Minutes NCWSA Assembly- October 10-12 2014 FINAL  
Crowne Plaza, Sacramento, CA

Approved on 05/16/2015. Moved: Gail H, Second: Dean C. Passed with substantial unanimity.

Routine Business
Motions
Elections
Summary of Meeting
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ROUTINE BUSINESS

Friday Evening-GR Orientation and introduction to electronic voting procedures.
Saturday and Sunday meetings opened at 8 am with the Serenity prayer.
Each day someone read the Traditions, the Concepts and the Warrantees.
Each day the roll call was taken and hollers were hollered on Saturday.
The Alateen Guidelines were read each day per event guidelines.
On Sunday we closed at 4:25 pm with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Voting procedures were reviewed both Sat and Sun morning

Vote Count-offs with clickers (electronic) and people calling out their number/sitting down.
Sat am: First count-off (no vote)
Sat pm: 259, before approving the budget
Sunday 11:51 am: 209

MOTIONS

1410.01: To Approve October 2013 Assembly Minutes as presented.
Moved by Paula A., D16, Second by by Larina, D11.
14 abstentions, 0 Against, Passed.

1410.02: To Approve May 17, 2014 Assembly Minutes as presented.
Moved by Diana C., Second by Maggie W., D26. Passed.

1410.03: To Accept the 2015 Budget as presented.
Moved by Talitha P. D26, Second by David D., D16
252 votes, 231 yes, 5 no, 16 abstaining. Passed.

1410.04: That this Assembly (Oct 11-12, 2014) allows a trial period where an electronic ballet replaces the written ballot for this Assembly.
Moved by John S., Second by Beth Ann B.
254 votes, 98% yes, 1% no, 1% abstaining. Passed.
1410.05: Shall we continue the Conversation on Gender Neutral Steps?  
(vote requested by Chair)  
Yes-31%, No-63%, Abstain-6%. Fails.

1410.06: Shall we continue the Thought Force on Gender Neutral steps?  
(vote requested by Chair)  
Yes-39%, No-56%. Abstain-5%. Fails.


Each candidate briefly shared an “Introduction Resume” with info such as how long they’d been in continuous Al-anon attendance, their interests in the role, service history, assets and talents, and experience of sponsorship and service sponsorship.

To Be an Officer/Delegate you must be or have previously been DR. Prior to each vote the Assembly was asked if “anyone has any reason that any of the candidates should not be in the position, speak now.”

To be elected the Area Alateen Process Person, a person must currently be a certified AMIAs and have been a DR. For all other positions there are no required prior positions or certifications.

For many positions more than one person ran. When only one person ran, the group affirmed that person. In each case, the candidates left the room for the vote.

The elections were interspersed with reports from Coordinators, Officers and Delegate. This was done in order to give all attending the Assembly an opportunity to stand for positions for which they qualified.

**RESULTS**

Delegate: Yvonne deG

**NCWSA Officers:**

Alternate Delegate: Bonnie M  
Chairperson: Joan W  
Treasurer: Chris M  
Secretary: Rosanna H  
Area Alateen Process Person: Tom K

**NCWSA Coordinators and Alternates:**

Alateen Coordinator and Alternate: Lisa B and John Mc G  
Archives Coordinator and Alternate: Diana C and Terry C  
Bylaws and Insurance Coordinator and Alternate: Cindy H and Phyllis C  
Diversity Coordinator and Alternate: Nick D and Stephan T  
Facilities Coordinator and Alternate: Carol S and David D
Group Records Coordinator and Alternate: Wendy L and George L
Institutions Coordinator and Alternate: David B and Dean C
Literature Coordinator and Alternate: Catalina L and Verena R
Public Information Coordinator and Alternate: Veronica P and Pleas S
12 Stepper Newsletter Editor and Alternate: Debbie O and Melinda N
Website Coordinator and Alternate: Beth Ann B and Alex R

Yvonne asked if group reps recommend Yvonne ask the next Chair to pursue a vote on electronic voting change. The response was positive.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

Committee Coordinators, District Reps, Officers, and the Delegate delivered their reports. The District Reps gave their reports and the many GRs attending came to the front with their districts. More than a few reports were tearful, with this being the last meeting of the current Panel.

The Elections above were conducted throughout the two days.

There were a few topics from Thought Force reports that were presented and discussed.

The Budget was discussed and approved.

**The Gender-Neutral Steps Thought Force – report by John M**

(report can be found on ncwsa.org>service>assembly misc as report or power point)

A reference Guide prepared by the thought force had been distributed in the packets, including a quote from the service manual and a summary of the survey comments. Although there were more responses in favor of a change, it was found that the majority of positive responses came from just a few districts. The thought force went through the 5 KBDM questions in relation to gender-neutral language in the Steps.

**Discussion:**

One member commented: “As someone of not traditional religious background and not traditional sexual orientation.” He knew some people who didn't make it over that hurdle but he did. One of the things he is powerless over is the Steps themselves.

A relative newcomer said “language of God as we understood him” is not the problem, gender neutrality not an issue for newcomers.

Question comes up in one district on a daily basis. Can we get the power point? Will send to all the DRs.

A member of the thought force had a few things to say: look at what inclusiveness meant when it comes to gender-neutral issues. It isn’t as clear-cut as it seems. In step 3 itself,
“God as we understood him” – note the “him.” From Obstacle #1: “not allied without any sect.” “He” implies a certain sect.

One member said that re-imaging god as female was important in her program. As we understood god – very committed with the process, important to bring us all together. She spoke against rewording the steps.

Another member said she respects traditions but this has been coming up for 60 years - it is a problem for all those years. Survey is stunning.

One member said her home group is a women’s’ step study. She respects and loves the steps. Also feels like a GR has the responsibility to represent her group. 90% of her members identify with a female as HP, so she needs to speak up.

Another member suggested that – we could deal with this by adding a preamble that says when these steps were written that they referred to he, but then he meant male or female.

Another member spoke of the Program having our back. If we change the language of gender this is something that people of faith have been struggling with it for millennium. Women who have been abused by men have a very hard time relating to god as male.

Another comment: Gender is not neutral. Our awareness for that will grow.

One member who leads prayer services said that assigning a gender to my higher power is profaning that higher power.

One persons asked: “Have steps ever been amended?” -no.

Another member “appreciates thought force but to me, I was depending on myself, that I would figure out problems. There is a power greater than myself. Gender discussion is semantics and takes away the gist. It is diluting.”

Another member was reviewing the steps when thinking about coming to the mike. 3 and 11 refer to God as a he. Being Spanish-speaking, we don’t have the word “it”. The only other word to replace it would be a thing. Would need to be translated.

Another point of view – there are those among us for whom the abusive figure was the mother. Changing to female would be charged for some.

Another member said that we do not have to agree on what or who God is; all that is required is that it be something outside myself. You get to define it your way and I get to define it my way. Al-Anon is a spiritual program. I get to celebrate with other people, our spirituality, not a religion. Invite thought force to a meditation meeting. Consider the history of how and why the traditions were created. It is not unity it causes separation.

Some people had a hard time finding the survey. They were first told it was on WSO website (but it was on the NCWSA website).
Written permission of 3/4 of the groups worldwide is required to change the wording of the Steps.

We took two votes on how to move forward:

**Shall we continue the Conversation on Gender Neutral Steps?**
For-31%, Against-63%, Abstaining 6%. Fails.

**Shall we continue the Thought Force on Gender Neutral steps?**
For-39%, Against-56%, Abstaining 5%. Fails,

**FOCUS BOX THOUGHT FORCE Report** – Mary K.
Members: Vaughn, Heidi, Tom K., Beth Ann, and Mary K.  
(Full report can be found on ncwsa.org>service>assembly misc)

Background: WSO has removed the “Focus Box” from the Group Registration Form (GS1). Group focus includes the following identifiers: AAC, LBGT, Parents, Men, Women and Regular Al-Anon. At Oct 2012 Assembly NCWSA voted to keep the focus box on their form and in their database At Oct 2013 Assembly there was concern expressed that the vote described above had been pushed through and a request was made to revisit this issue. A signup sheet was passed for formation of and participation in a Focus Box Thought Force. This thought force was charged with revisiting the question about whether or not NCWSA should keep the “Focus Box” on our Group Registration Form as well as the data acquired from it using the five KBDM questions. (Please read report online for details)

**Discussion:**

Someone stated that the reason the vote was rushed was that if we voted against it, we would lose the database we had developed.

All Al-anon groups are open groups, everyone should be welcomed.

Some people like the focus box, but wonder about exclusivity.

The Policy Committee at WSO thought that having a focus box was a violation of traditions.

Someone brought up the Spanish-speaking meetings? Is this against the traditions?

Was there a survey done? No, they had focused on KDBM questions and hadn’t thought of doing a survey.

The word “focus” was the issue at WSO, said our delegate. Previously it was used to discourage focus type of naming of a group. But in order to not have the focus box, now the solution is to have a focus in the name.
The issue came up of not turning anyone away from a meeting, in keeping with the principles of this program. Examples were given of a woman coming to a men’s group and a man coming to a women’s groups. In some cases, individuals were asked to leave.

Joan, the newly elected Chair for next panel, suggested we should go online and read the report, and do individual research. The Committee will take this up in February 2015.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION – Johanna MM**

Johanna reviewed on screen and answered questions. $107,650 total income budgeted a little less than income for current year

We balance income to expenses for events, Convention, Assembly, etc. H&I we don’t expect to be balanced since we do not have control as this event is an AA Event and we are asked to participate. We don’t expect the income and expenses to balance. Sponsors R&R we increased a little bit.

Q. We were holding on to money well in excess of prudent reserve. We should give consideration that we as an Area have a responsibility to donate more funds.
A. We made a 25K donation; budget committee thought of budgeting in a donation to WSO, but we don’t have procedure in place.

Yvonne—we hung on to some money, we have to give a number of people—we have to have sufficient funds to pay what we owe. We are having new panel come in and it is very expensive. Panel 52 went to Eureka, which was very expensive, next year we go to Visalia. We try to reach out to further away districts once in a panel. 2011/2012 very good years, 2013 was not quite as good, about half as much. 2014 donations definitely down. Individual donations are slim; group donations are down. Hopefully some districts wait until the end of the year to make donations; we shall see. Also, noted that the economy is down.

Q: What happens to net ordinary income at end of year?
A: Remember, budget is about projected expenses and income, a “fresh start” for each year, and not about actual money in hand. When there are funds (beyond prudent reserve) additional things may be paid for (i.e. The clickers at this assembly!)

Q. NoCAC – mentioned that there hadn’t been a report for a number of years. This concerns a member. Would like to know what’s been happening with them before we increase their funding.
A. NoCAC cleaned up their act, have been meeting the goals budget committee set.

Q. 55195 Website: what type of expenses are these? The amount is not sufficient for security.
A. These are for phone meetings, etc. The cost of website itself is a corporate expense. Chris D. responded – we aren’t underfunded. Chris D glad to talk with anyone about questions.

**ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS**
How can we protect groups from those who are stealing group money?  Review how you are choosing a treasurer.  This is the first year the Area had a recommendation that the treasurer has financial experience.

What about Dual members coming to Assembly?  District can allow a dual member to come to district and represent as a GR, but we do not allow voice or vote at Area Assemblies.

Does the term Dual member also apply to NA members?  No, it does not.  The term Al-Anon Member who is also a member of AA only applies to AA.  A. In our traditions we cooperated with AA, and we have no opinions on outside issues.

