

# NCWSC Committee Meeting Minutes

October 20-21, 2006

Oakland, Jack London Inn

**Note:** The meeting minutes for this meeting are not chronologically ordered. In an attempt to make the minutes more easily used as a reference, the minutes will be ordered in a topical fashion.

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The meeting was convened at 8:00 am with a moment of silence followed by the Al-Anon/Alateen declaration. The traditions, concepts and warranties were read.

Roll Call was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

## Motions

### ***Motion #0610.01: Passed (Unanimous)***

Move: Johanna M.

Second: Joan W.

Motion Text: That the May 2006 committee meeting minutes be accepted as amended.

### ***Motion #0610.02: (Tabled)***

Move: Bruce H.

Second: John S.

Motion Text: That the committee affirm the changes put forward to guideline B-24

Discussion:

- It seems like we're changing the process so that approval is happening by the conference. Should we do this, or should we check with the GRs.
- Can we do it in Feb instead of today? *There is no reason we can't do that.*
- If we are changing a guideline solely for the purpose of affirming the nomination of a Trustee before the next WSC, I'd prefer to have this guideline changed temporarily and then have it affirmed by the Assembly. *The committee approves guidelines. So we are allowed to change this guideline.*
- I like the idea of waiting until February. I also like the idea of having Assembly affirm a nominated trustee. Perhaps the new guideline can read that the Assembly normally affirms nominations, but NCWSC can affirm a nomination if timing would prevent a nomination because of when Assembly falls.
- Just to make this clearer, I'll go over the significant changes to this guideline that the vote would affirm.
  - The nominee must be a member of Al-Anon for ten years, rather than five.

- The wording highlighting the experience and skills you need has changed but the meaning has remained the same.
- A former delegate cannot serve until at least two world service conferences have passed.
- The affirmation by the fall assembly has been dropped because of the timing of the nomination having to be in by August 15.
- At least 11 DRs wanted to discuss this with their GRs before we vote.

### ***Motion #0610.03: (Tabled)***

Move: Johanna

Second: Chris

Motion Text: That the full names and addresses of committee members be published in the 12-Stepper, unless the individual requests that some specified information be withheld.

#### **Discussion:**

- The motion is discussed in the section on other business.
- The motion was tabled for the purpose of researching the history of this issue in past committee meetings.

## **Committee Reports**

### ***Alateen Safety Committee (John S.)***

- Fingerprint forms are available today. Please see him today.
- Plans to request a meeting with the Alateen Safety Committee.
- Because of renewal and requirement of forms needing to be sent in. He will send forms for renewal and lists of current sponsors to the DR or District Safety Administrators now so they can be returned by February. If he has the forms from the district in February, he will know who is renewing, and if he doesn't have a form in February, he will have from February to May to follow up. This might prevent a rush in the end of June. The DRs agreed this was a good idea, so DRs are requested to bring all completed forms to the February committee meeting, or mail them in by then.
- Remember fingerprinting is a one-time deal, but everyone must renew every year their sponsor candidacy every year.

#### **Discussion**

- How soon can a new candidate get fingerprinted? *The preferred process is to fill out sponsor certification form, then give it to the district safety coordinator and get fingerprinting form. Last step should be to get fingerprinted.*
- The group records coordinator requested an updated process outlining how to start an Alateen meeting.
- I have sponsors on my list that I don't know. Sponsors are categorized by district, not by the place that they live. The form should be updated to more clearly state that the district should be the district their meeting is in, not the one they live in, necessarily. *Make sure to look at the form to see if the sponsor is still active. Y06 in the last column would mean that the sponsor is approved for 2006.*
- My district would like to start an Alateen meeting that is Spanish-speaking. Some sponsors don't want to be fingerprinted because they are undocumented and fear this would jeopardize their being in the U.S. *A member present at the committee meeting who was illegally in the U.S. for a period of time attested to the fact that if the FBI runs your fingerprints you could very well be putting yourself in jeopardy of deportation.*
- Can the approved sponsor list have the sponsor contact information on it? *It will be added.*
- Be aware that the process for starting an Alateen group is in the new Service Manual.

- Face-to-face contact for these renewals is a must for doing this in order to properly identify the sponsor.

### ***Budget Committee Report (John S.)***

- The budget committee will schedule their next budget committee meeting at this committee meeting.
- Coordinators: If you are planning a major project that will require funds for the 2008 budget, please document what you expect to spend and give it to John S by February 2007.

### **Discussion**

- Can the budget plan through the end of the panel? *Typically we don't because it is difficult for Assembly to look that far into the future.*

### ***Convention Committee***

- The convention will be April 27-29 at Squaw Valley. Walk-through happened in October.
- There are sleeping accommodations for 4 people, 6 people, and 8 people. 8 person accommodations are 1500 sq/ft.
- Alateens are having a fundraiser last weekend in October in Redwood City.
- They will need lots of volunteers.
- They are looking at train service between Emoryville and Truckee.

### ***Executive Committee Report (Joan)***

- They met last night and interviewed the Secretary and the Alternate Delegate.
- They approved Arlene as the financial assistant for the Convention
- The Treasurer and the Chair will be interviewed before the next committee meeting.

### ***NoCAC Committee (Justin)***

- Last Chance Dance event was at the end of September.
- NoCAC is right around the corner. Registrations are short, so please try to get registrations together. There are only 90 right now.
- T-Shirts are for sale today.
- Registration packets have been put in bins.

