up to date on all the happenings.

I can’t go without mentioning our Alanews Editor Luke. Outstanding job he does! Great local stories of recovery, always keeping us up to speed on what’s going on in the district!

District 19 has a business meeting one month and next month we have a workshop. Our local members will hold workshops on sponsorship, Steps, Traditions and the like.

We invited Johanna to Fresno for our September workshop to discuss the links of service, group conscience and service. She also brought along bilingual Martha. We reached out to our Spanish groups here, copied our flyers for the workshop and distributed them.

A few showed up! I learned from Johanna later, that they did not know they were allowed at district meetings. We communicated. Their vote is important. A couple of them are here today--Beatriz is now our Diversity Coordinator.

Language of the heart

We, like many other districts aren’t without bumps and rough spots. But, of course, practicing these principals in all our affairs will lead us through.

**District 20 DR Report** – Maria G., DR, 1st time at Assembly

5 members came up with Maria.

District Twenty includes the northern part of Santa Clara County, from Los Altos in the north to Saratoga and Sunnyvale in the south and Alviso in the east. We have 24 meetings in our district in English and 5 in Spanish. We also have five Alateen meetings and 2 women’s meetings in our District. We host a bi-monthly speaker meeting in Saratoga which is open to the public and offers an introduction to Al-Anon. This year we expanded the host groups for the speaker meetings to include meetings in District 21 and 22.

In September, we hosted Patrick our delegate to meet with our three districts, 20, 21 and 22 and also our Intergroup members to continue to increase open communication. He discussed what happened at the World Service Conference and answered questions from all who attended. We hope to have him back in 2014. My main activities have been visiting all the meetings in our district to
see how they are doing, to try and encourage participants to be of service beyond the group level, and see if I can answer any questions. I have also been verifying our CMA’s for our meetings and sharing that this is their key to the Forum and various other information that World Service needs to get to the groups. Our District is also discussing prudent reserve and what amount is appropriate for our District and how to use the remainder. We use our District meetings to discuss issues within our groups that primarily are lack of service participation beyond the group level. In May we had 7 GR’s attend Assembly, which is the largest group we have had, except today when we have 10.

Our District is connected to an Santa Clara Valley Intergroup which supports us with literature, public outreach, hospitals and institutions and Alateen. We are currently discussing the responsibilities of the Districts vs. Intergroup and if our current organizations best serves our meetings. Our district meets monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 in Saratoga. We have a website, www.district20afg.com and are also part of scvafg’s website, scv-afg.org.

I became the DR about a year ago and have been on a steep learning. I am grateful to all the people who have given me support and the opportunity to be of service.

**District 21 DR Report** - Chris A. C., DR
There are about 30 meetings in district, which includes Campbell, Milpitas and parts of San Jose.
- Alternate is Laura M.
- The gay and lesbian meeting are trying to bump up its membership. That meeting has a group rep. which is something that has not happened in a long time.
- There is a Juvenile hall and a family shelter meeting in the district.
- Spanish-speaking group reps were coming to the district meeting and Chris has gone to some of their South Bay Intergroup meetings. I have been learning a lot from their groups and supporting them with getting an independent WSO number so they are recognized as an official Intergroup. I’ve also been sharing my experience, strength and hope drawn from my experience in SCVAFG.
- Collaborated with D20 and D22 to host Patrick speak sharing about World Service Conference, and KBDM.
- The YAR (Young Al-Anon Group Hosted SCVAFG special event. The focus of the event was on Young People in Al-Anon. They had wonderful speakers and a dance.
- Last year we hosted a bi-lingual speaker event. We had a wonderful Alateen and Amparo was our main speaker.
- We have been using KBDM as part of our discussion format in district meetings, and are able to take group conscience.
- Invite your teen to Al-Anon meeting if there is no Alateen mtg. There is no limit on age at Al-Anon.

**District 22 DR Report** – Louise M., DR
8 members came up with Louise and introduced themselves.
Greetings from District 22, the garlic capital of Northern California. D-22 encompasses south San Jose, Morgan Hill and Gilroy. We have a total of 17 regular meetings, of which one is a men’s meeting, two are Spanish meetings, and two are Alateen.
We are now working on a Day In Service on Jan 25, 2014. The event will be at St. Edwards on Union and Highway 85, 15040 Union Avenue, San Jose, from 1-7 pm. Dinner will be served.

Our officers include Bill G as alternate DR, Anne C as Treasurer, and Sundar M as Secretary. I am most appreciative of all the hard work the officers and GRs have put in for the District.

**District 23 DR Report** – Anna P., DR

- 9 GRS present.
- 37 meetings including men’s, women’s, Alateen, young people’s, Spanish speaking and Institutions.
- Held a Day In Al-Anon in June and are planning a Winter Fun Raiser in December.
- Institutions has regular weekly meetings in the Santa Cruz County Jail for men and women.
- Diversity / Al-Anon Inclusion Group is working on a recommendation for Gender Neutral language changes to the Handbook portion of the Al-Anon / Alateen Service Manual. The group is hoping to submit this to WSC by the end of the year.

**District 24 DR Report** – Kim Ann H., DR

When I left home yesterday it was a beautiful and sunny day at the beach—so please, as our district holler says, “Come visit us and you will see……

As DR for Monterey County I am happy to report that we are yes, blessed with much, including being very diverse!

I was in an Al-Anon meeting this week that had attendees from four different continents, in a community that speaks over fifteen different languages in a county that has thirty-two percent of its residents foreign born, and over half of our county population speaks a language other than English in their own home. Yes, we have diversity—And we have opportunities to reach out to many.

Growing, learning, studying, and carrying the message—

Our next district opportunity will be at our district speaker meeting on November 1st. The suggestion was made by our members and by Bruce, our NCWSA PI/CPC alternate chair at his visit to one of our district meetings to review the invite to the general public. I’ve included a flyer in the DR’s bins to show what our Open Speaker Meeting Committee came up with! It’s a bilingual, Spanish and English invite, with licensed childcare provided by the district! Our meetings this year have most often times been standing room only— and up to nine children in the playroom with our childcare provider! It’s family recovery in action!

Additionally, our district has been blessed with having the 36th Al-Anon/Alateen Hispanic Convention being held right in Monterey County! It will be November 22nd-24th at the Embassy Suites in Seaside.

Also, our 2014 Day In Al-Anon will be held in February-on Saturday the 24th. The Committee just met for its first time—so stay tuned to our website for more details. Speaking of website—we changed our name! After much discussion Al-Anon in Monterey can now be found at [www.monereycountyal-anon.org](http://www.monereycountyal-anon.org)! We are so very
grateful to the website committee members for providing us with information, footwork and patience! And let’s hear it for the GR’s having much to review-an informed group conscience!

MBAR, the Monterey Bay Area Roundup, an AA event with Al-Anon participation was held this September in Monterey. It has now been decided that this will be an every year event, so hang on to your hats and keep your eyes peeled for more information. Growing, learning, studying, and carrying the message-it’s definitely a group effort-and we have many members doing just that

-Here’s to even more participation in 2014!

**District 25 DR Report** – Jim M., DR
Although I’m in my last few months as District Rep for District 25, I am honored to be here today and to submit this report.