Term of Group rep ending: how I get/prepare next person?  Please share at meetings what you experienced; just tell someone you would be good at this…

Why can’t people who have paid registration fees get packets?  Any Coordinator has information in their bin.  Cost is the restriction.  What were costs for this meeting?  $720.

How do you set up a Thought force?  – Chairperson begins it.  She sends piece of paper around.  Sign up with phone/email, ask for pro/against/neutral, need all points of view.  Run like a business meeting.

Why are GRs not allowed to vote for NCWSC Coordinators?  The Bylaws delegate the election of the Coordinators to the Committee.  This predates our bylaws and then was codified into the Bylaws.

District Reports

District 1 Representative & Alternate: Stephanie H & Lisa G
District One includes Del Norte and Humboldt counties in furthest Northwestern California at the Oregon border and the Pacific Ocean.  We have many weekly meetings in Crescent City, McKinleyville, Arcata, Eureka and Fortuna, as well as weekly meetings in the smaller rural towns of Gasquet, Smith River, and Redway.  Sadly, our Loleta and Willow Creek meetings folded, as did Eureka’s monthly Speaker meeting.  We hope to start a Parents’ focus group in Arcata including a monthly speaker.  Alateen meets Mondays in Eureka, Sundays in McKinleyville and hopes to resume soon in Redway and at Arcata High.  We have 12 certified AMIAs, and three Alateens are serving on the NoCAC Planning Committee.

Public Outreach:
In December we sent 100 copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism to area professionals with invitations for their clients to a series of six Beginner Meetings based on WSO Guideline G-2 held Jan-Feb before Eureka’s Saturday morning meeting.  They were well received and well attended.  We will send a similar mailing December 2014 for six Beginner Meetings held Sunday afternoons.  We held four Public Information tables: on February 22 at St. Joseph Hospital health fair at Bayshore Mall, September 13 at Humboldt Pride Festival, September 27 at Mad River Hospital
health fair in Arcata, and October 4 we shared an information table with AA at the annual Humboldt Veteran’s Stand Down in Ferndale.

October 8 three members gave a one-hour presentation to social work/family therapy students at Humboldt State University.

Other annual events at which we share recovery and cooperate with Alcoholics Anonymous include:

August 29 -31, Labor Day weekend, Al-Anon participated in the annual Redwood Coast Round Up in Fortuna. Guest speaker NCWSA Past Delegate John S of Half Moon Bay shared his inspiring recovery story, then he facilitated a Conflict Resolution workshop, much needed after our panel discussion on Dual Membership in Al-Anon. District 1 is not afraid to talk about it. A spectacular salad bar served as traditional Al-Anon lunch was praised without controversy.

Sept 27 Al-Anon speakers included an Alateen panel and a workshop at the Sobriety By the Sea event in Crescent City.

Al-Anon special events include:

April 12 annual Day In Al-Anon drew nearly 100 people, which is nearly our total membership and building capacity. Speakers from Redding and a panel of NoCAC Alateen speakers were well received. Seven of us went to the April Convention in Concord, where we heard Judy B of Contra Costa, and found our 2015 Day In Al-Anon speaker. We plan a vanpool to Modesto in April 2015. June 7 Patrick B delivered a fascinating Delegate Report to about 50 members in Eureka, and inspired us with his personal recovery story. This was our first Delegate Luncheon, but not our last. Yes, we are concerned about a Service Area split.

November 15 we will host our third annual Dottie Jacobs Memorial Sponsorship Workshop in Eureka, on December 3, GRs will share about their service experiences and personal recovery at a potluck supper, and our first Lois Wilson Birthday bash March 7 will have a CAL book swap to start our CAL lending library.

The DR is here today with six GRs, including our first Alateen at Assembly – less than our record of nine in October 2013, but more than the four that came October 2012. We arrived self-supporting: District 1 did not request travel expense funds from NCWSA this year. Yes, we remain concerned about a Service Area split and committed to being part of those discussions.

Average attendance at monthly District business meetings has doubled from eight to 15. Alt GR Kristie of Fortuna was elected District Rep as of January 2015. My 2012 and 2013 DR Reports both stated that our struggles include Public Outreach, unity in diversity, and willingness for Service commitments. I cannot really report that again this year. Instead, I happily report that District 1 does the best we can with what we have.

District 2 Representative: Susie D

District 2 covers Lake and Mendocino Counties. We have a population of about 150,000 people, or about 1/3 the population of the City of Sacramento, but in an area of about 5,200 square miles. From the City of Mendocino on the Coast, to Willits and Ukiah in inland Mendocino County, to Lakeport and Clearlake in Lake County, we have 14 groups supporting 18 meetings, represented by eight GRs, of which two are here this weekend.

We had some amazing accomplishments this year, including

- We went from zero Alateen meetings in the district to two, with six new AMIAMS. That’s an increase of 200%, right? One of the Alateen meetings is at the Willits High School, and the second is in Ukiah. Ukiah, by the way, has about 10% of the total population for District 2 and makes it our most populous city. Five of the six new AMIAMS are from Ukiah.
- Our total meetings have fluctuated this year from 22 to 14, but we’re currently at 18, and this includes a brand new Spanish meeting, which is the very first in our District. Also, I don’t know if any other district has a problem keeping Tuesday night meetings going, but this year all our Tuesday night meetings closed. We figured folks wanted to stay home and watch Storage Wars!
Although we didn’t have a large attendance, we were still honored to welcome our Delegate Patrick and his lovely bride, Christine, to District 2 to present the Delegate’s Report. A special thank you for hanging out with us, even though there were just a handful. You touched our hearts.

Finally, traditionally, District 2 has an annual Day in Al-Anon in Ukiah in January as our primary event. In 2014, however, our members from across the district planned and conducted three separate events, one in central Mendocino County in the winter, at which we were honored to host Tom and Mary from San Francisco, one in Lake County in the spring, and one on the Mendocino Coast in the fall.

To give you an idea of the travel times between these events, if you started driving from the coast to central Lake County, you’d be on windy roads for well over two hours. Thus, it was truly an amazing feat to have events in each of the three geographic areas in our District so that so many of our members could attend and celebrate recovery in Al-Anon.

So that’s it for me. Remember, if you’re feeling a little crazy or a little blue, come recover in District 2.

District 3 Alternate Representative: Bruce H
District 3 has been exceptionally busy this year. We held our first District Speaker Meeting, listening to Patrick B, who also attended our January District Meeting. Our group organized and followed the lead of David B, Institutions Coordinator, and held the Al-Anon portion of the H&I Conference in Chico in May. I want to thank David for doing such a great job of guiding the District through this event. A survey of GRs showed a big appreciation for this event, and its value to the individuals who attended.

District 3 began thinking of organizing Alateen and, at our July District Meeting, everyone was captivated by an AMIAS presentation and workshop by Charli D, AAPP. Following this two-hour presentation in the morning, a large group held a workshop with Charli hanging in there, showing a big interest in starting Alateen Meetings in District 3. Charli finally left for a three-hour drive home, leaving an aura of appreciation and enthusiasm behind her.

Following this, a core group of district members developed a series of Alateen Planning Meetings, while nine Al-Anons applied for AMIAS status. The District then had a visit from Bonnie M, Area Alateen Coordinator, who gave her expertise on forming two new Alateen meetings in Chico and Paradise.

For the new and upcoming panel, we held elections for the District just prior to Assembly, but will finish this at our January District Meeting.

These are exciting times for Al-Anon service, and the impression that the Area Coordinators made helped our district. For this effort, our sincere thanks to both NCWSA and its members.

Respectfully,

District 4 Representative: not present. GRs gave report including Susanna, from Redding CA Monday night Al-Anon family group
I was going to tell sponsor that I was too scared – didn’t want to come to Assembly, but then thought about how important this is – addiction in her family – went to meetings and was encouraged to become more involved through service. I am here on stage due to the Grace of God. She said “I believe God puts us where he wants us.”

Their territory includes Alturas, Yreka, Mt. Shasta, Mt. Lassen. They have 22 meetings and just formed a Wednesday night women’s group and Wednesday night Alateen in Redding. They also have an Alateen group in Yreka.

Father Tom came and spoke in Redding inSept and they invited everybody. In January 2015– the 23-24-25 is Shasta Winter fest. Redding in the winter is very mild and really pleasant. It is an AA event with Al-Anon participation: they do all the work and we show up. Like it should be. I’m just
District 5 Representative: Gina R
What a difference another year can make in a District's Al-Anon program. District 5 now has 63 meetings, two YAR meetings, 8 Spanish meetings, and 10 Alateen meetings. I have always wished that this District could have young adult meetings for the older Alateens to help transition them into Al-Anon. Laura and her team have made this dream possible, with endless God Moments. So by letting go and Letting God these wonderful meetings are now taking place. Speaking of great teams; the Day in Al-Anon Committee did an incredible job. When I need extra recovery in the moment, I just remember April 26th, 2014. We almost had to close the doors because we were at near maximum capacity for the Church hall. Several of the workshops were standing room only. Members are still talking about what a great time they had at the Day in Al-Anon. Our Al-Anon speaker from Texas said we were “Hard Core” because we forgot to schedule in bathroom breaks; it was just go, go!! A of day recovery and fellowship with speakers and workshops is 12-Step work at its finest.

In June we had Kim the Area By-Laws and Insurance Coordinator speaking at our District meeting. Now the By-Laws committee feels ready to tackle the job of updating our District By-Laws. In July John our Immediate Past Delegate came to assist District 5 with a District Inventory. Here I believe we employed Tradition 1, changes to the meeting agenda have already been made because of responses from the District Inventory. As DR you want everyone to feel heard. An Inventory Committee worked hard to collate our responses to the inventory questions. I believe we are going to learn much about each other in the next few months before this panel is over.

At the September meeting Patrick came to speak on “Being a Link of Service”. The District sent out invitations to each individual Al-Anon member. In this way our District can grow even as this panel comes to a close. This was Concept 4 in action. We just had our District BBQ on September 20th, with great speakers. What a beautiful Saturday in the park.

We have 26 group reps here at Assembly. District 5 has written and passed more guidelines for check cashing and the Audit committee with the help of the Groups and their GR’s. I wanted to point out the extra hard work this panel has put in these last three years. This District 5 panel has worked through some of the toughest times and in these struggles we have grown together. We have the best coordinators; starting with our Special Events Coordinator. Alateen, Literature, Insurance, Media Librarian, Website, Alagram, Institutions, Public Outreach, and Diversity. These wonderful people make wonderful things happen in our District. I feel blessed to have shared the past three years of this panel with such amazing Al-Anon Family Members. Thank you Higher Power for the growth opportunity.

District 6 Representative & Alternate: Molly Mc & Dru W
What a fantastic experience I have had being a part of Panel 52! This was my first full term of being elected District 6 Rep. We will elect new officers and coordinators at our November meeting. My final hurrah will be to facilitate our last fundraiser of the year on November 15, 2014, in Dixon. We have flyers available online and in all the DR mailboxes here at Assembly.

I want to thank my awesome officers and coordinators who kept me going for three years. I could not have done it without Dru, Tracy, Gloria, Teresa, and Alex. The Group Reps stepped up whenever I asked for help with the AIS Birthday Party and our “funraisers.” Thank you Carole, Linda, Tracy K, Dennese, Dru, Abby, Cathy, Marlo, Stephan, Judy and Bobbi. I will be moving back to Red Bluff, my hometown, in 2015, as soon as my house sells in Davis. I will be a part of District 4, which includes Alturas and Yreka. I look forward to this long-time dream, but I will miss seeing my District 6 and AIS regulars. I’m hoping to keep my 45-year-old phone number as my cell number. Call me if you head north, and come sit by the river with me.