### ***Web Committee (Jim S.)***

- Not any more to report since Assembly.
- D23 has become an independent website.
- In the past 12 months, there are over 2 million hits on our website.
- The website address is ncwsa.org.
- There is a question regarding who should be on the website as a contact person. He has listed the officers' email addresses without hyperlinks. He is waiting to see if those addresses get spammed and then discuss whether or not to add coordinator and DR information.
- Messages sent to the ncwsa.org email addresses do not show the NCWSA address on the reply, they show the mailbox which was the final destination of the incoming email message. The web committee will look at a way obscure the personal email box of any coordinators or officers.

## **Coordinator Reports**

### ***12-Stepper Editor***

- First issue was a lot of work and he's now learned to do more incremental work. Process is complex, including coordinating timing for printing and distribution.

- Please make submissions. For the next 12-stepper, the deadline was yesterday. Of course he's come up with new ideas late in the process that he wanted to add.
- He wants to add some major events like Int'l conventions and Regional Service Seminar
- Has not received any convention information for the December Stepper. This should be submitted for that issue, so please submit the Convention information.
- Has gotten some personal shares and would like humor submissions, too.
- If you're bored, it is your job to send him interesting.
- EC meets the Friday of the committee meeting, and it is difficult to get it submitted in time. So, please just
- Can we have the Alateen Safety Administrator's address on the 12-Stepper. It is on the form for Alateen Safety.
- Will you take photo submissions?

### ***Alateen Coordinator***

- Northern California's Alateen Conference – NOCAC is in need of your support. November 10,11,12 at the Holiday Inn in San Jose. Flyers are available and registration deadline is this weekend. All teens and sponsors should attend and it is great for District Rep's and interested sponsors to attend to better understand Alateen and what it offers and how important it is. Come laugh, cry and have fun with us as we Surf to Sanity!
- Still need feedback on the survey regarding Alateen Traditions – WSO delegates to vote on whether to keep or change the Alateen Traditions. Please voice your opinion on the survey and return by NOCAC 2006. Information will be provided to Sandi C., our Delegate, to take to next year's conference.
- Planning to speak tonight on a service panel in District 17 and conducting an Alateen sponsor's workshop in District 16, Pleasanton at Winter Fest November 4, 2-4pm. See flyer attached. Next year is Alateen's 50th Birthday. Help us celebrate and spread the word. Look for more workshops, special events, conferences and a fall sponsors getaway at Westminster Woods next October 5-7 2007. Keep an eye out for more info on the WCAC event, a multi-area Alateen conference next summer here in Northern California. WCAC, (West Coast Alateen Conference), needs our continued support. It is not easy getting a new event started. Let's give it our full support.
- Every event needs an Alateen speaker. Have you reminded schools/counselors in your area about Alateen? What has your Al-Anon group done to support Alateen in your area? Are your children attending Alateen? Have you read any Alateen literature? Check it out
- Need more sharings for the Alateen Express. Sharing sheets are available at each event and soon to be available online. Please contact Carl, Express Editor, with your sharings and ideas.
- Let Ari know about what kind of special event or speaker you would like to have for Alateen next year.
- Please contact us if you have questions/info or need help keeping Alateen growing!

### ***Archives Coordinator***

- There's a large backlog of Archives material.
- She suspects archives will outgrow her space within the next year or so.
- She doesn't feel it an inconvenience to store them, but eventually more space will be needed.
- She has drawn up guidelines for the archives committee.
- She will begin to canvas and look for people to join her committee.

### ***Bylaws and Insurance Coordinator***

#### **Insurance**

- As a result of my Assembly report in September, I have spent a lot of time fielding questions from districts and groups about insurance.

- I have obtained several certificates of insurance both for groups needing proof of insurance for their facility and for Special Events in our Area.
- I attended the October meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Intergroup to discuss insurance with them.
- I have not yet activated the Insurance Task Force/Committee I requested at the May meeting for several reasons:
  - Lack of time due to the influx of questions I've been receiving, researching, and answering and the additional questions that arose as I was obtaining the certificates.
  - I've discovered that the more questions we ask, the less clarity there is as to whether our program is receiving appropriate coverage and how best to ensure that it does. This primarily goes back to the non-standard structure of our program and problems with definitions and terminology and how that limits our coverage; for example, we are all members of the program, not owners, employees, or volunteers.
  - This in turn is requiring more time to develop very clear questions in order to confirm who and what are or are not covered under the various policies.
  - I'm trying to sort through my own resulting confusion as to how to best work with the Task Force/Committee – what we need to do and how best to do it. By the way, is it a Task Force or Committee or does that not matter? There are brief descriptions of each type of insurance in the folders.
- I have put brief descriptions of the different types of insurance in each of your folders at the back. I have also given you additional copies of the Insurance Certificate Request Form, which I do hope to send to Jim to post on the website in the next week or so..

### **Bylaws**

- I had hoped to send updates of several guidelines and forms to Jim to update the website after Assembly. Unfortunately, I have not had time for this either, though, due to the time I've spent on insurance questions. I still need to compile and review them before sending them to him. I'll have to set insurance issues aside and focus on that next. I'll send an e-mail to you all via the listserv with a list of all the updates once I've sent them to Jim - hopefully, sometime in the next week or two..