- District 25 covers the northern peninsula between San Francisco District 12 to the north and Mid- Peninsula District 13 to the south. Founded about 30 years ago, District 25 includes the towns of Pacifica, South San Francisco, Daly City, Millbrae and San Bruno.
- This district currently has 12 English Speaking Meetings including 1 Alateen meeting and 8 Spanish Speaking Meetings. Our meetings are held mostly at churches, schools, and community centers but we have one meeting at a golf course and one at the local VA Clinic. District 25 hosts two seasonal events, a Summer Serenity Luncheon and a Holiday Tea.
- Although a small District, most meetings are well attended and healthy; providing safe and welcoming rooms for those suffering from the effects of alcoholism. A few of our older meetings have reported lower attendance lately but our newer meetings are very well attended; I think that’s just the nature of change in the program.
- After years of poor participation at the District level, I’m happy to report an upswing. Most of our meetings now have Group Reps who attend the district meeting regularly although raising funds to send them to these area assemblies still remains a challenge for our district. But overall it’s encouraging to see these members taking their recovery to the next step.
- District 25’s biggest challenge is the same that faces all of Al-Anon. Reaching out. When newcomers share, it is obvious how much chance plays in their finding their way to our rooms. Entire communities and ethnic groups live with the elephant, unaware of Al-Anon’s lifesaving and life changing recovery.
- Moving forward, I see our small district continuing to provide strength, hope and courage for those in pain and need. But more than that, I see our newer members learning to “carry this message to others” and to “Let it Begin with me”.

**District 26 DR Report** – Ramona, Group Rep, her 1st Assembly, gave report
- District 26 extends from Berkeley to El Sobrante.
- There are 32 meetings, 2 beginners meetings, Spanish-speaking meetings, men’s, women’s, and 3 Alateen meetings.
- They hold a monthly open speaker meeting at Kaiser Richmond.
• There is a Parents meeting - Learning to Let Go and Let God.
• Regarding outreach, each year they host a table at Solano Stroll, answering questions.
• There is a Picnic at Live Oak Park each summer.
• Holiday meetings every hour 1-5 at Good Shepherd in Berkeley for Christmas Eve & Day and New Year’s Eve.
• Hold a New Years Day event at Kaiser Richmond.

District 27 DR Report – Mary R.
Alt GR and GR here with her
• Stockton, Lodi and Ripon.
• 12 Fellowships with about 20 meetings a week.
• Various groups getting lots of newcomers and they are coming back.
• 3 Alateen sponsors just certified.
• Getting an Alateen meeting started.
• Unity Day Jan 18 in Ripon.
• Spring Fest in Lodi every year.

Intergroup Reports

Intergroup D6-10 Report – Lisa K.
I am the Alternate Chair for Intergroup D6-10. For those of you who are not familiar with Intergroup, we meet on a regular basis to discuss the operation of our AIS office which runs our literature distribution center, telephone answering line, website, meeting schedules and Newsletter. We also help with the planning of some of the events in the D6-10 area such as the Al-Anon/Alateen birthday party and the Alathon for the Spring Fling.

The AIS office is located at: 529 Palm Ave, Ste A, Sacramento – (916) 334-2971
• Our office hours are still Monday through Thursday and literature orders are processed Tuesday through Thursday.
• This summer we went from having an office manager to running solely with volunteers and thus far things have been going well with this change. We were curious how it would go – we have had volunteers. We are always looking for help in the office – either a regular shift or just for a few hours when you can!
• We continue to try to keep our meeting schedule up to date and ask any GR or DRs to inform the AIS immediately if there are any changes to your meeting.
• We publish the Share & Care which is a newsletter of all the events happening in the surrounding area. Anyone can subscribe to the Share & Care – it might be a good idea to get a subscription even if you don’t live in the area, but you travel to our Districts for business or family visits and want to see what Al-Anon events or meeting are happening. (You never know if a either will leave you feeling like you need a meeting!! 😊 ) available on website, or can order.
• The AIS Office is now able to send out email blasts. If you have an Al-Anon-related event you would like sent, attach your event flyer to an email to AisBookCenter@yahoo.com.

• There are some positions opening up in Intergroup to start in January of 2014: Chair, Recording Secretary and Board Member at Large. If you are interested in running of any of these positions, please attend our AIS meeting on November 13th when we will be voting in new members for those positions. Our AIS meetings take place the second Wednesday of every month at the People Reaching Out Building in Sacramento and anyone is welcome to attend.

• During the month of October it's Pass the Pumpkin – this is an extra basket that gets passed at meetings and all monies collected will help support the AIS office.

• In April pass the bunny.

Events:
On November 9th, District 9 will be hosting a workshop in Cameron Park.
On November 17th, D10 will have a speaker meeting with an Adult Child focus in Granite Bay.
Looking ahead into February 14-16th – The Annual Spring Fling takes place at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Sacramento, which is an AA event with Al-Anon participation. D10 will be helping again with the Alathon. There will also be a separate Al-Anon Raffle for this event.

North Bay Hispanic Intergroup Report – Janie L.
April13 participated in health fair Oakland
Passed out 2014 forms at Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism in San Jose
Still trying to get certified with Alateen process.
Introduced only brave people able to attend the Assembly. Chair Person: Julietta
Spanish group rep: Marta
Will say a few words in Spanish about their work
Treasurer and bookkeeper both died.
But the Intergroup keeps moving along.

East Bay Hispanic Intergroup Report - Mary CG
I AM HERE ON BEHALF OF THE HISPANIC INTERGROUP, LOCATED AT 113 WEST 10th ST. 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; AT THIS TIME WE HAVE BEEN OPEN FOR 6 YEARS AND WE HAVE NEW SERVICE BOARD.
THE INTERGROUP HAS 29 AL-ANON GROUPS, 12 ADULT CHILDREN GROUPS AND 6 ALATEEN GROUPS FOR A TOTAL OF 47 GROUPS ALL TOGETHER.
THE INTERGROUP HAS 4 COMMITTEES: PUBLIC INFORMATION, INSTITUTION, RECORDS AND ALATEEN. THE COMMITTEES ALTERNATE MONTHLY DOING WORKSHOPS.
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 AND WE WORKING ON HAVING A WEBSITE TO DOWNLOAD THE LATEST DIRECTORIES.

WE ALSO HAVE THE BULLETIN CALLED “EL COMETA” THIS YEAR IT HAS MORE PAGES, AND IT’S 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.
ARCHIVES IS WORKING ON FILING ALL DOCUMENTS IN OUR NEW FILE CABINETS, THAT WERE DONATED BY THE MEMBERS.
THE INTERGROUP HAS BEEN WORKING ON OPENING MORE ALATEEN GROUPS THIS YEAR WE’VE OPENED ONE MORE, AND 12 AL-ANON GROUPS. WE’VE BEEN HAVING WORKSHOPS ONCE A MONTH ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. ALSO WE ARE MOTIVATING MEMBERS TO BECOME SPONSORS, THIS YEAR WE HAVE 5 MORE ALATEEN SPONSORS.
WE HAVE OUR LITERATURE DEPOT PROVIDING LITERATURE TO ALL THE GROUPS IN OUR AREA, WE HAVE THE LATEST BOOK CALLED IN SEARCH OF PERSONAL FREEDOM.