District 7 Representative & Alternate: John A & Linda G
SERVICE: It has been a great honor to serve as District 7 Representative and be welcomed as a valued member of this NCWSA/C panel. It is truly a moving experience to be around such a healthy group of folks.

As 2014 comes to an end, so does the work of the current D-7 Al-Anon/Alateen service panel. Our fellowship will soon undergo the important process of rotation of service. Even as my service as District Representative winds down, I continue emphasizing my goal for myself and our D-7 Group Representatives (GRs) to visit as many meetings in the District as possible. Now is the time for our meetings and new incoming GRs to know that the District will be there to support the continued growth of their members through service. This is a great Assembly for sitting GRs to introduce new and potential GRs to the assembly. This is not just any assembly. It is the Northern California World Service Area (NCWSA) voting Assembly. This will be the time and place where all our NCWSA GRs representing over 800 groups have an opportunity to elect a new Delegate to represent them at World Service and other important officers as well.

ALATEEN TREAT: The District 7 Ice Cream Social Speaker Meeting in July provided a wonderful surprise for all the Al-Anon/Alateen members that were in attendance. The meeting was planned and hosted by our District Alateen members and their AMIAS sponsors. What was special and unique about this particular meeting was that the Al-Anon members present got an inside peek of an actual Alateen meeting in progress. The Alateens opened their meeting, did the readings, and shared the rules of conduct expected of members during the meeting. If that was not the best highlight to witness, we also were privileged to hear three terrific Alateens and one sponsor share their experience, strength, and hope in Alateen. What a great evening, great ice cream and other munchies, great donation drawing, great organization, and great inspiration from our young folks that, through no fault of their own, are growing up with the disease of alcoholism all around them.

THOUGHTS ON ANONYMITY: My “On-the-Job Training” as a District Rep taught me that I should first approach all questions and concerns about group harmony from the Al-Anon perspective, fully understanding that the WSO makes only suggestions and that individual AFGs are not tightly bound to the guidelines outlined in the Service Manual. Al-Anon strongly recognizes the importance of extending membership in our fellowship to anyone who is suffering from the consequences of another person’s drinking—and that includes members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Al-Anon has traditionally referred to these members as “Duel Members”, not “Double Winners”. More importantly, Al-Anon appears to be moving in the direction of not referring to anyone other than as being a member of Al-Anon. I like that!! In other words, the fact that a person is a member of another fellowship is something they probably should keep to themselves.

This can be of great importance to newcomers who may have come to their first Al-Anon meeting seeking safety from the alcoholic/s in their lives, even for a few hours. So what does all this have to do with Anonymity? Our traditions remind us of our responsibility to protect our identity within our fellowship. This keeps the concept that we are all equals intact. Often members who share the most wisdom and growth in our program are not the most highly educated, highest paid, or those driving the fanciest cars, or members of other fellowships.

Cheers in Service,

District 8 Representative: Tobin R.

Tobin appreciates his district’s group representatives for their work and shares his personal gratitude for everyone’s hard work and teamwork.

District 9 Representative: Roger K

The past 3 years has gone by very quickly. District 9 has had challenges and many successes that we have met. I will concentrate upon the successes. First and foremost, everything was not done perfectly yet district events were held and the Al-Anon message was carried. For the most part, when a need was announced volunteers came forward to help. Even when the request went
unanswered we managed to complete what needed to be done. No disasters occurred and no one was summarily executed which is always my worst fear because that’s how I roll.

Our district was able to pass a simple set of guidelines, which will allow for a suggested baseline to handle the usual Al-Anon work at the district level. Before this was accomplished reliance on someone’s memory was used as the standard. This method could easily result in misunderstandings and hurt feelings. It is hoped that future district will find this helpful to use in the future.

District 9 has continued to be able to offer its bi-monthly speaker meetings that feature one local speaker and a main speaker from “out of the area.” These meetings have allowed us to hear “fresh stories” that we don’t normally get a chance to hear and affords us an opportunity to meet new friends. The meetings continue to be well attended and offers a safe and non-threatening place for “newcomers” to hear the Al-Anon message.

District 9 has been able to bring the Al-Anon message into the jail and into a mental health center as well as a woman’s shelter. These locations have a great need for volunteers to share the Al-Anon message and we have been well received. Thanks to the hard work of our district Institutions Coordinator and her group of volunteers our 12th Step work continues.

We have experienced challenges when it comes to filling some service positions but the world continues to rotate about the sun. No doubt open service positions will be filled in our “Higher Powers” time and it should not detract from our feelings of success.

On a personal note, I want to say that being the District Representative has been very humbling. It has allowed me to “practice” what I have learned in Al-Anon and hopefully to carry Al-Anon’s message to others. I have made mistakes but also had the chance to learn. I have many new friends that I had never met before and am happy that I have been given this chance to serve.

May the miracles of Al-Anon continue to occur in your lives and spread to those you love.

Honored to serve,

District 10 Representative & Alternate: Wendy L & Ally G

District 10 is part of the Intergroup District 6-10 Area Information Service. To give you a perspective of the geographic region, the Amtrak Zephyr Route travels through District 10 from Roseville to Truckee. Perhaps you have visited the Empire State Mine in Grass Valley. We are there too. Then again, if you have been on the trails and parks of the American River, then you have been in District 10. The American River flows into Folsom Lake, which is where Folsom State Prison is, and we are there too. District 10 is in Auburn, Colfax, Downieville, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Grass Valley, Loomis, Orangevale, Rocklin, Roseville and Truckee.

Our District has had challenges, but I want to focus on what we have accomplished. We have 51 active groups and there is a meeting, (up to 11 on Wednesdays, and as few as four on Saturdays and Sundays) on any given day of the week. There are 39 Group Reps and service is growing strong.

We have many members actively involved in state prison meetings at Folsom, both men and women’s facilities. Members of District 10 brought Al-Anon into Acres of Hope, a women’s shelter in Auburn. This has been so well received that they are asking for another meeting. This brings me to review and reflect on the incredible effort of our Al-Anon Family Groups, including NCWSA and District 10 specifically. Together, members have accomplished much!

If I could sum up District 10 during this panel, I would say it was the amazing breakthrough with our public outreach activities as a result of the education, sharing of experience and strength of all the coordinators at the NCWSA. We did not come home from an Assembly without someone being positively impacted by what they saw there.

We now have a Diversity Coordinator! Our public outreach activities have increased Al-Anon presence in the community. We purchased our tablecloth early on, and dusted off our tri-fold – we have been everywhere: drug & alcohol forums, Unity Days, High Schools, & Health Education Fairs -- the calls just keep coming in and members just keep showing up!
This is all a direct result of the enthusiastic measures of all our NCWSA coordinators have shared! I want to thank every member of the various Committees for their service to the Districts. It was an amazing panel! I can say with great enthusiasm that we are more than half way through selecting the new three-year Panel for the District. Like many, my term as District Rep is coming to a close and I’m grateful for the abundance of help, the kindness of the Al-Anon members and the desire to keep Al-Anon’s message moving forward.

Service is a way to perpetuate the Al-Anon message, but it’s also an awesome journey of growth in my own recovery. I especially thank the members of District 10 for allowing me to be a trusted servant--right here, right now!

**District 11 Representative: Kim R**

On behalf of our entire fellowship, from Anne A. to Zander, a heartfelt THANK YOU to NCWSC for the myriad ways you support District 11 & for your part in maintaining our robust connection to AFG worldwide. We are definitely feeling the love here in Marin!

In-JOY- filled service always,
This wall mural was painted by Patti T from our district for our day in Al-Anon last June-it’s of Mt. Tam.

Love & peace,

**District 13 Representative: Agota P**

District 13 represents most of San Mateo County! It was three years ago when I started as a DR for our district. Little did I know what a rewarding job it will turn out to be. No it was not easy and I had to learn a lot but what I learned most was that “I was not in Charge! “.

- At our October business meeting our district will elect the new 3 year panel including our officers, DR and Alt DR, and most of our coordinators. I am confident that all those positions will be filled.
- We have made some changes to our District Business meeting. However we still find it a challenge to have all of our agenda items addressed and discussed during the hour and a half meeting.
- In District 13 we have 38 Al-Anon meetings, and three Alateen meeting.
- Thanks to our new Alateen sponsors and our new Alateen Coordinator Lee B. our Alateen attendance is growing and our AMIAS count is at 15 plus the 3 in the process to becoming an AMIAS. We had 11 AMIAS attending the Sponsors R&R, and 6 attended the Getting together weekend, and our Alateens are all ready for attending NOCAC.
- Our website http://www.alanonmidpeninsula.org is drawing average 3,400 visits per month.
- We are reviewing our Answering Service as we found some of the calls were handled incorrectly. Our new Tele-service Coordinator Ana Maria V. is following up with the service and we are considering other options to fulfill our obligation to those who need information about Al-anon by phone.

- Our Public Outreach Coordinator Eloise M. is working together with the Area PICPC coordinator to place in 315 San Mateo Transit buses a 28"x11" Interior AD Cards in color, for 12 weeks. The transit system has a 40,000 ridership on week days. This will give Al-anon in our district the much needed visibility and will be an excellent way to let the public know that there is HELP! Also our PI Coordinator and helpers are posting info on Al-anon/Alateen meetings ads on Craig’s List every seven days!
- After many months of meetings finally we have finished our district’s Financial and Treasurer Guidelines.
The District’s service position guidelines for our Officers, District Rep, Alt. DR and Coordinators are now all posted on our website.

May of this year we had our Day in Al-anon and we are in the process of planning our Holiday Party for this December. (I hope it will happen…)

Our panel has done their best and I am grateful and proud of the work that was accomplished. I am also confident that the next panel will take us even further in service to those whose life has been affected by alcoholism.

Thank you for letting me being of service and representing District 13 for the past three years!

**District 15 Representative & Alternate: Lorraine & Maria G**

We currently have 41 Al-anon meetings, of the 41 Al-Anon meetings eight are in Spanish; four Alateen meetings, one of which is in Spanish.

We have meetings in Alameda, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Hayward and Castro Valley.

Our district, with the help of our PI coordinator Kathleen, has been very busy again this year carrying the message. They have attended many events from school fairs, health fairs and neighborhood events throughout our area.

In September we had our annual Day in Al-anon. Our theme this year was “Together We Can Make It!” We provided Al-Anon meetings in English and Spanish, Alateen meetings and AA meetings.

We had a silent auction. Members provided salads for the salad bar lunch. We had an Alateen and Al-Anon speaker, Spanish Al-Anon and AA speakers.

During the Spanish Al-Anon speaker, and with the help of Diversity Committee member Veronica, they provided headsets and our Alternate DR Maria translated the Spanish speaker to English. It was awesome!

Our Alateen bake table made $470, 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 $1700 for our district.

Our Alateen coordinator (Nancy) has been busy with new sponsors and AMIAS. We have 11 Alateen sponsors and seven AMIAS. We currently have 14-17 kids going to NOCAC – our district will be providing full and half scholarships.

We updated our bylaws that had not been updated since 2005.