### **Diversity**

- Very good response to the survey at assembly.
- Please use him to come out and give a talk on diversity in Al-Anon.
- There is a parent of a deaf Alateen who asked him about how their teen can attend a meeting. How do we handle that having a translator? Does the translator need to be approved by the meeting? He would like to hear suggestions on this issue

### **Facilities Coordinator**

- He missed the Assembly.
- The next 12-Stepper will have a report.
- RFP has been adjusted to reflect the need for classroom style seating and to allow more room for our members at future Assemblies than we had in Modesto.
- Walk-through with the Convention Committee completed and meeting rooms and sleeping room suites will suit our needs. Taper has been arranged. Looking in to chartered bus and rail options to provide alternatives to driving from San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area and Sacramento Valley to Squaw Valley and this will be presented to the Convention Committee for consideration.
- Looking for Assembly bids for next year as well as bids for Oct. 2007, Feb. 2008, May 2008 and Oct. 2008 Committee meetings.
- All other details are in my Assembly 2006 report. No other changes or additions.
- If you want to submit a bid, talk to him first, he has a form that will help you talk to hotels and convention centers.
- He periodically sends out updates to the List Serve. Please keep an eye on it.

- The hotel for February 2, 3 is the Lighthouse at Pacific Grove. The reservation due date is Jan 1.
- RFPs and committee bid forms are different.
- The credit card in the name of NCWSA is working great.
- If a district wants to put forward do it early. If there is no facility for a given meeting, he will book a site when he begins to worry

### **Group Records**

- Not much to report at this time, it is great to be here and here is a list of tasks completed to date.
  - Updated the database for all changes received through Oct. 19, 2006.
  - Printed copies of labels for the 12 stepper on time this go-around.
  - Printed reports for Alateen Coordinator and Alateen Safety committee.
  - Printed reports for Institutions.
  - Printed report for the Spanish Speaking Coordinator and the Spanish Speaking liaison.
  - Made copies of the Welcome letters to get out 2 New Meetings.
  - Printed DR report for all groups to be updated.
  - Updated the 12 Stepper Subscriptions through Oct. 19, 2006.
  - Created a binder with all current group information by City and WSO#.
  - Ran reports for members upon request, to the best of my ability.
- Keeping in tradition as today October 19, 2006 there are 706 groups registered with the area, including 52 Alateen meetings, 22 Hospital and Institutions meetings, and 37 Spanish Speaking meetings. There are 20 men's meetings and 17 women's meetings. Down by 9 meetings total from last report, and adding 2 new meetings in Area 3.

### **Group Registration Updates:**

- When your GRs update there group information a copy should go to your DR and to WSO to Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway Virginia Beach, Va.23454 and one to myself at Debbie Oliver 8443 Wamble Rd. Oakdale, Ca. 95361. To help the newcomer locate a meeting it would be greatly appreciated if there were an address to go along with the meeting place.
- Also Last names will help for delivery purposes and it also gives members from out of the area a contact person to call if there is a current phone number.
- I would like to do a presentation to the DRs regarding the Group Update Form that is in your DR bin this weekend. I would like to be able to help DR's get comfortable with what info is available to go on the list such as Meeting Title, (CMA ) where the group gets its mail, Contact person for the group and phone number to that person. Also the Building name and address to that said building. If there is any specific to the meeting site such as enter thru the back door, babysitting available, Men's meeting, that all can be helpful. So if we could set some time aside for that I would greatly appreciate it.
- Jim S and I have updated the Group Records Form that can be downloaded by going to ncwsa.org then select Service, then select Form A16 will have all the new contact info.

### **Institutions**

- My main focus right now are the monthly meetings with AA on the 36th Annual Hospital and Institution Conference with Al-Anon Participation scheduled for April 13, 14, 15, 2007 in Petaluma at the Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building. I am most grateful for all the work the people in District 5 along with Linda D, our local host. Registration is \$10 per person to be mailed to NCWSA, C/O Tina M, 754 Pordon Lane, Healdsburg, CA 95448.
- If you'd like her to visit your district, please contact her.
- If your district has an institutions meeting, please email or phone her.

## **Literature Coordinator**

- Sorry I can't be there today but I left all my strength and energy in Ireland. We got home at the wee, small hours of Thursday morning and I just couldn't physically be with you this weekend.
- I want to thank everyone who sent me back issues of the Forum. I have all the missing issues except May, 2003 and the binder for 1960-61.
- Under New Business is the question about replacing outdated literature. When we inventoried the literature passed to me from the previous coordinator, much of it has either been revised, replaced or discontinued. Also, there are two copies of everything. I would like to propose that I have one copy of every piece of current literature, to be used for a display. That I order two copies of each foreign language pamphlet, to sell if the need arises. This does not include Spanish and French, as those are usually ordered in quantity through LDCs.
- Another proposal I have is to drop the LDC Coordinator position (after I place my order). The main reason (if I understand it correctly) is to get a discount on literature. I don't think the discount outweighs the confusion caused by having "LDC" in the position title. This is something that can be discussed at the February meeting. I might even have a change in the job description done by then, who knows? If you have suggestions for my new job description, send them to me.
- If you don't have an LDC in your district and would like a literature display (not to sell), give me a call and I will see what I can do.
- Have a fun meeting and I will see you next year.