The Intergroup does exactly same thing district does but works with Spanish-speaking groups. Working on encouraging GRs so they come to the districts more often. Unable to go the district, may have heavy accent, afraid of going, working on selecting people who are more bilingual.

**South Bay Spanish Intergroup** - not present

**Santa Clara Intergroup** – not present

**Thought Force Reports**

**Prison Thought Force from 2011 Assembly** – Patrick Chair
The Thought Force came up with list of questions via phone call, had people answer those questions, did some further discussion. He was beginning to engage in rationalization, didn’t really fulfill the duties, and it just hasn’t happened. Patrick needs to step down as chair of thoughts force, and he would like to make amends to those who were waiting to hear anything on that.

Debbie O.: She would like to be on the Prison Thought/Task Force. She does not want this issue to fall through the cracks.

**Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee Report** – Susie D. presents (Chris D. absent)
Executive Committee – 18 month term, selected by the NCWSC, they are the second EC of the panel, 5 members, S, C, N, 2 at large, Chris Chair. They bring the group conscience to the WSA.
The EC interviewed financial assistants for Area events, prepared for the 2013 Area Officer Review interviews, and discussed the need for a paid Area bookkeeper to support our volunteer Treasurers.

Meetings past and present:
• 9/8/2013 Meeting planning, interview scheduling
• 10/13/2013 Reviewed interview process and plans, Approved Treasurer’s recommendation to renew the NCWSA Certificate of Deposit

EC Chair Activities:
• Received copies of financial assistant deposit reports
• Completed formatting for EC Guidelines revision

Plans:
• Conduct 2013 Area Officer review interviews
• Continue conducting Financial Assistant interviews
• Prepare a plan for supporting the Area Treasurer with essential skills and knowledge necessary for the job

We are very grateful to the outgoing Executive Committee for being so helpful and organized, and we’re looking forward to serving the Area for the next 18 months.

Report prepared by Chris D.

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<th>EC Members, 2013 – 2014:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Susie D. Secretary (North section)</td>
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<td>Agota P. (Central section)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheri W. (South section)</td>
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<td>Tom K. (At-large)</td>
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<td>Chris D. Chair (At-large)</td>
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Coordinator Reports

Alateen Coordinators’ Report - Bonnie M. & Lisa B.
• It has been a joy and an honor to serve with the NoCAC committee. They’ve worked hard on meeting financial requirements and getting a hotel confirmed. Please support NoCAC in Modesto, November 15-17.
• I was able to attend part of the NoCAC’s Second Bash in August in Big Meadow Campground, Arnold. With forest fires and conflicting events, attendance was low, but the meetings and fellowship were awesome.
• In September, I was able to participate in AMIAS training in District 26. Charli and Angela did a great job hosting and presenting and there was wonderful sharing by all participants.
• The seventh annual Sponsors R&R was Sept 20-22. The committee did an amazing job and participation was wonderful. There was a last-minute speaker change, when Sandi had to bow out and Carolyn H, from Oregon, agreed to be our Sunday speaker. We started out Friday with Darrell R as our speaker, followed by a terrific discussion about how we can help Alateen grow. Ideas and suggestions were written down as we went and an easel and paper were available through the weekend for you to add your thoughts. As usual, it was hard to decide which of the thought-provoking workshops to attend. Dolores T, our Saturday speaker from New Mexico, also offered a great workshop on Alateens Sponsoring Alateens. We had 58 people attend and
participate. Many thanks to the committee that made this weekend possible: Charli D, David B, DeDe W, John M, Lisa B, Veronica P, and to Chris M, who was not on this year’s committee, but made herself available with hands, heart and experience.

• Save the date for next year’s Sponsors R&R, Sept. 19-21, 2014!
• I was able to participate in the monthly online chat set up for Alateen Coordinators—with participants from the US, UK and Canada so far. Background checks, mandated reporters and helping Alateen grow are the hot topics. The nice thing about an online chat is that the transcript is available for those who weren’t able to attend and for all to review.
• The latest issue of the Alateen Express is hot off the presses!
• Please let me know when you plan an Alateen event or AMIAS training.

**NoCAC Report** not given – Chair not attending

**NoCAC Announcements** by Justin, Alateen

- Oct. 5th held the Last Chance Dance and made over $250 at that event.
- NoCAC – Many Pieces One Peace – 35th Annual NoCAC – Nov. 15, 16, 17, Clarion Suites in Modesto, CA. Quad $140 by Oct. 30th
- Over ½ the kids that attend need scholarships in order to attend
- Encourage the Alateens in your district to attend.

**No Alateen Reports** – no representatives attending

**Archives Coordinators’ Report** - Chris M & Diana D

This summer we have been very busy. I gathered area archives and materials from past Delegate Marilyn R’s house. I was able to double the archives storage unit for a nominal fee and it looks like everything just barely fit. Diana and I hosted archives parties on Aug. 3 and Sept. 7, and we started to review and organize the materials from Marilyn.

We also inventoried the Area’s Forum collection and made extras available for the Assembly and historical literature for the GR packets. In order to complete a collection, we are looking for Forums from 2006-11.

We have obtained a collection of the history books First Steps and Journey to Recovery, so if your District does not have a copy, we would like to make one available for your next Archive display. Please contact Diana for more information, DCotta@DiMare-CA.com

The new year 2014 will be off with a blast from the past on Jan. 25. Area Archives and District 15 will host a special event. “An Afternoon at the Movies and a Walk through an Al-Anon Bazaar.” The event will include an Al-Anon Bazaar including memorabilia and recovery gifts and literature, proceeds from which will benefit Alateen.

We will also present a movie, “Al-Anon’s Original Wizard of Oz,” featuring Olga R and more, complete with popcorn; followed by a history panel of our past delegates Art B, Bob L, Cathy C, and Sandi C, sharing recovery then and recovery now; and finally a potluck speaker meeting featuring Al-Anon Bob L; AA Christy L and Alateen Ivan G.
Please spread the word—you won’t want to miss it. The event will include special historical love gifts and door prizes. Archive displays or skits 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. Please allow two to three weeks for Coordinator to access and assemble records for a new display.

Did you know that AFG headquarters has a history book that makes a great literature and discussion book, complete with questions? Check out Many Voices--One Journey!

**Bylaws and Insurance Coordinators’ Report** - Joyce D. & Kim Ann H.

Bank Accounts: WSO has an FAQ called “Al-Anon/Alateen Group Bank Accounts Frequently Asked Questions.” There is a hard copy on the table at the back of the room next to the bins where we put items for DRs. The DRs each have a copy in the bins. We don’t yet have a way for you to get it electronically (I’m working on it). Believe it or not, the IRS has a form that makes it easy for a group to get a Tax ID Number (TIN), also known as EIN, so they can open a bank account. The IRS form is SS-4. The FAQ gives detailed instructions how to complete it. Again, it is now unbelievably easy.