I am so grateful and blessed to have been the DR for the past three years for such a wonderful and amazing group of people. Together we have grown in recovery while carrying the message to those families who have been affected by the disease of alcoholism. I want thank them for loving me, guiding me, helping me and allowing me to be of service as their District Rep.

Grateful and blessed member of Al-Anon,

**District 16 Representative & Alternate: Rosanna H & Cliff W**

Activities/accomplishments/challenges in 2014:

**Alateen Family Flapjack FUNdraiser** - The Alateens raised $220. There were 50+ attendees (not everyone registered.)

- **DIA 2014** - Applied new guidelines (Co-chair is event treasurer and following year’s event chair)
- **We used** a tool that allowed us to accept credit cards for payment
- **We recorded** the workshops and made them available for those unable to attend
- **We had** 9 workshops, 1 in Spanish, one was an AA workshop
- **Entertainment** was an informal groovy acoustic jam on the lawn at lunchtime and a guided meditation
- **Alateen speaker** was from Davis, AA was from SF and Al-Anon was from Washington state.
• Event is our main fundraiser. It was a spiritual, financial, physical and emotional success.
• We sold T-shirts for the first time. They had an anonymous logo so they could be multi-purposed.
• Dinner w/ speakers/DIA committee/others (n=20+) followed at a local restaurant
• The district voted to donate a full NoCAC registration to an Alateen outside of our district from the day’s profits.
AMIAS recertification with District 14 again: Bonnie and Charli came out to San Ramon to present information and help in the recertification process.
GTW scholarships- The district provided half scholarships for 12 Al-Anon/Alateen members.
Sponsors R & R: Five AMIASs received half scholarships and the Alateen Coordinator received a full scholarship.
Public Outreach resurgence: We had a new PO Coordinator start at the end of 2013. She has created a committee to bring outreach back to local shelters and added a hospital to the list of sites we regularly visit. Bruce D, Area PI/CPC, visited our district in March and shared how we can make public outreach personal.
In April, we took an electronic group conscience on whether we were willing to host the May One Day Assembly. The outcome was a simple majority “No” vote. Some of the reasons included lack of time to prepare for this event on top of assembly guidelines that were not clear to some members. While the outcome may have been disappointing to some, the procedure worked smoothly and we reached an informed group conscience and trusted the trusted servants.
In May, four Pleasanton meetings were told that the church they were meeting in was sold to a new owner and their meetings would need to relocate by mid-June. In the process, one meeting relocated to Livermore, increasing the number of meetings in that town to two.
We are having a Fallfest on November 1. It is like a Half Day in Al-Anon. Workshops, potluck, AA, AL-Anon, Alateen speakers, donation drawing and silent auction are planned.
We created a Stand Up for Service Campaign with five components:
1. Update and post at the group level service position guidelines for those who are rotating out
2. At the July-September Speaker meetings, two to three of the eight trusted servants who are rotating out shared for three minutes each about their positions and the recovery they received from serving.
3. Created a list of rotating trusted servants who were willing to go to meetings at the request of the GRs and share for five minutes on their position.
4. Posted a list of current and past trusted servants and their contact information for the positions that are rotating out.
5. Trusted servants are asked to share on position at the upcoming Fallfest, three days before elections.
District elections will be held on November 4.
We had two members attend the Santa Rita Re-Entry Expo in September. This event is similar to a health fair but is located within the jail. There were approximately 500 inmates who were able to attend this expo. The hope was to let them know what Al-Anon is and that we are here when they are released.
Based on this service in 2013, we created a district level Institutions Coordinator based on a request to do so. The position was created in March. We have yet to have someone stand.
We have been trying to fill the Literature Coordinator for six months. Currently, the Alternate DR is bringing literature to the speaker meetings and two members are serving as interim Al-Anon Coordinators at the Yosemite Summit Conference in late November.
Gratefully submitted
D16 Assembly 2014 Rap-port
ALL ABOUT SERVICE!
CHORUS:
Because you know we’re all about service ‘bout service so grateful
We’re all about service ‘bout service, so grateful
We’re all about service ‘bout service, so grateful
We’re all about service, bout service
Yeah it’s pretty clear, our district isn’t perfect
But with our HP, we trust the trusted servants
With 16 GRs and 19 AFGs
Al-Anon Tri-Valley is where we wanna be.

We saw our Alateens serving up breakfast links
Uh-huh! Uh-huh!
Working for scholarships
‘Cuz missing NoCAC stinks
Recertin’ AMIASs withD14
Uh huh!
And Bonnie and Charli help us rock the B-17

Yeah, our D I A came with a bunch of cloudy skies
Shoe- whah whah whah ooowww whah whah
But our spirits weren’t dampened; we had a real groovy time

It was groovy groovy! Yeah groovy groovy!
We swiped our credit cards, strummed in the yard, the three speakers shined
Shoe- whah whah whah ooowww whah whah
Peace love and serenity were ours ‘cuz our HP provides

CHORUS
We’re bringing Outreach back
And Bruce D lent a hand with that
We’re makin’ progress
Then four meetings moved
And I’m here to tell ya why: the church said they sold the building, time for us to go

Yeah we meet the first Tuesday each month: from 7 to 9
Shoe-whah whah whah ooowww whah whah
Using K-B-D-M to reach an informed GC
It’s groovy groovy, to be included!
Updated D I A, Fallfest and service position guidelines
Shoe- whah whah whah ooowww whah whah
Created a Stand Up for Service Campaign, its rotation time

Because you know we’re all about service, ‘bout service, so grateful
We’re all about service, bout service, thanks AREA
We’re all about service, ‘bout service, so grateful
We’re all about service, ‘bout service

Because you know we’re all about service, ‘bout service, so grateful
We’re all about service, ‘bout service, thanks SPONSORS
We’re all about service, ‘bout service, so grateful
We’re all about service, ‘bout service

Because you know we’re all about service, ‘bout service, so grateful
We’re all about service, ‘bout service, thanks FAMILY
We're all about service, 'bout service, so grateful
We’re all about service!

**District 17 Representative & Alternate: Delta D & Maria M**
Fremont, Union City, Newark
Greetings from our FUN District: Fremont, Union City & Newark!
Our district currently holds 10 meetings, which include an Alateen meeting, a Men’s meeting and a Spanish-speaking meeting. All group representatives are here today including our teen group rep. Thank you, Alexa, for stepping up to service to represent the teens! Our monthly birthday meetings, with speakers and fellowship, continue to be successful and festive with a wonderful potluck and fellowship. In July the trusted servants of our district were the speakers for our monthly birthday meeting. From the District Representative to the Coordinators and a few Group Reps shared their strength, hope and experience on their service positions. We even had Q & A time.
Lupita created nomination sheets with requirements and brief description of the duties. All nomination sheets were due by our district meeting in August. Each trusted servant then approached everyone nominated to their position and asked if they would accept or decline or serve as an alternate. At our September district business meeting we were ready to vote. All our district trusted servant positions and their alternates are filled for 2015! Eva is our new District Representative and I will be serving as her Alternate! All our meetings have voted for their new GRS and Alternates for 2015 and some of them are here today to get their feet wet! 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. We now send Al-Anon members along with a member from AA to share their experience, strength and hope every Wednesday for family night at Fremont Hospital.
Our small district has been incredibly blessed with our finances; allowing us to make monthly donations to both NCWSA and WSO. We were also able to sponsor two AMIAS to R&R weekend this past September.
Our incredible Day-In-Al-Anon was held on September 27. Our theme was “Fall into Recovery”. We had wonderful workshops with wonderful chairs from other districts. Thank you John S, Linda D, Kara and Veronica P. Thank you also to our main speakers Dana (teen from San Jose), Ray W (AA from Half Moon Bay) and Yvonne deG (NCWSC Chair). We opened with Yoga at 9 AM and we had Zumba during lunch. Our donation baskets provided by the meetings were big and beautiful F.U.N. was had by all!!! Fourteen people went out to dinner after to wind down and have some more F.U.N.!!! The best part is we made lots of money!
It has been an honor and privilege to be the District Representative for District 17 AFG. To be of service with my fellows for the past three years has been an incredible journey I will never forget--to be able to use the tools of the program and grow together. We made it one meeting at a time and one day at a time! To do conflict resolution with love, compassion, respect, honor, forgiveness, principles above personalities, etc. I am so proud of my district and its members and I am so grateful and full of love for them. I am excited to continue this journey with them one day at a time. Thank you also to our talented members Bev, Dorothy, Katrina and Tomas for our shout out “Soar”!
We will continue to practice, practice, practice!

Love in service,

**District 18 Representative & Alternate: Debbie O & Brenda W**
The Message is Simple, Recovery is Keen, Everyone is welcome in District 18.

We have 53 meetings, with 43 meeting sites, and all have voting GRs with the exception of two, with about 21 GRs at every district meeting, Alateens too..

We have one men’s meeting, two Spanish-speaking meetings, and now we have five Alateen meetings and growing, with six Alateens going to NoCAC this year. I am happy to say that during this panel we have all meetings in active status keeping us on our toes, expanding our understanding of a Higher Power with us doing the footwork.

Our meetings are in Angels Camp, Arnold, Ceres, Groveland, Gustine, Los Banos, Manteca, Merced, Modesto, Mountain Ranch, Murphys, Oakdale, Patterson, Sonora, Soulsbyville, Tracy and Turlock.

Our Public Outreach committee has been spreading the word through at-risk shelters, recovery houses exploding our budget out of the water. Our Institutions meetings has grown to eight with a ninth in the works, on a weekly and monthly basis.

We had our election meeting for new officers and coordinators at District 18 and Brenda W will be our incoming DR, George L will be our incoming ADR, with a majority of our other positions filled and the hope is to have the rest filled by the last district meeting in Dec 2014.

Our Alateen Coordinator has us going into the elementary schools doing nine presentations during Red Ribbon Week talking to 4th, 5th and 6th grade. She is working on the Jr Highs and High Schools as well. We will be doing the presentation at our District DIA on Oct 25, so everyone come see how we have refined it to keep the children’s attention from fading.

We currently have 22 AMIAS certified to be of service to our youth.

We as a district would like to thank the outgoing NCWSA Officers, Coordinators, DRs and ADRs for a job well done this last three years, and it has been a pleasure serving with and for you.

Concept 4: Participation is the Key to Harmony.

Love in Service,

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**District 19 Representative: Sheri W**

Greetings everyone. My name is Sheri and I get to serve as District rep for District 19, covering Tulare, Fresno and Madera Counties.

At our elections meeting last month, having a little more confidence after finishing out the last 18 months of Greg’s term, when his job schedule forced him to step down. I stood for my own term as dis rep, and I was elected.

Also at our elections, almost all of our service positions were filled for this panel.

Since last assembly district 19 has been quite active.

And in fact May assembly I did not attend due to Central Cal Council A.A. that had Al-Anon participation that same weekend in Fresno. We had a full program with Alateen participation and our main Al-Anon speaker Pat G came in from Az.

In June we formed a committee to work on revising the districts by-laws and guidelines. 19 of us boarded a bus for the trip to Alamo for the team event. What great unity and fellowship these great events allow.

I am happy to report that the suggested guidelines and by-laws were accepted as revised at our Aug district meeting by the GR’s.

Our district meetings are each month, every other month we have a workshop. Also, this year we have tried to use the whole area, being that we have a very large geographic area. For example, our district meeting for October is in Visalia. We have a special event/fundraising event in Kingsburg, which is smack dab in the middle of the two. So we try to make events accommodating from all areas.