## **PI/CPC**

- It seems as if we have just finished with reporting to you our activities and we have. As a result I have very little to report, but here goes.
- World Service has discontinued the US and Canadian versions of Al-Anon Speaks Out newsletter for professionals and removed it from the Web site. They are working on a new, more interactive Public Outreach site and will be posting timely information for professionals there.
- World Service has requested the Area Web coordinators/Webmasters that links to Al-Anon Speaks Out should be removed from Area, District, and AIS sites.
- PSA the new public service announcement, "What It's Like", has been well received by TV and radio stations in the US and Canada. In its first three months of release, it has aired on TV nearly 5,000 times and on radio over 4,000 times. According to their electronic tracking, PSAs have aired in 45 states and two in Canadian provinces. I do expect to receive more information on this in the coming weeks. I have inquired about this electronic tracking but to date have no received any information.
- There is some confusion regarding PSA DVDs given out at the Conference. The DVDs (original or copies you make) are made available for members viewing, but are not available for sale. The DVDs are not broadcast quality and should not be taken to stations. Members may purchase the same PSAs on a BetaSP format tape (AV30, for \$30.00 to deliver to TV stations.
- This is new information to me as I purchased DVDs and brought them to the Assembly not realizing they were not broadcast quality or intended to be. They certainly can be used for Outreach purpose's for those who do Institution work. I still have a couple and would be happy to give them out this weekend.
- The order form for Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2007 is available in the new outreach magazine and is now available on-line. You can print out copies of the flyer/order form to distribute, and/or order the magazine in English, French and Spanish. The deadline for orders is February 15th, 2007 and should be delivered on or about April 1st.
- I have been receiving e-mails from various Districts who are attempting to put together programs and projects dealing with PI/CPC but it is challenging, when I know more you will know more. Any input you can give me that I can pass on to other Districts and Coordinators will be greatly appreciated.
- I have just received an e-mail from WSO Public Outreach with the following message;
- We will be tracking reports from our vendors 6 months after the PSA has been released so we should be getting it sometime after the first of the year.

- There is definitely a formula the vendor uses to determine who we will send our PSAs to. They cover all markets and they consider things such as whether or not a station has previously aired our PSA. If we send our PSA to a station 4 or 5 times and they don't use it, they will eventually be eliminated. Our vendor has a comprehensive database that they continually revise and update. There are approximately 11,000 radio stations in the US and our budget allows for distribution to just under 3,000 so there are a lot of "open" stations. We encourage members to contact the "open" stations (radio as well as TV) to see if they are interested in airing our PSA. One advantage for members in working with radio stations as opposed to TV stations is that many radio stations prefer to use the announcer copy instead of actually playing a CD. In other words, if they have 30 seconds to fill, they will read the script - great for the budget.

## **Delegate's Report**

### ***Delegate's Report***

- The dual membership information was emailed out and posted to the website.
- The conference summary is in your folder. Groups who want the conference summary must purchase it.
- There was a U.S. Representative who recognized Al-Anon on the floor of the house on the anniversary of Al-Anon and Alateen. The statement was emailed to the committee and read for the committee at the meeting.

## **Officer Reports**

### ***Treasurer's Report***

- Balance sheet as of March 31 has been compiled and is in bins.
- Copies of expense report have been put in the bins when filling out your expense report, please be sure to put receipts tapes to an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper
- A question was asked about a negative balance for facilities. Gene clarified the expense was for the refund from the changed location for the convention.
- When you send in a donation, please send it to the address in Alameda. Be sure to put the group number and district number on the check.

### ***Chairperson Report***

- The new Archives guidelines have been approved.

### ***Secretary Report***

- This summer and fall have been very enlightening as Secretary.
- The following activities have kept me busy since Assembly:
  - Updating the motions passed/failed for Assembly 2005
  - Posted the approved minutes for Assembly 2005 and Election Assembly 2005 on [newsa.org](http://newsa.org)
  - Updated the roster as usual, and added committee chair contact information for the newly minted committees for reviewing Assembly frequency and reviewing Spanish-speaking equipment for assembly
  - Forwarded a rough copy of assembly business to the chair to prepare for this meeting
  - Added folders to the bins for the new Spanish-speaking chairperson
- I'm not sure why I it took so long to realize that I had a job description but I finally did, and finally read it. It is somewhat humbling to admit this, yet at the same time, somewhat reassuring to have learned that I have been keeping up with most of the responsibilities. There are a few that I need to look at taking care of.
- Before the next committee meeting, I plan to take the following actions:

- Discuss with the group records coordinator and 12-stepper editor the best way to maintain synchronization between their records of NCWSC and mine. I have discovered there are several discrepancies that I would like to find a way to address.
- I no longer have all passed minutes in my possession. They were given to Archives. I will discuss this with the EC and with the Archives coordinator to find how to remedy this situation.
- As my wife is to give birth before the next committee meeting, I have arranged for help to send the minutes from this meeting to the committee. I will endeavor to keep up on everything as best I can. I only ask patience as my life enters this transition period.

### ***Alternate Delegate Report***

- He's feeling more comfortable with the process of maintaining Alateen sponsors.
- He's behind on communications, and will work to get that caught up. Sponsor lists are in folders and electronic copies have been emailed out.
- The audit committee will schedule the 2005 audit this week so that this work can be completed. We will also begin next years budget soon. Any Coordinators who have special projects that require expenses, please let me know.
- He met with the EC yesterday.

## **Intergroup Liaisons**

### ***AIS District 6-10 (Sacramento area)***

- Plans for annual birthday celebration are underway. The target date is May 12, 2007.
- They have been putting together a bid for the 2012 International
- Fr. Tom will be at the Spring Fling in Sacramento on Feb 24.
- There is a fundraiser called "Pass the Pumpkin".