Insurance: If the facility where your group meets asks for proof of liability insurance, you can get it from Northern California World Service Area (NCWSA). There is no cost to the group but please remember that the insurance policy is paid for by your donations to NCWSA. This is also available for any special event that does not last more than 24 hours or more than 250 people attend—this would apply to DIA, fundraisers. For these special events lasting more than 24 hours, there may be a minimal charge, so complete the Special Events application so we can get you a quote. The applications are on the web site (or available from your DR) under the SERVICE tab, FORMS A26a & A26b.

Bylaws: The best way to address bylaws is to remember to keep it simple. Bylaws are a legal document so it takes a 2/3 vote of this body to change them. I am very grateful we have had no changes so far in my term! The way we keep it simple is to put the administrative details in a Guideline that can be changed easily. In the Northern California World Service Committee (NCWSC) Guideline there are an Appendix A for forms and B for Guidelines that are part of the guideline. They tell us what the responsibilities & requirements are for that position, which are changed simply by the person holding the position with the approval of the Chairperson of NCWSA. When it’s a Guideline for committees & other activities it requires the approval of the NCWSC. This past year, many of your Officers, Coordinators and Committee Chairs have been working to revise and update the guidelines that have been badly out of date. It takes time & commitment to do this. (Patrick talked about the changes being considered to one of the Guidelines due to the change in adding a One-Day Assembly.) I am, and believe you should be, very grateful to them for all their work. All serve for a three-year panel, so next year we will have an election. I recommend (in Al-Anon language “suggest”) that you look at the positions and consider standing for them. Additionally, use them to write guidelines for your Group, District or Intergroup. As a GR, your job can be a lot easier if you have a guideline for your group service positions. You can start with the ones in the Service Manual and add anything that the group conscience approves. They are guidelines, not rules; suggestions, not musts. It can encourage
participation and may encourage more members to do service. The purpose is not to govern, but to serve. We are nonprofessionals, but we are special workers. My service at the area level has been one of the best experiences of my recovery. Remember we don’t do service because we know how. We do it because it’s a safe place to learn new leadership skills. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn new ways of practicing recovery and letting me be of service to each of you.

AL-ANON/ALATEEN GROUP BANK ACCOUNTS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
The World Service Office (WSO) receives frequent inquiries from members in the U.S. and Canada about opening bank accounts for their Al-Anon or Alateen group. The following information, based on the shared experiences of numerous Al-Anon and Alateen groups, has been compiled by the WSO to aid groups in making an informed group conscience decision.

What do we need to know?
Al-Anon and Alateen groups are not required to have bank accounts. It is a decision of the group conscience and it is recommended that groups gather all the information pertaining to having a group bank account (including fees and disclosure requirements) for the group to discuss.
Al-Anon and Alateen groups are mutual support groups; they are not legal entities; they are not “non-profit organizations”; they are not “not-for-profit” businesses; they are not “branches” or “chapters” of the WSO (Al-Anon Family Group World Headquarters, Inc.). Al-Anon and Alateen groups are autonomous in their financial matters. Prudence is the guiding principle in money matters in Al-Anon and it is recommended that groups keep only enough funds to cover group expenses and maintain an appropriate reserve. (See Reserve Fund Guideline, G-41).

How do we open a bank account?
U.S. Federal law requires that groups first obtain a Federal Tax ID number from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) called an Employer Identification Number (EIN) for the bank to keep on file. An EIN does not give legal status to an Al-Anon group and it is not the WSO ID number.
Disclosure: The trusted servant applying for the EIN and/or the bank account will be required to provide their full name, address, and social security number on the applications.
Fees: Most banks will assess fees on group bank accounts without legal proof of the organization’s non-profit status (501-c-3). The WSO cannot share its non-profit number with local groups because the WSO does not have control over group funds like other national organizations such as the Boys Scouts, religious organizations, and other not-for-profit organizations. Please see “Incorporation/Taxes” in the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the Service Manual.
Trying to obtain non-profit status from the IRS or Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) could be an expensive and tedious process for an Al-Anon or Alateen group. The disclosure and reporting required by such status could become burdensome for a group and the WSO suggests that the groups not apply. Our shared experience tells us that smaller, local banks and some credit unions may charge less than national banks.
To obtain an EIN for banking purposes only: Submit an application on-line at www.IRS.gov. The on-line application requires the applicant to designate which type of entity best describes them from a list of organization types. Al-Anon and Alateen groups would fall in the “Community or Volunteer Group” designation. The group can then proceed to respond to the questions on the pages following. Or submit a printed form SS-4 via fax or postal mail. Print the SS-4 from the www.irs.gov web site. Since the EIN is to be used solely for banking purposes, only lines 1-5b, 7 a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10, and 18 need to be filled in. On line 9a write “Mutual support group meeting weekly.” On line 10, check “For banking purposes only.”

Without a bank account, how do we handle our group funds?
Some groups have altered their schedule of payments to allow for more frequent contributions (sometimes of lesser amount) to avoid accumulating large sums of cash; e.g., pay rent monthly instead of quarterly. Groups have also shared that purchasing money orders is inexpensive and convenient as they can be purchased in grocery and other retail stores. Some groups use cash to purchase literature from their local Literature Distribution Center while others use a pre-paid debit card to order CAL on-line. The enclosed “Suggested Group Budget” form can aid in this process.

Note:
It is not recommended that group funds be deposited into a member’s personal checking account for the following reasons:
Funds deposited in a personal account legally belong to the member, not the group. The member will be taxed on the income, if any.
If the member becomes incapacitated or ill, the group could not access the account. In the event of the member’s death, the account becomes part of the member’s estate and the group would lose the funds.

**Diversity Coordinators’ Report** - Chris A.C., & Veronica P
Let me begin by first thanking your Alternate Diversity Coordinator Veronica, who worked very hard, pretty much through the latter half of the year to get us the interpretation we have here today, and for all the work she is doing at the Area level of service. She is a candidate up for election to be on the WSO literature committee. Wish her luck and lots of hugs this weekend.

**Language Interpretation:**
Next, I’d like to thank Nick, Justin, our Alateen, and our stand-in Chris, who volunteered their time and energy to this weekend’s events. Veronica has also gotten a team of Spanish-speaking folks to translate the Delegate’s report and the KBDM questions regarding the Area re-structure into Spanish so we could have greater participation in this Assembly. We still need folks to participate in this important area of service. If you are interested or know someone, please check out our online survey at the Area website. Go to “service” then to the survey section. Fill out the survey. Your information comes directly to us.

We have a plan to offer interpretation at all the Area events, including Convention, the TEAM event next year and at our upcoming Diversity Day in 2014.
D-12 has a Chinese-speaking person in San Francisco who is willing to take phone calls about Al-Anon. NCWSC is looking for bilingual Vietnamese and Chinese Al-Anon members.

2013: This year’s theme is Access, as in Access to Recovery. This year has been very productive. The biggest part of our job is getting folks to interpret for us. An interpreter is someone like Nick, who is speaking into the audio equipment so our fellow Spanish-speaking Al-Anon members can hear us and understand what is going on at the Assembly. A translator is someone who can read and write the terms in correct Spanish so the written word is understood. A few years ago, this body asked us to have people who are professionally trained to assist us. I also learned from Amparo that a good working knowledge of the program is also a must. Every environment is different and has a set of cultural norms that dictate how information is understood. So if you know someone who is professionally trained, please have them contact us or better yet, fill out the language survey so we can get you on our list. Right now we have six people who have filled out the survey.