We currently have 51 meetings within district 19. This includes 2 Alateen groups, 1 women’s only group and various book study meetings, every day of the week. At our Al-Anon speaker meeting, the first Monday of every month, it is a combined A.A./Al-Anon speaker meeting. It has just moved to a new and bigger location and they had a great turn out.
Don’t forget to stop when you’re passing through.
Thank you. I am blessed to be of service.

**District 20 Representative & Alternate: Maria G & Noelle T**
District 20 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 30 meetings in our district, 24 in English and 6 in Spanish. We also have five Alateen meetings and 2 women’s meetings in our District. We host a bimonthly speaker meeting in Saratoga which is open to the public and offers an introduction to Al-Anon.
This year we invited a speaker from Texas and are hoping for a large turnout. We now are listed as Santa Clara Valley speaker meeting which has helped encourage host groups for the speaker meetings from Districts 21 and 22.
My main activities have been continuing to visit all the meetings in our district, and now I have finally visited all of them. I try and visit them when they are having their business meeting to answer any questions they may have, encourage participation with our upcoming election and check to see if they have questions I can help with. I think our CMA’s have all been updated and have passed this along to our area records coordinator. Our District meetings are growing and make for lively discussions on various issues that come in from the meetings or from our NCWSM. We now have about half our meetings represented and will continue to carry the message and ask more meetings to join us.
Our District is connected to Santa Clara Valley Intergroup which supports us with literature, public outreach, hospitals and institutions and Alateen. We are still 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](http://www.district20afg.com) and are also part of scvafg’s website, scvafg.org.
I became the DR two years ago and I have been on a steep learning curve, with my second year being easier than my first. I have really enjoyed being the DR, visiting all the meetings in the District, and working as a member of our District with the GR’s carrying the message. We have learned a lot about the service manual, Northern California Area, WSO and how to have fun while we stick with our primary purpose. I am grateful and feel blessed with this opportunity to grow in recover. I love all the people who have given me support, both in the District and Northern California, and I appreciate the opportunity to be of service.
Feeling blessed,

**District 21 Representative: Chris A-C**
San Jose Milpitas San Jose Santa Clara
Our meetings: 23 English, including focus groups – 2 women, young adult, gays &lesbians, women’s at Elmwood, an institution, and family shelter, 1 Spanish Alateen meeting.
There wasn’t a DR at one point. Re-evaluating Intergroup for D21-22-23 Santa Clara Valley, used to have strong connection to WSO. How can districts participate more in the Intergroups?
She was the Diversity coordinator at beginning of the panel, but needed to step down earlier this year, with some great challenges in her personal life. Very ugly fall at Feb meeting, hit bottom with depression and found out she had high blood pressure and has reached out for help and gotten much better. Since 1998 been doing Area service. Now needs to step out of Area service. Treasurer Mary has gone through so much and redefined the Treasury for the District.

**District 22 Representative: Bill G.**
I didn’t prepare notes –I’ll just speak from the heart.
I was the alternate DR and the DR stepped down, so for 8 months he has been a DR, just got his feet wet.
One of my home groups is in San Jose, so we are also part of the Santa Clara Valley Intergroup.

At this junction we are very special because Intergroup takes care of a lot of things that districts take care of in other locations. So we can do many things – we are working on a thought force as to how can we serve the groups in this capacity of having an Intergroup and three Districts. Next Tuesday Intergroup will have a discussion about this. I need to step down and not continue being DR for my own reasons. The district need people to step up and take positions not only in my district but in the others part of the Intergroup.

**District 23 Representative: Anna P.**
District includes Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties. There are 39 meetings including Spanish-speaking, parents, men’s, women’s, “Young at Heart” and an Alateen meeting, regular speaking meetings. They started a trial of offering babysitting at some speaker meetings; it has been very successful so childcare continues. D23 did some surveys, most recent was on “Activities.” D23 Institutions service is very active, and is expanding in county jails. Anna expressed gratitude for her Al-Anon family.

**District 24 Representative: Kim Ann H.**
How important it is that information comes from the Area to the District to the meetings. All service positions are filled in District 24. The secretary couldn’t make it to this event but minutes are delivered in a timely manner, also the same for treasurer’s reports, coordinators reports. Fulfilling commitments with other life commitments can be rough, parental illness, Kim appreciates those who stayed in service.
One needs to be prepared to improvise. One member got a job at Pebble Beach, so couldn’t always make it to meetings. Bill W. spoke on leadership – in service manual, they read this too at beginning of their meetings.
Love and service.

**District 25 Representative – Jim M, Alt DR**
District 25 is between District 12, San Francisco, to the north and District 13, Mid-Peninsula, to the south. It includes the Northern Bay Area Peninsula cities of Pacifica, Daly City, Brisbane, Millbrae, Burlingame, San Bruno, Colma and South San Francisco.
Although long underrepresented at the Area level, this small District continues to provide wonderful recovery at the Group Level. District 25 currently has 7 English meetings and 5 Spanish meetings. Recently a few meetings have become inactive but the remaining meetings are fairly well attended with a good mix of regular members, newcomers, men and women.
District 25 holds two annual special events, a Summer Serenity Luncheon and a Holiday Tea. One of this District’s strengths is its commitment to Alateen. Our Alateen Coordinator and Sponsors have worked tirelessly to provide a safe meeting place for the young people of our area. It is amazing to watch as these Sponsors work to set things and then stand back and turn it all over to the teens. Most Al-Anon Groups in District 25 contribute to Alateen NoCAC Scholarships and meeting expenses.
Our challenges are those common to other districts. Service work, while good at the Group Level is inconsistent above that. As our freshman GRs realize the benefits of doing service work, we hope this will change. Our outreach efforts are a bit confused and intermittent and we look for clarification and guidance on this from the Area and World Service Organization.
Ultimately, the members and Trusted Servants of this little District depend upon our Higher Power and the Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Al-Anon to provide recovery for families and friends affected by alcoholism.

**District 26 Representative: Ellen G (read by district member)**
District 26 has had a solid group of individuals active in service throughout the panel. Group Reps from 15 meetings regularly attend the monthly district meeting. We have 25 meetings within the district, which ranges from West Contra Costa County into Alameda County.

One of our accomplishments over the course of this panel has been to start a second District Speaker Meeting on the second Friday of each month. After much discussion, our first meeting was held in April of this year. After a summer hiatus, we started again and have a good attendance and commitments from groups to host the meeting through the end of the panel. Our long running first Saturday District meeting continues at Kaiser Richmond and is well attended.

Outreach Coordinator Kay motivated the district to have a table at the Solano Avenue Stroll the second Sunday in September throughout the panel. This free street fair has approximately 100,000 visitors over 8 hours. Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism pamphlets were handed out to visitors along with meeting schedules and other pamphlets. We anticipate that this wonderful outreach will become a tradition within the district.

Thanks to all of the members of this panel who have served as officers: Alt DR. Judith, Secretary Lily, Treasurer Amana. Coordinators Kay, Angela, and Adrien, and Dave, our AA Liaison. Our long serving Telephone Coordinator Anne passed away last week, and we send our thoughts and prayers to her family and friends.

We invite anyone who is looking for a meeting at Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Eve to check our website www.ncwsa.org/d26 for marathon meetings in Berkeley. Please join us if you are in the area.

We will be electing those who will serve on the next panel at our November meeting and trust that the new district servants will continue to support and serve everyone in District 26.

**District 6-10 Intergroup Chair: Lisa K**

Hi Everyone! I am Lisa K, the Chair for Intergroup D6-10.

Our AIS office is located at 5429 Palm Ave, Suite A, Sacramento, CA. Our office hours are Monday–Wednesday 10–3 pm and Thursday 10 am–4 pm; closed Friday–Sunday. Our email is aisbookcenter@yahoo.com.

We print our meeting schedules quarterly, available both in our monthly newsletter the *Share&Care*, and at each meeting. Meeting schedules are also available on our website.

Our AIS office has been operating solely with the help of volunteers for over a year now, and they have done a tremendous job! The Service Board reviewed in July with the Office Committee whether to continue to run it “as is”, or consider if an office manager should be hired. It was decided to continue having the office run without a paid employee and some parameters were set in place to avoid double-headed management. Now having all volunteers, the AIS Office has seven coordinator positions: Office & Facility, Communications, Literature, Finances, Office Volunteers, After Hours Phone and *Share&Care* Subscriptions.

For the month of October we are asking groups to “Pass the Pumpkin” -- a separate collection at meetings to help cover the various costs of running the AIS office.

On June 14, the Al-Anon 63rd/Alateen 57th Birthday Party, hosted by D6-10, took place at Light of the Hills Lutheran Church in Cameron Park. It included speakers and a donation drawing.

Attending the Assembly last October and the theme of “What is well-served group?” got me thinking, and I began attending the district meetings to ask them if the AIS office and Intergroup are serving the districts as best they can. DRs and GRs were invited to share their thoughts and contact me with questions and suggestions. Intergroup formed a task force to address the feedback I received. The task force has met and addressed the feedback, and the responses were published on our website and distributed to all the DR’s and GR’s to take back to their groups for review.

Intergroup will be holding elections in November for open/opening positions. We need the following positions filled: Alternate Chair, PI/CPC Coordinator, Alateen Coordinator, Treasurer, Office Committee Liaison, Share&Care Editor and Spring Fling Coordinator(s).

**Hispanic Intergroup East Bay: Mary CG**
The Intergroup is located at 113 West 10th St., Pittsburg, CA 94565, phone (925) 432-1821 and 1(866) 241-1790.

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 7 years.

The Intergroup has 21 Al-Anon groups, 8 Adult Children Groups and 3 Alateen Groups for a total of 32 groups all together.

The Intergroup has 4 Committees: Public Information, Hospitals and Institutions, Records, and Alateen. The Committees alternate monthly putting on workshops.

Public Information is passing the message in all the areas, from the list of volunteers.

Records are working on always having an up-to-date directory and we are 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 different institutions.

With our new coordinator, the committee has opened the doors of Al-Anon in Puertas Abiertas in Napa.

Archives is working on filing all documents in our file cabinets.

The Intergroup has been working on opening more Alateen groups. This year we’ve opened one more in Sonoma. 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 4 more Alateen sponsors.

We have our literature depot providing literature to all the groups in our area and we have conflict resolution using our twelve traditions.

Thank you very much.

With love in service,

North Bay Hispanic Intergroup: Janie L.

Members have attended Health fairs in Oakland; the Intergroup has a public outreach coordinator. They had Veronica come to meet with them and would like for someone from Institutions come and talk with them.

Santa Clara Valley intergroup –Bruce

A committee started a searching and fearless inventory. They are meeting to discuss this Tuesday next week. About 75 meetings involved. They have invited Patrick to come and guide.

Oct 25 they have a Day in Al-Anon: Love and Laughter, Joy in Recovery, in San Jose, breakfast and lunch and a whole day of workshops.

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

Alateen Coordinator & Alternate: Bonnie M & Lisa B

Wow! This is our final Assembly for this panel. I’m so grateful to my Higher Power, working through the group conscience of NCWSC, for providing me with the great privilege to serve NCWSA and our Alateen members for the past three years. We have accomplished a lot.