### ***Santa Clara Valley AFG Intergroup***

- Intergroup special event had very good attendance.
- They have been using an Action Committee type structure and it has apparently been successful at increasing participation.

### ***Hispanic Intergroup***

- Not present.

## **Other Business**

### ***Alateen Liaison***

- Unable to attend, report submitted in absence.
- Attended assembly in September.
- Recently spoke in San Jose.

### ***Bids:***

- NCWSC October 2007:
  - D05: Flamingo Hotel, Santa Rosa. Oct 19, 20.
  - Another bid will be submitted by D14 by November 15 or the Santa Rosa bid will be taken. This will be decided by the facilities coordinator before the end of the year.
- Assembly 2007:
  - D10: Doubletree, Arden in Sacramento for Sept 14-16
  - D08: Sheraton Grand Sept 14-16.

- D05: Flamingo Hotel Sept 14-16.
- D09: Jackson Rancheria Sept 14-16.

## ***New Business***

### **Regional Trustee**

- A discussion of a change to the Regional Trustee selection guideline was brought up. Sandi addressed the committee and is looking for a motion from the committee at a future committee. A motion was made to change our guideline for affirming a Trustee application. The motion is listed as motion 0610.02 and was deferred until the next committee meeting.

### **Other New Business**

- The northern section will not host a committee meeting in 2007 because the May meeting is in the Southern section. The May meeting will be May 4, 5.
- We would like to request that the convention committee use the Area credit card. The credit card usage is addressed in the motion from Assembly 2005. The EC has outlined guidelines. Decisions of how to make use of the credit card are delegated to the chairperson and the treasurer.
- Discussion of safety of Al-Anon members and changes to wording in the Service Manual was brought to the floor by Art B. Details of discussion follow in this section of the minutes.
- Details of discussion of how the committee can better serve the area follow in this section of the minutes.

### ***Old Business***

- Should we have a second assembly? This will be tabled and reported by the Ad-Hoc committee to the next committee meeting.
- Should we have translation equipment? The chairperson will get in touch with the committee chair person of that committee.
- How should we handle personal information being published in the 12-Stepper. This conversation is detailed later in this section of the minutes.

### ***Conversation about how the Officers and Coordinators can better serve the Area***

During the Officer and Coordinator meeting on Friday night, the topic was brought up, are the officers and coordinators serving the Area as well as we can? Also, are Area meetings and assemblies accomplishing what they need to? Four ideas of things we could begin to institute as officers and coordinators and were presented

- Changing the structure of Assembly. Adding break-out sessions or workshops related to service.
- Do a group inventory as the Area World Service Committee
- The process of deciding whether or not we institute a second Assembly might turn up some ideas, but there has been little feedback to Sandi.
- At the May committee meeting we can get together and plan a GR orientation, rather than have it be off-the-cuff, as it has typically been in the past. The best time to do this would be during the Officers and Coordinators meeting.

The DRs were asked to contribute their feedback and ideas to this topic. This was followed by the committee members writing down on pieces of paper five items that they felt were the most important things that could be done. The results of this informal survey will be discussed at the Feb committee meeting.

### **Ideas from the Officers and Coordinators Meeting**

- More regular sharing by coordinators describing what their jobs are about.
- Discussion of the idea that we are all stepping into a 50 year conversation.

## Discussion

- As a DR, it would be good for us to go back to our GRs and see what feedback they have, especially now that all of our GRs have at least one Assembly and orientation under their belts.
- The coordinators say “invite me to your district”. We are the southern-most district. This is a 400 mile round trip. What is the responsibility of our district? Do we have to pay, house, and feed you? *Coordinators have a budget to visit districts paid for by NCWSA.*
- I used to be a DR and am now a coordinator. I’m going back to some meetings I haven’t been to in a while. At one meeting, I encouraged the GR to attend assembly. The secretary asked “what is a GR?” As a result, they took the guidelines home and they elected a GR. It wouldn’t be difficult for DRs to determine what groups are not attending district meetings and then communicate to groups.
- The PowerPoint presentation used in the GR orientation gave a good overview for GRs. DRs would have missed that presentation. A request was made to show the presentation and have it posted on the web site for download as soon as possible.
- Getting an evaluation immediately after an event is valuable. Getting an evaluation several months after an event can give a just as valuable, but different perspective.
- I’ve done a lot of service for many years. And I’ve finally realized that by doing service, I’m just carrying the message. Talking about service should be put in these terms, not as “work”.
- At D-9’s last meeting. At Assembly, one GR shared that she felt very badly shut down when she went to the microphone, and went back to her seat feeling very embarrassed.
- I’d like to get an idea of what the guidelines are so information on how we run our meetings would be helpful. I feel like I don’t know how to conduct myself at times at meetings. I would like more information from the people running meetings regarding this.
- We are a family. The Al-Anon family is everywhere. What is happening at WSO, at the Area, at the District is all about what is happening in the Al-Anon family. Some information that comes to a GR may not seem important to them, but that’s fine, because we’re all in different stages of recovery. The service manual is a great set of guidelines for how to do our work. There are also guidelines that are printed by WSO as supplements to that. Look through the WSO literature order form for items related to Service. There is a lot of information to be had.
- Northern California also has a guidelines binder. If you don’t have one, contact Peggy, the Guidelines coordinator.
- I don’t recall the DR meeting at Assembly in past years, at least not when I was a DR. Maybe the DRs should attend the orientation with their new GRs
- Everything is about experience in Al-Anon. We’re always learning. Assembly is a hurricane of information. I still get overwhelmed. It would be nice to have more interaction and sharing of information in a more interactive way. Smaller groups can be good for this.
- The DRs, Coordinators, and Officers have not all seen the presentations by Debbie or Peter. In our February meeting, maybe on Friday night, the first 45 minutes could be devoted to a joint meeting of the Officers and Coordinators and DRs for the sharing of these presentations.
- One DR had a lot of feedback about Assembly from GRs. Much was positive. Some of the less positive constructive criticism that she got was as followed:
  - Many of her GRs felt uncomfortable at the microphone, and felt shut down when they did speak.
  - There were several times where they felt there was not enough time devoted to discussion, clarification and reflection of certain issues. It happened over and over again.
  - Not enough time devoted to important policy issues, too much time on district reports and coordinator reports.
  - If there are workshops in the future they need to be prepared and ready to go and not off the cuff.
- My favorite time as a DR is the DR meeting both at Assembly and at committee meetings. The guidelines are helpful, but I learn much more from the real experience I hear from other DRs. I still am learning things about my job, even a year later.
- There was a reference to the 50-year conversation. This is a term that WSO is actively using to describe the fact that we all need to become aware that each time we take a new job it is something