This past September, I went to speak at a Diversity Day in District 6. Mollie and her crew put on a really great day. Lots of great recovery was had by all. And even more important, the members were challenged to look at this topic. I was especially inspired after hearing three Asian members stand up and talk about the disease in their lives and cultures.

I have a particular passion this year to find a way to reach out to African-Americans. I have found that in my home of Santa Clara Valley we have participation from a small number of African-Americans for quite a while now. It’s nice, but it’s really only the tip of the iceberg. If you are like me, you may work or even live in a neighborhood where black people are present. If this is the case consider putting out the pamphlet, “Al-Anon is for Persons of Color.” And if you see someone in your meeting, be sure to give them a warm personal welcome to the program.

Keep the Door Open
For 2014, we have chosen the theme, “Keep the Door Open.” This is a play on the slogan Keep an Open Mind, where, as a fellowship in recovery, we learn to open up to Diversity in our groups and throughout our fellowship. We have flyers available on the back table for our upcoming NCWSA Diversity Day taking place on Aug 9 at the Billy DeFrank Community Center in San Jose. Right now we are planning for an all-day event focusing on lots of aspects of Diversity in Al-Anon. We do need help with this event. Veronica set up an Excel spreadsheet on her laptop, so if you'd like to help out, please let us know. We are going to make this spreadsheet available as a Google Doc so everyone can sign up and the info is kept in one place--and it is shared.

Got Diversity?
We've been discussing the idea of setting up committees, but found, especially earlier this year when District 12 combined their district event with the NoCAC committee, that when folks put themselves out there and meet up, new paths develop and form. Here’s an example:

Last year during one of our District phone meetings, Kim H brought up the idea of having babysitting take place here at our Area events. Her District 24 is paving the way by offering childcare by a licensed professional at her District speaker meetings. Young
mothers can go to a speaker meeting in Monterey County and not have to worry about who is caring for their young children. In order to include these young moms at the Area level of service, she is now heading up a thought force committee to address this issue. Lots of questions are being asked about how this can happen, and certainly it should.

I recognize that when it comes to being of service or offering a new idea, it only takes one person to rearrange our thinking and doing.

Early on in this term we had begun the process of setting up a Diversity Task Force. We had a few phone conferences, but then sadly, life showed up in a big way, and I dropped the ball on that. Life is still going on, but that does not mean I don’t need to follow up on the task. This time, I’d say let’s talk to one another and begin to reason things out regarding this topic. Let’s take a look at the task of reaching out to the underserved communities in our areas. Let’s meet over the phone. I will be putting out the dates and times for this on the list-serve so we can all mark our calendars. I am looking forward to talking with you soon.

So now, we ask you: when you go home to your home group, look around at the room you are sitting in. Who is there? Who is NOT there? What small action might you take assist in carrying the message to an unsuspecting person who could be opening the door to recovery?

**Facilities Coordinators’ Report** - DeDe W. & Carol S.

It has been a very busy several months since I last reported to you. During the May Committee meeting, Carol S from District 18 stepped up to serve as the Alternate Facilities coordinator, jumped in immediately, and has been a great help. She has been very active and we all benefit from her service.

We recently purchased two wireless mikes and the equipment needed to run them. The Area made these purchases in response to feedback from the last few host committees indicating items that would be helpful to have available. We have also purchased several smaller items such as zippered money bags, colored markers, and items for hospitality.

I look forward to serving as your Facilities Coordinator for this final year of our panel and to facilitate handoff to the new facilities coordinator following next year’s election assembly. Facilities for most of the 2014 events have been booked and the rest will be wrapped up before the end of this year.

**Reservations**

I will continue to provide you with the information necessary to make reservations for all of our upcoming events. Please make certain that you make your reservations in a timely manner as we will always have a cutoff date three or more weeks prior to the event date. If you have not made your reservation by the cutoff date, neither the room block nor the discounted room rate will be available. Since this cutoff date is a standard part of every contract we enter into, this date is not negotiable and cannot be extended with the facility. The best solution for our members is for everyone to make prompt reservations as soon as the information becomes available.

If you have difficulties with the reservation process, let me know and I will assist in whatever way I can.
Upcoming Events
Convention, April 4-6, 2014, Crowne Plaza, Concord
One-Day Spring Assembly, May 17, 2014, Location and Details to follow
TEAM Event, September 6, 2014, San Ramon, Details to follow
Three-Day Fall Assembly, October 10-12, 2014, Crowne Plaza Sacramento Northeast,
Rate $99/night until September 19, 2014, For reservations, call (916) 338-5800, Group Code NCWSA Al-Anon

Group Records Coordinators’ Report - Carol G. & Karleen H.
It doesn’t seem like it’s been two years since I was elected to be Group Records Coordinator. I told a friend the other day that I finally feel like I might have figured out how to do this job. I’m still struggling somewhat with the software used in this position, but I have learned how to ask for help. I’m SO grateful to the people in the program who have been willing to help me. It’s amazing.
I have printed up the details of each district and put them in your respective bins. I ask that you verify the information I have and let me know of any corrections. The preferred method would be to use our “Al-Anon Registration/Group Records Change Form” (A-16) available on our website ncwsa.org. I have left a stack of these forms on the table with other flyers and forms. I only made 300 copies, so please be considerate and only take one.
The most important piece of information on that form is the CMA (Current Mailing Address). That is how our WSO (World Service Office) reaches each group in our fellowship. When the WSO mails information, they are able to do “bulk mailing” (the cheapest postage rates), however, when mail is returned to the WSO due to a wrong address, they are charged first class postage, which is substantially higher.
If you know of any changes to your group, please feel free to give them to me this weekend before you leave.
When picking a name for a new group, it has been suggested that that name reference a step or tradition. If a group is having difficulty coming up with a name, using the time of day and day of the week is also acceptable. The name can easily be changed by notifying me. Also, the WSO would prefer that group records be handled at the Area level. They handle the database for the entire organization, but prefer that individual Group Records Coordinators do the Area data entry.
There has been confusion with regards to the abbreviation on the form referring to the Area Name. We are Area 3 California North (3 CAN does NOT stand for 3 Canada).

Institutions Coordinator’s Report - David B.
This has been a very busy time since we met last May. The NCWSA Institutions Conference planning committee for the 2014 Hospitals and Institutions Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous has started its work. The Conference will be in Chico on May 2-4. Brenda of District 3 is the Chairperson and Deb H of Gold River is the Al-Anon speaker. I attended the District 3 Meeting in mid-July, and they are very excited to host this event.
The panels and meetings will focus on the all of the institution facilities as described in the WSO Guidelines, including homeless shelters and battered women’s homes. The
Sharing Our Service workshop will be held again on Sunday morning and will complete in time to hear the last speaker. We hope to see you in Chico in May.