This year we completed revisions of the Northern California Alateen Conference (NoCAC) event guidelines. This is a working document that will be used, reviewed and updated on a “trial basis” over the next panel. The Guidelines Task Force was awesome to work with and I believe we produced a good working guideline. The current NoCAC committee has been wonderful about reviewing the document, asking questions, making suggestions and following the evolving guidelines in their committee service.
Our NoCAC Committee has been traveling across Northern California, attending events to spread the word about Alateen and NoCAC. Several committee members attended TEAM in September and, at the end of September, several of us were able to attend “Sobriety by the Sea” in Crescent City. This is an AA roundup with Al-Anon participation and this year, for the first time, Alateen participation. Adin and Elsa Itzel were the Alateen speakers and were followed by a workshop by a panel of Alateen members, using an “ask it basket” format. The teens did a terrific job raising awareness of the Alateen program in an underserved area. There was interest expressed in getting Al-Anon members certified and getting an Alateen meeting started there.

I hope the NoCAC Last Chance Dance is on your calendar, Oct. 18. This is a great opportunity for Al-Anon members and younger Alateen members to attend an Alateen event and see Alateen recovery in action.

Sponsors R & R 2014 was a wonderful growing, learning, loving weekend. In spite of a couple of unexpected expenses, we ended with a positive balance. We had 80 attendees this year, including two from Arkansas! Almost half the participants were “first-timers: and, thanks to Veronica, Nick and their team of translators and interpreters, we were also able to be more welcoming to our Spanish speaking members. Our “almost final” expense report shows income of $12,041.00 and expenses of $11,976.03 for a balance of $64.97. There are a few adjustments yet but we should finish in the black. The evaluations were very positive, with a few suggestions to help make next year even better. There is a “save the date” flyer in your bins for Sponsors R & R 2015, September 18-20, 2015. A huge thank you to the planning committee: Carol S., Charli D., David B., DeDe W., Kim R., Lisa B, Nick D., Stephan T. and Veronica P.

I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the District 3 “Alateen Planning” group in Chico. They are doing a great job of growing Alateen. We had good discussions and great questions to explore. Our wonderful Diversity team has translated the Spring 2014 Alateen Express, creating a bilingual version!

The latest edition of Alateen Express is now available. Thank you Lisa B for all your work on our Alateen newsletters!

Still to come, in the last months of our panel:
I have one more AMIAS workshop scheduled November 8 in Castro Valley, hosted by District 15. The flyer is on the NCWSA calendar.
I will attend NoCAC 2014 in Modesto, November 14 – 16 in Modesto. Please remember that this is an Alateen event and, for Alateen safety considerations as well as hotel requirements, there is no drop-in registration. Please send in your registration by October 18 to get the lower rate. I hope to see you there.
I still hope to work with the incoming Alateen Coordinator and the Sponsors R & R committee to update the Sponsors R & R event guidelines.
I look forward to welcoming our incoming Alateen Coordinator and will do my best to ensure a smooth transition.

Thank you so much for letting me serve Alateen as your coordinator.

NoCAC Chair: Omar H.
NoCAC roles: Shelby - tee shirts, Francisco – secretary, Adam-co-chair, Julia decorations; Darrell, Annette, Bonnie from Al-Anon.
Thanks everyone who donated to the can last night The Alateens received just over $900. This will help but we need more money for scholarships to NoCAC. If each district gave at least ½ scholarship to NoCAC that would be great–see the info on registration packet. Please do it if you can.
Thanks to D10-Deb H. who donated pillowcases we have been selling.
A couple of people went to the Monterey Roundup and they raised more funds.
The Alateens had their hotel walk-through – amazing place.
Omar went to Sobriety by the Sea Sept 26-28, up in Crescent City and it was the first time they had Alateens present.
Annette went to District 17’s day in Al-Anon.
Last Chance dance is next Saturday in Palo Alto, with speakers and a potluck.
They have T-shirts available outside.
Letters were bounced from PO box (registration), but that’s been fixed, so please send registration again.

**Archives Coordinator & Alternate: Chris M & Diana C**

I stood for this position because no one else did, and I believe that it is important to remember those who have come before us and that it can be useful to know our history. I admired the work that Irma had done with the Archives and thought rather than stepping back from area service, maybe I could step up and take my turn. So God put my hand in the air. Little did I know then the journey that would follow. Looking back at the last six years as your Archives Coordinator, the following has been accomplished:

- We moved and inventoried the area archives in order to update the database.
- We secured proper storage for the area archives.
- We created summer archive parties and invited members to participate.
- We created displays regarding aspects of our founders and service history.
- We created an archive binder with information for each district.
- We made the displays and ourselves available for assemblies, convention and district special events.
- We created an archive history event with old movies, speakers and a bazaar filled with literature and memorabilia, co-hosted with District 15
- We continue to receive and track information for the archives.
- We assisted a long-time member’s family with clearing area archives from their home, which resulted in precious bits of history and treasures beyond belief.
- We have created skits in order to educate and entertain our members about our history.
- Most importantly, we have had a blast from the past.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve and grow. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped us and for having us at your districts and special events. This truly has been an amazing service position. I have had the most fun ever and it has kept be connected to all of you while I continue to live my life. God has had a way of taking care of me during some difficult times. I’m ever so grateful for Diana and her enthusiasm and love of history. We did this together because “Together We Can”. It’s hard to let this position go but it is time for someone else to take their turn and have their blast from the past.

Looking forward to what God has in store next…

**Bylaws & Insurance Coordinator & Alternate: Kim Ann H & Staci S**

Thirty-three years, it is 33 years since the first Bylaws Committee was formed in Northern California. Thirty-one years, it is 31 years since our area approved the first set of Bylaws.
Notice: that’s two years of meetings, writing, rewriting, discussion, review of guidelines, service manuals (in those days there was more than book, actually a series of booklets), more discussion, more writing, more meetings, and—horrors!—all done without the use of email or conference calls.
What comes to mind for me is gratitude, gratitude for the members of Al-Anon in Northern California who looked to the future, one day at a time, to bring together our collective, informed group conscience. Those members gave thought to who and where we needed to be in order to carry the message to those affected by someone else’s alcoholism in a manner that was for the good of our entire fellowship.
Today what that means is that we now have Bylaws available on our website. Bylaws are available to guide us in our decision-making, transparency, job descriptions, membership
requirements, committee formation and event efforts. Not only that, we have insurance available to meetings and for special events and the continued growth of ways to carry the message, all because of those forward-thinking, forward-looking members.

To Staci, my alternate, I say thank you for your efforts in processing multitudes of insurance requests and her support of our membership. Staci, who shared with me that she prays for the meeting or event as she processes each request. This wouldn't have been the same without you! To those of you who have reached out in need, or with a question, or just a simple request, thank you for your participation in carrying the message. As a friend of mine has said, we could walk out these doors and throw a rock in any direction and find someone who could benefit from knowing about Al-Anon. It is because of those who came before us that we have a way and some direction in carrying the message to do just that.

In humble gratitude for you allowing me to be of service,

Diversity Coordinator and Alternate: Veronica P & Chris AC

Highlights since our last Assembly:

- Provided Spanish interpretation for 2014 Sponsor R&R and D15 DIA.
- Established a database of 20 Al-Anon and one Alateen members with bi-lingual skill sets, including one Chinese Interpreter, one Chinese Translator, one Chinese Newcomer Greeter, two Spanish Greeters, three Spanish Intergroup Liaisons, eight Spanish Interpreters, nine Spanish Translators.

Diversity Day 2014

Saturday, Aug 9, we hosted the first Diversity Day since 1999. It was held at Billy DeFrank Community Center in San Jose. We had over 90 attendees. 2015 Diversity Day will be held in August at the same location. Recap conference call will be on Oct 18, Saturday, 1-3pm. Email diversity@ncwsa.org to get the phone number and code to join the call.

Elections

Diversity Coordinator/Alt Coordinator & the Diversity Committee

I won’t be running again for another term. My HP has me on another path, I’ll be serving as D12 San Francisco Alt DR. Here are some facts about the position.

Gender neutrality within Al-Anon’s Legacies (Steps, Traditions, Concepts, Warranties) is not a part of NCWSA Diversity. The function of the Diversity Coordinator position is to focus on the Operational Aspects of Diversity. If gender neutrality is an important topic to you, please email the area chairman on how to get involved.

What are the Operational Aspects? NCWSA Diversity provides foreign language interpretation including ASL, technical translations, partnership with other NCWSA branches of service, visiting other districts to discuss diversity, and maintain the Diversity Database of members’ language skill sets and Fellowship/Workshops for our Al-Anon/Alateen Interpreters/Translators.

If you would like to be on the NCWSA Diversity Committee, a sign-up sheet will be going around. If you are an Alateen, send your contact information privately to diversity@ncswa.org.

Diversity Day 2015 Committee

1. Encourage your district or intergroup to have a Diversity Coordinator
2. Become an AMIAS - Al-Anon Member in Alateen Service. To help diversity, for our service structure to allow Alateens to participate, we need AMIAS onsite.
3. Take the language skills survey posted on the NCWSA website.
4. If there is another area that's not listed and you are passionate about it, let Diversity know about it.

(Closed with a passage in From Survival to Recovery, pg. 246 “I Feared Service,” middle of the page.)

Facilities Coordinator & Alternate: DeDe W & Carol

No report – elections only
Group Records Coordinator & Alternate: Carol G & Kathleen H

Greetings Al-Anon family!

This is the last Assembly meeting of panel 52. Seems like it all went by too quickly. My goal has been to have “zero” groups in the “No Mail” status by the time this panel is finished. At last check, I still have 28 groups with that status. The reason the CMA (current mailing address) needs to be accurate for all groups is that’s the way WSO can get its information to us (whether it be the quarterly appeals letters, the annual update for each group and the “Forum” magazine). It is the link between the WSO and each group.

Also, we are now sent the total of bounced email addresses from the WSO database. At last check, that number was 48. We’d like all email addresses to be current.

I have gotten group changes from some of the districts, but not all. That’s a very important link between us and the public. If our information isn’t accurate online or on our various meeting schedules, the people who want to attend our meetings can’t find us. I would like to encourage everyone to make any group changes on either our form (A-16) or on the WSO form (G-1). I realize people like to send a quick email regarding changes to their meetings, but the forms are much easier for me to decipher.

I am still a “work in progress” and often forget to acknowledge emails. My apologies. Whenever I get TOO overwhelmed by something I’m doing in service, I just try to remember that others have been there too. I can’t give up on doing service, as I am SO grateful for all of those who have come before me, and kept this marvelous fellowship alive.

Thank you for all of those who continue to support me and give me hugs of encouragement in the way that only Al-Anon can.

Institutions Coordinator: David B

Hello Everyone!

This summer has been very exciting in service for our Fellowship in Institutions facilities. The growth in membership at the meetings at the women’s crisis shelters and state prisons has been impressive. The constant flow of newcomers at the other facilities reflects the value of the message and the many volunteers. I carry the Alateen message with other members into the Monterey County Juvenile Hall. This facility recently asked us for more meetings inside -- twice a week for as many weeks as we are able to each month. We are currently going in every two weeks and hope to expand as more members step up to volunteer. There have been many meetings with 18 to 20 teens. All of this would not be possible without the Pink Can Fund.

Since last May, over $7,276 of Conference Approved Literature has been donated to the inside membership at Institutions to use and take home when they are released. A recent literature order in the amount of $6,438.48 was sent to the World Service Office (WSO). Please know that every penny donated to the Pink Can Fund is used only to buy Al-Anon and Alateen Literature. As Institutions is part of Public Outreach, it is our part in working Step 12.