- new. This is also true for Al-Anon as a whole. None of us know everything that has happened from the beginning. It would be helpful to use this concept with the GRs. We should never hesitate to ask the question, “What are we talking about?”
- In our service manuals, the service structure shows the GRs at the top. We are not in service above the group level; we are in service beyond the group level.
  - We need to underscore the need for service sponsorship.
  - We should encourage non-GRs to subscribe to the 12-stepper.
  - At Assembly we should have the Ask-It-Basket earlier in the assembly.
  - The GRs are the people we are serving. We need to keep that in mind when questions are asked. The statement “It was in the 12-stepper” is not a good answer when a GR doesn’t know something. It will shut them down and discourage them from participation.
  - I really liked the workshops that the coordinators gave a long time ago at assemblies. When I was a GR, I got to sit with a Coordinator that performed a function I was interested in and find out how they were doing their service. It really got me excited about service, and influenced the service positions I took at my district, and later in my Area. Maybe we could get back to this if we did two assemblies. I don’t think two assemblies will be that much more expensive, because the second overnight stay might be eliminated.
  - It would be nice if the area focused on a single area project that we could focus on. We did that a couple of years ago, and this really helped my district find a focus for our service work.
  - Districts would be well-advised to have a pre-assembly meeting if they only meet every other month.
  - It would be nice to have a workshop called “Demystifying the Service Manual”. I attended such a workshop, and it was such a helpful workshop.

### ***Safety at the Group Level (Art B).***

- I was recently reading the new Service manual. I came across some pages that were made to page 52. I got upset about this and want to share.
- Old text of the Service Manual read as follows: Gossip is often at the root of group problems. Every Al-Anon and Alateen member should feel bound to keep in strict confidence any personal matter heard at a meeting or from an individual. Each member should be able to feel confident that nothing said will be repeated. The three major obstacles to success in Al-Anon are discussion of religion, gossip and dominance.
- The last sentence was removed in the new service manual and the new text reads as follows: Gossip is often at the root of group problems. Every Al-Anon and Alateen member should feel bound to keep in strict confidence any personal matter heard at a meeting or from an individual. Each member should be able to feel confident that nothing said will be repeated. It is wise to remember that Al-Anon/Alateen meetings are not above the law. Members need to exercise care in sharing information that could require outside reporting to local, state, provincial, and national authorities.
- To me the way this reads is that if you’re a sexual predator, don’t talk about it in Al-Anon meetings because we might report you. It also seems to say, if you’ve been molested by someone in Al-Anon, you can’t talk about it.
- There was recently a group near my home where a man was molesting the women at the meeting. People felt they couldn’t talk about it because it was gossip and criticism, taking the slogan, “What you hear here...” into light. So there was a misunderstanding of what it means to be anonymous in Al-Anon.
- Sandy suggested I write to the policy committee. I think I will do that. I’ve had some time to think about what needs to be done here. I think we need to say explicitly what the limits of Anonymity are. That even though Al-Anon and Alateen is usually safe, there are times when behavior needs to be reported. “We’re not above the law,” the guideline says. This is true. When that group decided to meet together to talk about what this individual was doing, one person was reporting it and talking to a few other people. When she shared with her group she found that this man had done the same to other women in her group. Thinking about this disclosure as “gossip” inhibited

the meeting from discussing it. But one of the members of that meeting put it very well when she said, “my reporting to you of a fact that happened to me, is not gossip.”

- We almost need a whole new page in the Service Manual. I’d like to see if we can go beyond my own personal contribution to this. I’d like to bring something to the group that would say, “This is what we believe as an Area needs to be added to the Service manual.” I think it would carry more weight.
- When this group with the harassing member got together every woman in the group reported some harassment by the harassing member. The group has now made a policy that if there is a problem going on in the meeting to report it to the Group Representative. The GR will keep a list. So this person will be able to track repeated misbehavior by a member. We need to know that it is OK to call the police. No one knew if this member’s behavior was, in fact, against the law until the member called the police. It turned out the police already knew the member who was harassing. He’d been around.
- Is this happening in any other districts? Please report back. We don’t need all the information today, but you can email me with this information.
- We only know about these occurrences, when they get reported. The sooner we force them up to the surface, the sooner we will be able to address them and the less harm that will be done.