Earlier in July I had the opportunity to attend the International Convention in Vancouver. One of my goals was to inquire on the type of facilities that other areas reach out to in their institutions service. The vast majority shared their experience of going into rehabilitation centers, hospitals and similar facilities. The Day of Connecting on Thursday before the Conference was very exciting. The time to talk with the World Service staff, trustees and delegates in person provided a nice time to hear other experiences.

A week later the WSO staff provided to me the contacts of members who are carrying the message into jails and prisons across the states. I am grateful to be part of our fellowship that continues to reach out and offer the Al-Anon and Alateen program to anyone whose lives have been affected by someone else’s problem drinking.

I recently spoke at the District 2 Afternoon in Al-Anon in Redding. It was a very nice event. I focused part of my sharing on my service as an Alateen Sponsor in Juvenile Hall. This opportunity provided me to see friends and talk about Twelfth Step work. The NCWSA Alateen Sponsors Refresh & Rejuvenate Weekend of workshops and meetings took place last month. The event enjoyed a significant number of first-time attendees and was a great experience. The Institutions workshop Saturday morning had the highest attendance to date. Many members participating were at this workshop for their first time.

We shared and listened to the experience, strength and hope of Alateen Sponsors who have been carrying the Alateen message into juvenile detention centers. The co-facilitators were Emily C of District 13 and me. She shared her experience from the San Mateo County Juvenile Hall. The homeless shelters and battered women’s shelters were discussed as well to remind everyone of the other facilities that have youth who have been affected by the family illness of alcoholism.

Sandy S of District 16 invited me to assist her in an outreach event at the Alameda County Jail. The notice originated from Kay in District 26. The re-entry event was a great day to meet the administrators as well as to raise the awareness of Al-Anon to the incarcerated individuals.

Our members continue to carry our message into the state prisons, jails and juvenile halls. The literature, albeit slowly at times, continues to flow to the inside members. Please pass along the gratitude of everyone involved in this service as we bring hope to those affected by someone else’s problem drinking.

**Literature/Forum Coordinators Report** - Diana S & Charlene R

We have entered a new age of literature – electronic books, both visual and audio!!

**NEW E-LITERATURE:**

* *Having Had a Spiritual Awakening*, now out of print, is available online via the usual carriers at $9.95.


* Soon, we await news of The Forum also coming on-line. It is wait-listed to go up online but we do not know when that will happen or how exactly. I’ll let you know the minute I find out.

OTHER NEW AND FEATURED LITERATURE:
* Legacies Workbook - *Reaching for Personal Freedom—Living the Legacies*, $15. I have started working with it with a couple of sponsees and I think it challenges some preconceived ideas I may have on the Legacies. A great resource!
* *Conflict Resolution using our Twelve Traditions* - A set of colorful cards illustrating how to apply the Traditions to conflict situations. Only $4.00. Give a set to your home meeting!
* *Many Voices – One Journey*, an amazing illustration of Al-Anon principles via how we work together. Read about how they came to decide to buy the property in Virginia Beach or incorporate Adult Children into the fellowship. So much learning is shared in detail. $16.00. Share parts from it at meetings!
* Our Delegate Patrick reported to us in May that there is a great skit on using Conference Approved Lit. Check with Patrick on how to get copies.

Writing Workshops – “Intimacy” still, and then NEW TOPIC!
* We continue to run two more Writing Workshops to help get the new book, “Intimacy and the Alcoholic Relationship,” published. Numbers are around 1000 shares but they are still looking for more – I think they need more variety, especially from men and others in the fellowship.
* The next, and likely last, intimacy focused workshops will be in District 12, San Francisco!! One workshop is part of their Day in Al-Anon at 12 noon on November 16th. Location will be announced. I may present a second longer workshop possibly in February 2014 also in San Francisco.
* More writing workshops will be scheduled on the new pamphlet seeking input from Parents and Grandparents of Young Problem Drinkers. Shares are now being collected by WSO. Flyers have been passed out to all! Call or email me if your district or group wants to do a workshop or event on this topic!!

Lit Hits!
* We have published around 20 “LIT HITS”, quotes from our CAL, on the NCWSA list-serve. All these quotes and the current one are now on the area literature page at www.ncwsa/literature. Charlene reports, “Having the opportunity to provide the monthly ‘LIT HIT’ has given me the ability to read more of the pamphlets that we have, and older literature books as well as the newest ones. Finding a simple phrase or paragraph for each month can be a challenge if I let it be; I just enjoy looking at all the different pieces and books that our fellowship provides as tools for us. I always look forward to the newest books that are to be published and I am sad when older books go out of print.”

Translated Literature – NEW PROJECT!
* Al-Anon CAL is translated into many languages. Obtaining translated CAL, other than Spanish and French, is not always simple. What would be great for our diverse and many-language Northern California area is to collect literature when members travel! So, when you are traveling in another county, please try to find and bring back some literature that we can copy and share with those who are interested. We now have some Portuguese items to share from a member who travels to Brazil. Another member
purchased Paths to Recovery when she went to Germany and found that reading her home language was quite different than her acquired English. Let’s expand the effort!

*The Forum*

*The Forum* is the shared experience of all of us. It needs our participation to thrive. If you like what someone shares at a meeting, encourage them to write it for *The Forum*. It’s easy – you can even write an impromptu share on the WSO website and send it right then!

* Remember, three articles from each month’s magazine are published online. AND there is now a piece on Sponsorship each month! We will let you know details of when The Forum will go online as soon as I get them!

**Public Information/ Cooperating with the Professional Community (PI/CPC)**

**Coordinators’ Report** - Cindy D. & Bruce D.

Thanks to all in Northern California who have helped carry our message of strength and hope to those in need since our last gathering in May. Your Area PI/CPC Coordinators, Cindy D. and Bruce D. have had the pleasure of meeting many wonderful outreach volunteers since our time on the current panel began in February. Your outreach service, in all of our Districts, makes the Al-Anon program visible and available to those who still suffer outside these rooms and, by example, inspires others in the program to step up to the personal growth and joys of Twelfth Step service.

We continue to encourage Districts to identify their own District PI/CPC Coordinator and to grow an active PI/CPC Committee. Numerous Districts have recently found new Outreach Coordinators including D6-10 Intergroup. There is a wide array of effective outreach from which PI/CPC volunteers can choose according to their talents, time and inclination. The Twelfth Step service of carrying the message is presented to the membership in the form of an invitation and the offer of opportunity. Keeping the invitation open and in front of the membership will allow those interested to join in.

Your NCWSA PI/CPC Coordinators continue our District PI/CPC Tour and extend the invitation to each District to hold a 20- to 30-minute outreach focus session at your District Business Meeting. Our current focus is on making the Twelfth Step service opportunity real and available to the members in the meeting rooms, allowing any who are ready to identify themselves to “Let it Begin with Me.”

To help our District PI/CPC Coordinators with their outreach, we have instituted our monthly PI/CPC conference call and our newsletter, The NCWSA Beacon, (two issues published). One of the best supports we can give is to simply share with all districts the resources and how-tos that are successful in others. Our District PI/CPC Coordinators have created some remarkable models of outreach that can be easily implemented by other Districts.

In addition to our new NCWSA poster, customizable for each District, we have also introduced our first event aids; the printed table throw, the 10x15-inch tabletop banner and 2.5x6-foot retractable banner, available now.