The NCWSA Institutions Conference Planning Committee started meeting in Fresno last August for the 2015 Hospitals and Institutions Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. The good news at the very start of the process is that NCWSA will not be charged a rent fee by the AA H&I Committee. The hotel waives the conference room rents due to the room reservations. Now the bad news: the AA Fresno Fellowship decided after some weeks since that meeting not to host the Conference. The H&I General Committee is meeting October 12 and will discuss any new sites for the annual event. The 2016 H&I Conference will be held in Santa Rosa.

I spoke at the District 19 Meeting in Fresno last July. 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 once again had a significant number of first-time attendees and was a great experience. I chaired the Institutions workshop that was named Limited Access Meetings and
Jody Q of Pacific Grove shared her experience going into Monterey County Juvenile Hall, and the importance of having a variety of Alateen literature for the teens to read the personal stories. By Sunday morning there were five members from different districts who were very interested in starting an Alateen meeting in their local juvenile halls.

Two former inside members have started an Al-Anon meeting at the Walden House, a re-entry facility in Los Angeles. They are from different state prisons and the Southern California Area Institutions Coordinator Margaret S has supplied the meeting with literature.

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

Thank You for allowing me to be of service to the Northern California Fellowship!

In gratitude,

**Literature/Forum Coordinator & Alternate: Catalina L & Charlene R**

**WRITING WORKSHOPS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th># Attendees</th>
<th># Submissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1. 7/19/14</td>
<td>Mill Valley (Me)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 8/9/14</td>
<td>San Jose Diversity Day (Art)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 8/9/14</td>
<td>San Jose Diversity Day (Art)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 9/6/14</td>
<td>TEAM meeting Alamo (Me)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have also received three shares on Intimacy and Parents and Grandparents of Young Problem Drinkers via email, which I forwarded to the WSO.

**ASSEMBLY**

I have prepared a handout for the Assembly about Al-Anon Literature, which appears at the end of this report. I also prepared handouts on how to conduct a writing workshop with the WSO Guidelines, and a sign-up sheet for Al-Anon members who may wish to conduct writing workshops in their districts.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Al-Anon WSO has a Facebook page with almost 12,000 “Likes”. Each day there is a new post. Check it out!

Los Grupos de Familia Al-Anon OSM is the Spanish WSO Facebook page, with over 1,000 “Likes.” The postings are different from the English Facebook page, not just translations, and the page has several videos on it. ¡Pruebeselo!

There is also a Facebook page in French with over 100 “Likes.”

**AREA DISCUSSION OF NEW DAILY READER**

At the 2014 World Service Conference, considerable discussion took place before the Conference carried a motion to give conceptual approval “to develop a new daily reader that reflects the diversity of the Al-Anon fellowship.” During that time, some Delegates expressed concerns that the word “diversity” brought negative reactions from their Areas, where members mistakenly presumed that the daily reader would be about diversity. It had been the Literature Committee’s intent that the book would share diverse experiences of the fellowship as it is today—a daily reader for all members.

The Conference discussed how critical it is that we all clearly explain and discuss the purpose of this daily reader to prevent confusion, misunderstanding, or lack of interest. Other Conference members felt we need to take new, different approaches in seeking writings for the book, since previous books have not always received submissions that reflected a variety of members’ experiences.

Delegates were asked to go back to their Areas and foster a discussion about how to get sharings that voice various perspectives, and encourage members to reveal, where appropriate, their differences, as well as what we have in common. The idea is get to principle-based discussion in
the Areas and let the Areas come up with ways to get writings that mirror the inclusiveness of the program. If we want this new daily reader to fulfill its potential, we need to ask local members for ideas on how to make this happen.

The WSO Literature Committee is currently developing a writing guideline with ideas and parameters for writing for this new daily reader. The Committee sees this as only an initial step. We need to hear from you about what further steps you are willing to take to help us fulfill the intent of the Conference motion. The WSO Literature Committee encourages an Area-wide discussion and then sharing the resulting ideas with the Committee. The Committee will also be continuing its discussions on new approaches to take for this exciting project.


In the meantime, the WSO asks that we initiate a discussion in our Area regarding new, diverse ways to seek sharings from members in your Area that would encourage a wider spectrum of our fellowship to participate.

ELECTRONIC LITERATURE
· How Al-Anon Works e-book (eB-22): The Electronic Literature Fact Sheet has been updated to indicate that this e-book is now widely available from all the same vendors as the Having Had a Spiritual Awakening (eB-25) e-book, and is now priced at $9.99. The Fact Sheet is posted in the “Spreading the Word about CAL” subfolder of this eCommunity.
· CAL Sample Chapter: Each quarter the WSO posts a sample chapter of Conference Approved Literature on both the Public Outreach site, www.al-anon.org and the Members’ site, www.al-anon.org/members. Through September, the chapter is from Alateen—Hope for Children of Alcoholics (B-3). From October through December, you can read a chapter of From Survival to Recovery (B-21).
· “CAL Corner”: Each month, the “CAL Corner” feature in The Forum includes members’ sharings on how a particular piece of our literature has enhanced their recovery. August’s article focuses on Alateen—Hope for Children of Alcoholics (B-3). The September article will focus on the To Parents of Alcoholics (P-16) pamphlet and the Parents of Alcoholics (R-18) timely reprint. October’s issue will feature Many Voices, One Journey (B-31).
· Sharings Needed for “CAL Corner”: If this feature of The Forum is to continue, the WSO needs more sharings on how CAL has helped members with their recovery. Please urge members to write. We could especially use articles about Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses (B-29), Having Had a Spiritual Awakening (eB-25), Many Voices, One Journey (B-31), and Living Today in Alateen (B-26). Find the sharing sheet for “CAL Corner” in the “CAL” subfolder of this eCommunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Public Information/Cooperating with the Professional Community (PI/CPC)
Coordinator: Bruce D

Assembly “The Twelfth Step in Action”

Thanks to all in Northern California who have helped carry our message of strength and hope to those in need since our last Assembly gathering in May. Your outreach service, in all of our Districts, makes the Al-Anon program visible and available to those who suffer outside these rooms and, by example, inspires others in the program to step up to the personal growth and joys of 12th Step service.

The best way to carry the message is to BE the message; living our lives in recovery, practicing these principles in all our affairs and sharing in a non-interfering manner about our program when an individual in our personal circle demonstrates a need. There is a second dimension to carrying the message: directly to the public, both through the media (Public Information, PI) and through Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC).

We in Al-Anon have a special, life-changing message to share and a wonderful way of sharing it. Our public message is carefully crafted to educate everyone and to attract, from among those in
need, all who are ready and want a change in their lives. You can help carry the message in your District, your community and your own neighborhood by using the simple outreach tools that our Area and District PI/CPC Coordinators have at their disposal.

Public Outreach offers the opportunity to step up to help your District become visible to those in need in your communities. Becoming a part of a local member outreach committee helps broaden the program outflow to the community. Consider becoming your District PI/CPC Coordinator and encouraging others to join you in this vital dimension of the program. The rewards, in service, are sublime. Our 27 Northern California Districts, with the leadership of their PI/CPC Coordinators and participating members, continue to reach out to their communities through health fairs, public service announcements, press releases, posters, speaking engagements and literature deliveries to health and social services agencies and organizations. There is great need in our communities and every drop of service is golden. It is a great privilege to have come to our program of recovery and so easy to share it with others. A world awaits our message of hope and help. Thank you for letting us be of service and be sure to contact us for help with your local outreach activities. With Thanks and Love in Al-Anon,

12Stepper Editor and Alternate: Tom K & Laurie B

Has anyone experienced trouble with conflict resolution problems while serving in Al-Anon? We have three new booklets to help with this.

I will now play guitar and harmonica and sing a song I wrote to reflect on conflict resolution. I hope this report helps us all remember to use program tools to resolve conflicts.

2014 October Assembly (based on Bob Dylan’s I Shall Be Free No. 10) 12 Stepper Editor Tom K.

I’m just average, common too, I’m just like him, the same as you
I’m everybody’s brother and son, I ain’t different from anyone
It ain’t no use a-talking to me, It’s just the same as talking to you

Harmonica
We Al-Anon’s may get bent out of shape,
When we come together for goodness sake
But I discovered we have some tools,
To help us all make things go smooth

Harmonica
One tool we have is to talk things out,
One on one, that’s what it’s all about
Just face your fears and see what your hear,
And feel our loving God melt away your fears

Harmonica
If that don’t work, try pen in hand,
Write down your thoughts so they don’t slip through the sand
Get a third or a forth or a bunch to help out
That’s what recovery is all about.
We’ve got fellowship connecting the whole world, our home.

Laurie B:
It has been a great pleasure working with Tom K this panel. When I volunteered initially, I was offering to “help” with the 12 Stepper. That turned into becoming Alt. Editor! It has been a lot of fun. I can only hope our successors enjoy the next panel of service as much.

Love in service,
Website Coordinator & Alternate: Errol S & Chris D
Check out our AWESOME new website!!
The Website gets quite a bit of traffic, as we are the second largest Area in the world. Map, meeting lists, resources provided so members can come to events like this. The coordinators and team have gotten good at putting up surveys – and added a tool for facilitating dialogue online registrations for events. They also added site wide security – encrypted so should be private, same as being used by banks, but we don’t promise it is airtight. Errol is out with family matters; we are continuing to receive flyers. You can use the web contact form as it exists now, every event through Alateen process person. The web coordinator has a couple of different duties: to attend these meetings and be a participant in this community, to hear needs and desires, to bounce ideas off of you all, making updates on the website in an ongoing basis, updating and continuing to grow and expand the ways the website has been of service. The web coordinator should be familiar with contact management frameworks, Wordpress or Drupal. You need to be quick in response to inquiries and ought to be really good at computers. Errol and Chris D. will be resources going forward. As Alternate, Chris has done the backend stuff. They have a development or test server. They have a good workflow, and maintain the legacies on the web.

2015 Convention Chair: Diana C
COLOR MY WORLD WITH RECOVERY
I’d like to introduce our Event Co-Chair, Patty B from Vacaville (District 6). Our Convention committee is very enthusiastic and excited preparing for Convention 2015 in Modesto. We do not have a contract date, but it will most likely be April 17-19. Our next Committee meeting will be November 1, 2014 in Kensington, CA. Please join us to participate and/or stand for an open position. Open positions are: Diversity chair and co-chair; Treasurer co-chair; Registration co-chair. All the chairs need your help, so please join us on November 1st. We are still looking for speakers from North, Central and South. If you have a suggestion, please contact Judy B., at Judybenedict1@icloud.com. The t-shirts have been ordered and we hope to have them in time to sell at Assembly. The committee was very creative with the t-shirt selection this year. You will be Coloring Your World. More will be revealed! Mary K was the winner of our Logo Contest. Congratulations, Mary!! As soon as we have a signed contract we will distribute a save the date flyer and the registration flyer will follow. [see page5 in this 12Stepper] Vicki, Publicity, is ready to add a date and email to DRS to get out to the GRs for distribution. I want to thank the DRS and GRs for helping us get the word out regarding Convention 2015. You all are our best resource for spreading the word. Thank you so much for your help! I am so grateful to be chairing the 2015 Convention. I am learning so much and grateful to be with this fabulous team to learn and grow. They are all working hard on their position and they truly are a joy to work with. Thank you so much to the convention committee for all your hard work and patience.