### **Discussion**

- When I was DR in San Francisco, there were three different meetings who banned a particular individual from attending their meetings because he was being abusive to women in the meeting. After the third meeting banned him, he got the message and moved to another program. I was invited three separate group conscience meetings to make sure that they were acting appropriately to protect the membership and the greater good of the meeting as opposed to being personally punitive. The fact that it was three different meetings, made it quite clear that it was not the meetings themselves, but the individual’s behavior.
- Recently, one of the groups in Chico tackled this problem. One of the members literally had a fit when I referred to page 51. In checking it out, child abuse is pretty well covered, but when it came to abuse of adults, we got stymied. After a couple of discussions, we decided that if the newcomer comes in and starts to talk about any kind of abuse, we ask that newcomer to talk to someone one-on-one (sponsor, counselor, etc.) but not during the meeting. That was our solution. I hope it works.
- There was a person in our District who went to several meetings passing out business cards with very inappropriate words on them. He approached women (especially younger women) after the meeting. Several people, including myself, went to the police station and unless he is doing something inappropriate in the room, there was nothing legal that we could do about it. This person was asked not to come back to a particular meeting. He made threats to some of the men that approached him. Making threats is illegal. After that, he disappeared. We informed all the groups in District 5 with a description of the person, and different groups handled it differently to protect all the members. This is still an ongoing situation, and has caused us to get insurance coverage of all types to protect ourselves from this person, should he decide to sue.
- Page 44 of the Conference Summary specifically addresses this question and gives answers from WSO.

### **Contact Information in the Stepper**

Should last names be in the 12 stepper?

- In the handover meeting there was a question if they should be in the Stepper.
- In the February meeting, Tom specified that full names and addresses would be removed
- In the May meeting there was a question as to why the GRs can’t get the roster, since there was not more specific information in the stepper

### **Discussion:**

- The web chair said that it would be good to have the most up-to-date information on the Stepper.

- P. 74 Service Manual Second paragraph from the bottom, which states that it is practical for people in area service to disclose last name and full address
- P. 105 Service Manual. Specifies that the area assembly should be the only body that should override the service manual.
- The list serve cannot be used for official business. So not having the addresses on the stepper can make it difficult to communicate official business.
- P. 74: It is important for us not to be anonymous within the fellowship. The degree of anonymity a member chooses is not subject to criticism.
- Not being anonymous in the fellowship helps communication about events that are coming up.
- I think we need to be able to communicate. People need to be able to communicate with us, too. If you phone number and email address is posted on the Stepper, any GR should be able to find you. They don't need your home address. How this discussion came about is that there is a member on this committee who has a job in which people could come after her for retaliation. That is scary to me. Why not at least take the address out?
- The internet is not the final answer for communication. Not everyone has access.
- The Stepper is the communication medium to the groups. It is a slippery slope if we begin removing information. With the internet, it is quite easy to use someone's name and phone number.
- P. 74 also says, "Members use their full names within the fellowship when they wish. The degree of anonymity a member chooses first name, pseudonym, or full name, is not subject to criticism." If a member decides they do not want their name or address published, we should respect that.
- I have no problem sharing my name, until we talked last night about insurance. A person could find my information and if they wanted to, could sue me if they wanted to. This has caused me to have second thoughts about how much personal information I'm willing to share.
- Insurance is still a new topic for us. We need to continue to talk about this.
- We need to find a record of what was voted on this in the past. There are motions pertaining to this topic and we need to find out what our approach is to be. This will be researched and presented at the next committee meeting.

### **Legal Advisory Committee**

- NCWSC committee is to form a legal advisory committee to comply with the resolution to the NoCAC missing funds issue in 2006. The officers have discussed this and we are not sure what a legal advisory committee should be comprised of.
- This item of business was overlooked in the change to the new panel and the committee was not formed.
- The EC was asked to clarify what was meant by this and a representative from the EC at that time offered that it was meant to be left to the discretion of the officers to make the determination of who would be able to give them the best guidance that they needed.
- It was to be a committee that would be a place to go with questions like the NoCAC missing funds problem, not a substitute for official legal counsel.
- The officers will do a little more investigation. If you know someone who has some legal background who is willing to serve, please email Jackie with their information.

### **Discussion:**

- Isn't it a slippery slope to ask someone to volunteer their profession for this. If we need legal help, then we need to pay for it. *The EC did not intend for this committee to offer legal help on specific situations whose advice would be taken to execute changes. The thought was when something happens, like a large amount of money goes missing, or a big sexual harassment issue arises, that it would be in our best interest to have someone we could talk to in order to know the first step to take. Right now regarding the NoCAC missing funds issue, things went away, because people just didn't know what steps to take. The legal committee would be there to help us know what directions to take.*

- Doesn't WSO have someone that we could go to with such questions? *Every state has different laws.*
- Is the person who lost the money in the NoCAC missing funds problem making her payments? *You would need to ask the treasurer, who is not present.*
- For the legal advisory committee, wouldn't the past delegates be good people to go to seek out legal counsel. *This is something that the officers must do. Having past delegates on it is a good idea, but the responsibility is on the officers to take this action.*