A number of Districts have active professional community outreach and health fair information table schedules. Where we see immediate and significant untapped potential is in the direct-to-the-public media outreach. That is the thrust of Easy Outreach, our NCWSA Public Information campaign that accomplishes two goals at once: Making Al-Anon visible and available to our communities while enabling the
general membership to become the carriers of our message. These quick and simple outreach methods are such that any meeting group or individual member who wishes to can put them to use in their own community, today. Easy! Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Don’t hesitate to contact us for help with your local outreach activities.

12 Stepper Editors’ Report - Tom K. & Laurie B.
It is 4:10 pm and my brain is super saturated. Do you feel the same way? I have five minutes for my report. Everybody stand up and turn to the person on your right and massage their shoulders. Now turn to your left and massage their shoulders.

After the August 12 Stepper was printed and mailed I learned from feedback that many errors were in the contacts on the last few pages. I then realized that I had copied the contacts pages from the August 2012 version. The April 2013 issue contacts pages are more updated than the August 2013 issue. The next opportunity to revise the contacts is April 2014 since the December issue is a web-only issue and does not include contacts.

On page 1 of the August 2013 12 Stepper is my report that I will read here: "I can't grow in recovery alone, and I am honored to serve in this position of creating a newsletter to help connect us all."

Web Site Coordinators’ Report - Errol S. & Chris D. (not attending, no report)

2014 Convention Chairperson’s Report - Nancy M. & Diana C.
Well, as a committee, we promoted the NCWSA Convention “20 Years One Day At A Time” with a lot of fun and enthusiasm. The next NCWSA Convention is April 4-6, 2014. It will be held right here in Concord at the Crowne Plaza, 45 John Glenn Drive.

So what happens at convention? Of course we have a nearly three-day program chock full of Al-Anon, Alateen, meetings and workshops. We also value the enthusiastic participation of the Spanish recovery community and Alcoholics Anonymous, because recovery doesn't happen alone. It's like going to a meeting and not having to go home for three days. It's filled with unconditional love. What a great way to spend a weekend: great speakers, workshops and Alathons, English/Spanish Alateen and AA participation. There will be a volunteer comedy night and dance Saturday. More shall be revealed!

You probably have noticed our table outside near registration with the tee-shirts and crazy hat worn by our convention trusted servants. You can see, as a committee, we want to make this a fun weekend as well as great recovery. This is a weekend of Recovery, Experience Strength and Hope–not a business meeting.

Each committee member gave a little report of what their chair position does to put the NCWSA Convention together. All the committee is working so hard to make this Convention a great recovery weekend.

This will be the 20th Anniversary of the convention, which has happened unofficially longer, but officially for 20 years, just like the program: one day, one year at a time. The registration packets are done and in everyone’s binder, with extras on the tables.
Please take them back to your meeting and share what a great weekend the NCWSA Convention “20 Years One Day At A Time” will be. We got all the positions filled at Assembly. Wow, when I let my Higher Power walk in front me, he does amazing work.

Get your beautiful T-shirt and be ready to have a great weekend in recovery One Day At A Time. We have an amazing group. Everyone is working so smart at their positions. There is so much excitement and enthusiasm.

So please come be part of the 2014 NCWSA Convention Committee, 20 years One Day At A Time.

**Officer’s Reports**

**Area Alateen Process Person for Alateen Safety (AAPP) - Charli D.**

As of October 20, 2013, 69 new AMIAS applications, six reinstatements of certification, five name changes and one status change have been filed for AMIAS or AMIAS applicants; 66 group registration/change forms have been processed. These are over and above the routine recertification and group updates filed with no changes. At present there are 340 AMIAS currently certified (and 22 in process), and 75 active Alateen Groups.

In the past year, I led a committee to revise the NCWSA Requirement for Alateen Member Safety, B17, to bring it up to date with current forms and procedures as well as to address safety issues of concern to Northern California Alateen. The revised B17 was passed at the August NCWSC meeting and is posted on the website. Spanish translation is in process. One of my goals is to have all the Alateen safety forms translated into Spanish and on the NCWSA website, and am seeking bilingual members to help with that task.

WSO changed the form used to report Alateen group changes/registrations, and that has been posted on the website. The form that the AAPP signs for new applications, name changes, etc., for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service is one that often is confusing to the District Alateen Process Persons, so our website now has my first name and last initial in the boxes below where my signature needs to go.

A two-sided handout goes through the steps of certifying AMIAS. The Request for Live Scan is not posted on our website, but the instructions for how to fill it out are. Applicants must meet with their DAPP in order to start the application process.

2013 was the first year that recertification could be recorded electronically with the World Service Office. The birthdates of most AMIAS past and present were recorded as part of the recertification process. It turns out that name and birthdate are required to take an individual out of the reporting loop when they are no longer of interest to the Area. Bonnie, our Alateen Coordinator, is updating the list-serve group for AMIAS, which will improve communications among AMIAS.

Recertification notice will go out to the District Alateen Process Persons by mid-March. DAPPs have been asked to mail or fax paperwork that contains information that could lead to identity theft rather than to attach them to e-mails.
A new group must be registered before it can meet as Alateen, and for WSO to accept the form, it must come through the AAPP. If the form is confusing, just send the information to me and I will fill the form out.

Group Update Forms are sent by WSO to the current mailing address of each registered Alateen group annually (a change from when the AAPP guideline was first written). The group is responsible for returning those forms to the AAPP. Meanwhile, AMIAS are recertifying, so current CMAs need to fill out both the Group Update Forms and their own personal recertification forms.

Groups not served by currently certified AMIAS will not be able to meet as Alateen, so it is really important that all this paperwork come to the AAPP in a timely fashion. I have prepared a PowerPoint handout that explains recertification and how it relates to annual Alateen group updates. It took doing these related but separate processes twice for me to recognize how they affect each other.

Event flyers need to be approved by the AAPP before they are posted or distributed through NCWSA or related websites or entities. So far in 2013, 552 e-mails are in my files regarding flyer approvals. Errol, NCWSA Web Site Coordinator, and I work closely on this issue. I am happy to send a short summary of what is required to anyone planning an event. When the procedure is followed, there is virtually no delay in posting to the NCWSA web site.

Here’s an attempt to answer the ask-it-basket question:

**Q:** Bonnie suggested that we could increase Alateen participation by inviting Alateens to our group meeting. But don't we need to be careful to have AMIAS there?

**A:** The question raises an interesting point. There is no age limit on who can attend an Al-Anon group meeting, and minors attending need to be welcomed as the group would anyone else. When a specific invitation by the group to teens in general is made, that invitation creates an expectation of Alateen member safety similar to the mention of Alateen on an event flyer. Having at least one currently certified AMIAS in attendance and paying attention to the safety of the teen fulfills that expectation. If the minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian, it is reasonable to assume that person will be responsible for the safety of the minor.

If an Al-Anon member who is not the parent or guardian is providing transportation to or from the group meeting, that member must be a currently certified Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) and must be named on the travel and treatment authorization form (A22-7) signed by the minor’s parent or guardian.