Officer Reports
Alternate Delegate: Johanna MM
Hello to everyone here at Assembly, our final meeting of this panel. It’s been an interesting and exciting time. Today I will present the budget for 2015, the third balanced budget we’ve been able to present. However, truth be told that work was mostly done in the first half of the year.
The last part of the year was taken up with TEAM. I am so proud of the work that the TEAM team did. We had 227 people come to Alamo for a full day of presentations and workshops. We cooperated with WSO to present on Spiritual Principles behind Procedures, Conflict Resolution, and Newcomers. Our visitors brought presentations on Abundance and Trustee Search, as well as telling their own personal Al-Anon stories. We had homegrown workshops on the Spiritual Relationship of Sponsorship, Service Sponsorship, GFs, and a writing workshop for Parents and Grandparents of Young Problem Drinkers. We had a lovely lunch served on site. Although not designed as a fundraiser, we made a little money, which beats ending in the red.

There were lessons learned. We need to reach out to the Spanish community much more and much earlier. Although we translated everything, we didn't have any monolingual Spanish speakers come. We need to arrange childcare early in the process and make sure everyone knows about it. We need to make sure there are no competing events in the Area, including within the Spanish Al-Anon community. And, although we want to take full advantage of our members who came from WSO, we need more breaks and more moving around. I have assembled a packet of information on what we did right and could have been done better for the next person to lead the TEAM team. I believe the plan is for our Area to put on a TEAM once per panel; I hope you ALL make it to the next one.

Recently I finally finished revising the Guidelines under my purview: Alternate Delegate, Budget Committee, and a proposed new one on the List-Serve. It has been a great pleasure to serve this Area as your Alternate Delegate.

Big hugs, and love in service,

Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP): Charli D

The job of Area Alateen Process Person has been interesting and rewarding. It is gratifying to be able to process applications for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS), and to register and change group information. In the process, I got to communicate regularly with the World Service Office in Virginia Beach, VA, and with the District Alateen Process Persons throughout our Area. At this time there are 353 AMIAS currently certified and 75 registered Alateen groups. Another part of the job is reviewing event flyers to assure that Alateen safety is adequately addressed.

At this Assembly, a new AAPP will be elected to do this job for the panel starting January 2015. I hope that some of the work I have done will make the job easier for the next person, but changes in the procedures of the World Service Office and with the California Department of Justice are bound to occur. Alateen safety begins with our members, and the district-level screening is a vital part of assuring our Alateens are with safe adults. Materials outlining the duties of District Alateen Process Persons and District Representatives have been distributed.

Until the new AAPP address is announced, it is fine to send forms to the current AAPP address through the end of 2014, then destroy any old forms. The e-mail address will transfer to the new AAPP at the first of the year. Online forms will be updated with appropriate mailing addresses and instructions to use starting January 2015.

Chairperson’s Report: Yvonne dG

Hello, panel 52:

Wow, it has been quite the ride. Thank you! We have been in the process of updating the Guidelines. They are not all up and posted but we are working hard and hope that all of them will be up on the web by the end of the year, except for the NCWSA Assembly guideline that will be carried over to the new panel. The NoCAC Guideline B20 will also be carried over as a working document and will be up for approval in May of 2016.

So far Panel 52 updated PI/CPC B14; Treasurer B4; Diversity B13; Long range planning committee B19; Complaint and Conflict Resolution Guidelines B27; Alateen Liaison B21; Alt Delegate B2;
We are in the process of implementing electronic voting and that needs a change in the bylaws next panel -- that is if you all would like to.

Facilities worked hard on the electronic voting process and in a perfect world it would have gone without a hitch but ... we know now what we did not know yesterday, and that is how it works as we have been using this for the last two days.

I can honestly say that this has been absolutely my most favorite service position at NCWSA. I tried different stuff out with you guys the first year. It was the airline skit and TSA’s Trusted Servant Announcements, second year Bell ringers and songs from the archives, and this year, well … let’s just say you get to push lotsa buttons.

At the NCWSC I had something called “the spotlight.” I want to thank you all and the god of my understanding for the privilege of serving as your NCWSA Chairperson for the last three years.

Love in Service,

Delegate’s Report: Patrick B

To the members of the Northern California World Service Area (NCWSA),

This is my last official report to the NCWSA Assembly as Delegate. Here is what has been going on over the last few months:

As you may already have heard, Mary Lou M is retiring from the World Service Office after 20 years. I am excited for the next phase of her life and also grateful for all of the service that she has provided. Her transition also means that there is an employment opportunity for anyone interested in the role of Associate Director of Member Services - Groups. Among the requirements for this position are seven years active Al-Anon membership and Al-Anon Area leadership experience. If you would like more information you can find it on the WSO Members’ Website in the “WSO” navigation tab on the "Inside the WSO” page.

The first Alateen E-book, Alateen - Hope for Children of Alcoholics (eB-3), is now available. I will list the e-book providers where you can find this new book, for informational purposes only, and not as an endorsement of any electronic media provider:
- Kindle format at Amazon
- ePub format at the Apple iTunes store
- Nook format at Barnes and Noble

This e-book is currently available in English and Spanish, and soon will be available in French. The new Al-Anon Focus/Declaration Table Card (S-24) will be sent to all English-speaking Al-Anon/Alateen groups with the November issue of the Forum. One side is designed as a resource for groups to assist them in keeping discussions of other affiliations out of the meeting and to provide a visual reminder about our heritage. The other side has the Al-Anon Declaration. New groups will receive this table card in their first packet, when they register with the WSO. French and Spanish versions will be mailed in December with Le lien and en Accion. The table card will be available through local Literature Distribution center or the WSO online store for $1.50.

Based on some questions and comments that I heard at Assembly, I want to clarify that the World Service Office (WSO) is not a decision-making body. It is a service arm that carries out the group conscience of the World Service Conference (WSC), which is where the 67 Delegates in the US and Canada meet once a year, usually in the April time frame. The WSC delegates authority to the Board of Trustees, which meets four times a year. The Board delegates to the Executive Committee, which meets monthly and oversees the day-to-day operations of the WSO. When the WSO provides guidance to members, they do so based on the current group conscience and information contained in the Service Manual--speaking of which, you can find more information on all of the above in the Service Manual.

Here are some highlights of how I have recently been of service as Delegate:

I visited District 1 and District 2 in June to give my report from the World Service Conference.
I visited District 19 in July to give my report from the World Service Conference.
I participated in one of the Gender Neutral Thought Force conference calls in August.
I participated on a Fourth Step panel in District 13 in August.
I attended the District 5 business meeting in September to talk about the links of service.
I partnered with Trustee Jennie M to develop the Newcomers workshop for TEAM.
I participated in TEAM on September 6.
Overall, I was able to visit 24 of 27 Districts during my term as Delegate.
It has been an amazing experience serving as Delegate for the last three years. I am grateful to all of the members in the Northern California World Service Area for giving me the opportunity to do so. I am excited for all of the people stepping into service on the next panel of officers and coordinators!
With Much Gratitude in Service,

**Secretary’s Report: Patti R**
Fellow Area Service members,

Thank you all for being here, for making this effort. It is an exciting Assembly, the election Assembly. This is my third election Assembly. Three years ago I was elected to this position and it has been a fruitful and strenuous three years. The best part of all of this has been connecting with so many of you.
I’ve had the opportunity to show you who I am -- as imperfect as I am with character defects showing -- and this is so much a part of my growth. It is one thing to show this to a sponsor, another to show to one’s home group, then another to stand up in front of all of you here.
It is a far cry from the child I was who wouldn’t tolerate any imperfections in herself. I thank Al-Anon for this shift in me and I thank Al-Anon Service for giving me the opportunity to live openly with like-minded others.

On the business side, I have brought committee address forms and the DRs will have two in each bin. These are for the names and addresses and email address of your next Panel DR and Alt DR.
Tomorrow when we elect Coordinators, the new Coordinators will be given an address form as well.
This is how we will build the roster for the new Panel.
Committee Members: Check your bins today and tomorrow. We are hoping to pack the bins at break tomorrow morning.
I want to thank those who were able to proofread the minutes for both the May and last October’s Assemblies. I have been very fortunate in having great help
Thank you all Committee Members who sent your report to me in advance. You have made this weekend much simpler for me. And for those who weren’t able to send in advance, I thank you for your efforts and, believe me, I understand! But If you haven’t sent me your report already, please do so as quickly as possible.
Here’s that reminder to check the bins for additional material as some notices don’t get in there until later. This is really appreciated in that it means I don’t have to carry them home with me and mail them to you. Thank you for letting me be of service,
Yours in service,

**Treasurer’s Report: Claude D.**
Attached to this report is the NCWSA Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2014 and the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through August 31, 2014. Note on the Profit & Loss the Actual Column reflects the actual income and expenses for the eight months ended 8/31/14, and the Budget column reflects the Annual Budget.
On the Income side, the Group Donations have fallen somewhat behind this summer. We will need some catching up for the next four months to reach the annual budgeted amount of $65,950. On the Expense side, there are still quite a few expenses that have not been submitted. Also at the time of the October 2014 Assembly we will have to pay $3,800 for the electronic voting “clickers” and an estimated $5,000-$5,500 for the Assembly facility rental. Note the cost of the electronic voting software and equipment is an additional expense that was not included in the 2014 Budget. Thus, we will need all the financial support this year that you can provide.
This is a good time to check with your groups, districts, AIS treasurers and, if there is a surplus, send in your donation. Individual donations are always welcome. Thanks very much to all who have made donations and continue to provide your support.

At this time, no contribution has yet been made this year to increase the Prudent Reserve--$3,800 has been calculated, reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. After the October Assembly and the large anticipated expenses have been paid, I will review the cash flow with the officers and Executive Committee and proceed with the transfer of funds to the Prudent Reserve Money Market account if appropriate.

The Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2013 were distributed at the May 2014 Assembly and are also in the August 2014 12 Stepper. Therefore none are distributed at this time. It seems expensive to keep re-printing the same reports. Since the 12 Stepper is available in the NCWSA website, the financial statements can also be viewed and printed there if your group does not have a copy.

All the required Federal and State annual tax forms for the year 2013 were filed in a timely fashion. Raffle registration and report have also been filed with the Attorney General of California. Quarterly Sales & Use tax returns for the year ended 12/31/13 and the first and second calendar quarters of 2014 have also been filed. Starting with 2014, The State Board of Equalization did change our filing requirements from annual to quarterly.

We are coming to the end of this panel and at this time I want to thank Julia C, Financial Assistant for the donations, who has been serving this entire panel, for her diligence and excellent service. I also thank all the other Financial Assistants for the various events and the Financial Assistant for the Pink Can donations for their great service and support. As well I need to thank Marie L, who has been doing the “Thank You” letters. I am very grateful for all of their help.

Feeling grateful is a gift of my recovery. In my prior life I took life for granted and did not acknowledge this feeling or use the word. I am indeed very grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as the Treasurer for NCWSA. It has given me the opportunity to meet, get to know, and serve with Al-Anon members that I would never have met otherwise. I thank all the officers and members of the NCWSC committee for their support during all this time.

Unfortunately, you may not see me at this October Assembly because I may have to work on the weekend of the Assembly. This time of year is always very busy for me professionally and I may not be able to get away for this weekend. I will miss seeing all of you that is the case. In some way it may be appropriate for me not to be present at my last Assembly since I was not present at the Assembly three years ago when I was elected to the office.

Love in service,

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Ruane
Secretary Panel 52
May 14, 2015