### **DR Meeting Report (Presented by Alt DR, District 15)**

- 19 in attendance
- Group Records
  - A request was made by a DR to find out more information about the group registration process. They will invite Debbie O., Group Records coordinator to present at the DR meeting in Pacific Grove in Feb.
  - Linda wanted to know about procedures for handling registering new groups
  - Joan mentioned that they had experienced consolidation through the district.
  - Does WSO notify the area on updates? Is there a way that the District Group Records coordinator can enter changes into the WSO web site directly?
  - Some have experienced reluctance on the part of groups to adopt the traditions and to participate in districts.
  - You can get groups involved by dividing up the groups that have GRs and ask them to go out to groups without to invite them to attend the District meeting.
  - It can be nice to thank the groups for supporting their GR when going out to groups.
  - District 15, for new meetings, the district offers a \$100 credit toward the LDC for purchase of seed literature. They also do a concept study before each district meeting.
- Groups affording GR attendance to Assembly
  - One district had money set aside as financial assistance for GRs to attend Assembly. Many GRs made use of this year. She asked each group to pass the basket specifically for the purpose of sending the GR to the Assembly. As a result, they only had to allocate less money. They also suggested that groups set aside money all year long for Assembly.
  - D9 funded two GRs \$100 each on the condition that they attempt to be fully supporting by next year.
  - D22 funded two GRs fully for Assembly. Next year they will do matching funds.
  - D23 has funds set aside to send Alateens to Assembly.
- Reluctance of Groups to send GRs to Assembly
  - If groups are reluctant, it can be helpful to bring past GRs in for discussion.
  - There is a letter that talks about how the writer came to appreciate what the GR does for the meeting over time. If you'd like a copy of the letter, please ask Joan W. from D9.
  - It can be helpful to stress the importance of the group in worldwide Service in AI-Anon.
  - In the Service Manual, the guidelines suggest that groups send the GR to Assembly.
- How many Districts have speaker meetings close with other than Lords Prayer
  - One district has faced opposition to the idea of closing meetings with something other than the Lord's Prayer. A suggestion to use the AI-Anon/Alateen declaration was not accepted because some members felt that it was "not spiritual".
  - In one district, once people were made aware that certain members left early because of discomfort with the Lord's Prayer, reluctant members became more willing to change prayers.
  - The Lord's Prayer is not conference approved. It might be a good idea to choose a prayer that is mentioned in Conference Approved literature.
  - Have the secretary at the end of the meeting choose the prayer.
  - One DR observed that the last page of Having Had A Spiritual Awakening has the Declaration on it and believes that WSO is subliminally trying to suggest it as an alternative.
  - Other continents do not use the Lord's Prayer and can be considered inappropriate.

- One member observed that the Lords' Prayer is often used because it reiterates the Twelve Steps.
  - Another way to solve it is frame the discussion in terms of traditions that can often result in the Lord's Prayer.
- In one district there was a group having difficulty with members being harassed by one member. That meeting met and voted to bar that member from the meeting.
- A group home has been bringing residents to meetings as a socialization experience in on district. There was concern on the part of the members of the group that some may not qualify for Al-Anon. If people hang around long enough, we all find a way to qualify.
- One district has had nurses show up. They have responded by letting the visitors know that the meeting was closed. They should go to a speaker meeting. One member would approach the nurse and find out if they had anyone in their family with a drinking problem. They usually say, 'yes', in which case, they qualify.
- Closed and open meetings were discussed vis-à-vis visitors.
- What do we do when we delegate someone to do a job and they don't follow through?
  - Ask for help.
  - Keep notes and hold people accountable.
  - Form a committee and have them reorganize to promote better harmony between positions.
  - Make sure people know what their job is and make it clear they have the authority to act.
  - Concept 3: The right of decision makes effective leadership possible.
  - Be patient.
  - If it is costing the District money, take a vote and see if the GRs want to continue doing it the same way or if they want a change.
  - Concept 10 might be helpful.
  - Ask them if they need help and do it in a positive way.
  - First things first. Easy does it. Let go and let God.
- District 16 has invited Vicki to come to her district to do a workshop on the double-winner issue in March 2007 in lieu of their usual District speaker meeting. Look for flyers in February. They are looking into recording.
- District 14 has purchased recording equipment and will begin making recordings of speakers.

### ***Open Positions***

- Alternate Literature Coordinator

### ***Announcements***

- D14 is using a self-developed flyer as an outreach tool that they developed. It is in the DR folders. They are being put in doctor offices, bail-bondsmen. AA is listed, and the DR believes they received permission to list them. Many other 12-step programs are also listed in this flyer.
- D17 has their monthly birthday fellowship tonight just down the freeway. Sandi, Irma and Chris M. will all be speaking.
- Westminster woods will be coming up the third weekend in May. Keep an eye out for flyers for fundraisers and the event itself. The first fundraiser is Dec 2.
- There were a number of announcements for upcoming events at districts throughout the area.
- Convention T-Shirts are available.

### ***Next Committee Meeting***

The next committee meeting will be February 2 and 3. The location is the Best Western Lighthouse Lodge and Suites 1150 & 1249 Lighthouse Ave. Pacific Grove, Ca. 93950. To make reservations call 1-800-858-1249 or visit the web site at <http://www.lhls.com>. Our reservation code is NCWSA and the deadline to reserve with the NCWSA rate is January 1, 2007.