Teens 18 years and older may choose to attend as Al-Anons without that attendance being subject to the NCWSA Requirement for Alateen Member Safety. This is another example of Alateen service other than actively sponsoring Alateen groups, and a reason to encourage members to become certified AMIAS.

“Alateen is part of the Al-Anon Family Groups; Al-Anon meetings are for anyone affected by someone else’s drinking. If there’s no Alateen meeting available to you, you are always welcome to attend an Al-Anon meeting.” (The WSO website (http://www.Al-Anon.org) under the "For Teens" tab/"Why should I attend Alateen?")

“In our Al-Anon groups, individual freedom is of enormous importance. Anyone who feels his/her personal life is, or has been, deeply affected by close contact with a
problem drinker is eligible for membership in Al-Anon. We never take away this right to belong. Neither do we compel our members to believe anything or pay anything.” (Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010-2013, p 183/ Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017, p 191)

Alternate Delegate’s Report – Johanna MM
Over the past year, I have served on a couple of occasions as Patrick’s Alternate, and he didn’t even have to get sick.
I have participated in the officers’ phone calls.
I spearheaded our entry into the Parade of Love at the International Convention in Vancouver (and if anyone wants to borrow the Golden Gate Bridge replica, I still have it).
District 19 asked me to conduct a workshop and I was one of the speakers at the Day in Al-Anon in District 15. I was on a panel at International. I have been signed up as the Sunday morning speaker for Convention. I will try to speak whenever and wherever asked to do so.
A lot of my energy has gone into preparing for TEAM 2014; WSO has agreed on a date and DeDe has secured us a space, so it’s ON for September 6, 2014 in Alamo! I’m gathering my team physically here for the first time; I find that many hands make light work. If you would like to participate, let me know. Save the Date flyers are available; I hope you are all able to get one.
I’ve been working on updating the guideline for my position and creating a new one for use of the list serve. In the meantime, Yahoo is changing how Groups function, so stay tuned. Those should be ready for the next Committee meeting, which is in February.

Chairperson’s Report – Yvonne DG
A year goes by so quickly. As the Chair I am accountable to the EC by interview twice a year. I facilitate monthly conference calls with the officers and the Delegate. I work closely with Facilities to do the hotel contracts for our Assemblies and NCWSC meetings and more. I oversee the organization of Assemblies and NCWSC meetings and create the agendas and workshops. I am available by phone, email or in person to Al-Anon members, or districts for questions, facilitating conflict resolution, group inventories and speaking.
Thank you to those who have invited me to speak and contributed to my recovery by giving me the opportunity to give it away.
The last one I did about two weeks ago in Marin was awesome they had a dance with a live band--nothing like a 100 Al-Anons dancing. But then, life is a Dance when you take the steps.
In March I went to SWRDM in Albuquerque and I am looking forward to going to Tucson it is great to be with people who have been where I am in service. I take ESH any way I can get it.
In January I called all the coordinators and alternates to check in with them about their positions and I am looking forward to more conversations in January. I am still always amazed by the growth.
My intention is to have all the guidelines updated by the end of my term. The only two under construction are Assembly and NoCAC.

Thank you for the privilege of letting me be of service.

Delegate’s Report – Patrick
If you missed my report of the 2013 World Service Conference (WSC) at the May Assembly, you can read my written report in the August 2013 edition of The 12 Stepper. The slides from my report are available on www.ncwsa.org under Service and then Assembly Misc. You can also read in more detail about WSC in the Conference Summary, which is available on the WSO members’ site (www.Al-Anon.org/membersite) as a PDF. You can also order a printed copy for the cost of shipping.

While on the WSO members’ site, you can access the 2014 - 2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, also in PDF format. There is an interactive (searchable) format that can be downloaded to your mobile devices. The printed version will be available in the first part of 2014.

I asked for an update on the eBook version of How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics and learned that it will be out soon. The team that was to be working on the project was needed to help with the WSO members’ website, so the eBook was delayed. They are back working on it now, so stay tuned!

So far, I have visited 19 of our 27 districts in my term as Delegate. My goal is to visit all 27 districts before the end of 2014. If you would like to invite me to your district, you can email me at delegate@ncwsa.org.

On March 14 -16, 2014, I will attend the South West Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) in Tucson, Arizona. This meeting is to help all of the Delegates in eight Areas within our region to prepare for the World Service Conference. Our Area Chair and Alternate Delegate will also attend. If the Delegate is not able to attend the WSC, the Alternate Delegate would attend. The Chair would be the second alternate, ensuring that the Area is represented.

April 24 - 30, 2014, I will attend the 54th World Service Conference in Virginia Beach, VA. This will be my third and final Conference in my term as Delegate. The theme is “World Service Conference: Our Spiritual Principles in Action.” Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 17th, 2014, as that is when I will make my report at the NCWSA one-day Assembly.

NCWSA Treasurer’s Report – Claude D.
Claude found an assistant willing to send out thank you notes to group for donations. From District 13 Mary L. started in July.

Group WSO number is necessary with donation – many groups do not send in the numbers, then don’t get the thank you. Please tell your treasurers to send in group WSO numbers with donations.

Budget on Financial Statement is the annual 2013 budget.
Financial statements were explained. Pink can special fund – not budgeted. Also has separate cash account on balance sheet.

Claude went over cash: Money Market and Certificate of Deposit =Prudent reserve $23,528. This is computed based on our guidelines, at end of each year the treasurer computes this using a formula:

Annual expenses for previous 3 years, all expenses except from events – conventions, assemblies. Take an average of that and take 6 months- so our prudent reserve is 6 months.

Claude sent that number to the Executive Committee who approves any transfer of funds one way or another.

Our checking account balance as of 9/30/13 is $46,955. We have had a surplus for a number of years. One of the things the area should do is to push the funds to the World Service Office (WSO), and we haven’t done it since we sent $5,000 in 2008.

Tomorrow we will propose to make a donation to world service.

Q. Can we have more detail about the Institutions expenses on page 2 of 4?
A. 5160 Making copies, 5161 Institutions Travel. Both have budgets. Make copies to bring into prisons, mileage Institution Coordinator traveling to prisons, as the prisons are very far-flung.

Q. Budget and actuals comparisons – should we be comparing apples to apples, 9 months actual to 9 months budget?
A. Expenses are not evenly divided over the year so 9 months to 9 months. The comparison shows what is left to receive or spend for the year.

Q. Yellow cans? Where are they from?
A. Not from Area. Pink cans from Institutions are the only cans the Area distributes.

Q. Pink can fund?
A. That is earmarked for literature for the prisons.

Someone asked if we could we see previous years budget. Johanna will go over that shortly.

One person points out that it is important that you don’t compare budget and actual. What we spent and earned is in the past.

We are 49,000 under budget on donations at $17,000

Q. Checking – do we keep funds just in checking? What about interest?
A. Interest rate is so low we don’t bother to transfer.
Q. Were committee members given deadline for turning in expenses?
A. In the guidelines they are supposed to turn in expense report within 60 days of incurring. That isn’t always followed.

Approve Treasurer’s report. Motion: Jackie B., Bob S. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted
October 1, 2014
Patti R., Secretary NCWSA