

NCWSA Assembly Meeting Minutes DRAFT
October 17 – 19 2008
Burlingame, CA Crowne Plaza Hotel

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 are ordered in a topical fashion.

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OPENING BUSINESS:

Meeting Convened:

- The meeting was convened Saturday October 18, 2008 at 8:00 AM with a moment of silence followed by readings: Al-Anon/Alateen declaration; Traditions; Concepts and Warranties.

Roll Call:

- Roll Call was taken Saturday AM and Sunday PM. Saturday AM each District did their "holler."
- Group Representative (Voting members) Present for Count Offs: Maximum amounts: Sat afternoon 214; Sat evening= 171; Sun afternoon 132.

Meeting adjourned and reconvened:

- The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm Saturday, there was a lunch break of 1 ½ hours.
- The meeting was reconvened at 1:30 pm following the NCWSA meeting on Sunday October 19, 2008.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm on Sunday October 19, 2008.

Chairpersons Welcome:

- Thank you to the Spanish translators. Reminders to talk slowly for the translators.
- District 13 thank you for hosting a great assembly.
- We are instituting a lot of changes that are exciting; including adding a second assembly, removed a committee meeting
- Elections-assembly will be held during our Fall Assembly this year instead of being separate.
- There were numerous people who participated in the International Convention in Pittsburg, PA, and that was great.
- Welcome to Mary Lou and Doris from WSO who are here for the Alateen Advisory Committee which we are hosting. Later in the day they will participate in an Alateen presentation.
- Assembly evaluations will be collected.

MOTIONS:

Motion #0810.01 (Passed substantial unanimity)

Move: Mike M.D10

Second: Guadalupe

Motion Text: Moved to approve minutes from Assembly September 14-17 2007 as presented.

Motion #0810.02 (Passed substantial unanimity):

Move: Jackie W. D10

Second: Denice E. D07

Motion Text: Moved to approve minutes from Assembly May 10, 2008 as amended.

- **Amendments:** Meeting convened: change 10:45 pm to am.
Other Business: Announcements: Bullet seven: change Fatalities coordinator to Facilities coordinator.

Motion #0810.03 (Passed unanimously):

Move: Mike M. D10

Second: Cathy F. D23

Motion Text: Moved to approve NCWSA 2009 Budgets as amended:

- **Discussion and amendments:** See Budget Committee Report.

Motion #0810.04 (Moved to NCWSC Committee):

Move: Linda D. PI Coordinator

Second: Kim H.

Motion Text: Change the title of PI/CPC coordinator to Outreach Coordinator.

- **Discussion:** This is a NCWSC item not Assembly.

Motion #0810.05 (Passed substantial unanimity):

Move: Art B. Past Delegate

Second: Peggy P. Bylaws Coordinator

Motion Text: That the Assembly approves the Bylaws revisions as printed in the October 2008 Assembly issue of the 12 Stepper mailed to GRs in August 2008.

- **Explanation:** The Bylaws required revisions as the result of several motions passed by various assemblies and changes to the WSO bylaws. The Bylaws have been checked against the current revision of the Nolo Press version on nonprofit bylaws since 1989. The Bylaws committee made several changes to reflect the current version of the Nolo Press document.
- **Discussion:** See Bylaw Committee Report:

Motion #0810.06 (Passed substantial unanimity):

Move: Art B. Past Delegate

Second: Peggy P. Bylaws Coordinator

Motion Text: That the NCWSA Bylaws Committee be responsible for the correcting spelling, punctuation, grammatical errors, labels and renumbering articles and subdivisions within articles, of the NCWSA Bylaws, as appropriate, without further review and approval by NCWSA prior to printing and distribution of the Bylaws.

- **Explanation:** After identifying types of change that are considered housekeeping, such as commas, misspellings, rewording of sentences to make them clear, it is not necessary for the Assembly to bring such items to the mike. Instead, they may bring them to the attention of the Bylaws coordinator and committee members. (The language is similar to that used in motions 9509.17 and 9507.18)
- **Discussion:** See Bylaw Committee Report.

Motion #0810.07 (Failed by 2/3 majority) Note: this motion was tabled from 09/16/2007 Assembly

Move: Cathy F. D23

Second: Judith P.

Motion Text: Matter under consideration: NCWSA Guidelines Change:

Text: That the NCWSA change our guidelines so that Al-Anon/Alateen members who are also AA members may be in service beyond the group level, including Group Representative to Assembly, except for positions that "could lead to membership in the World Service Conference (WSC)", such as District Representative. (Quote from pg 70 of Service Manual 2004-2007.)

- **Explanation/History:** A similar motion to this has come before this body many times and gone back to the groups for discussion and come forward again. In the past the motions have been for our Delegate to take to WSC a recommendation that members of Al-Anon who are also members of AA be allowed to serve above the group level. This is not the same motion. Before we ask WSC to make any changes, this motion speaks to Let it Begin with Us. Let us consider making changes at our level.
- **Discussion:**
 - Request to withdraw part that says "except for positions that could lead to membership in the WSC". Response: I understand your request. But since this is the way this motion was noticed, we need to have a chance to discuss it as noticed to the groups.
 - We can all sit here and say these positions will not lead to delegate, but someone can always move out of state and say oh yeah I have been a GR or DR. There is no way to check that. This has been talked about for over 20 years. You all have had the history last year. I am not sure of the consequences, but if the whole area did this, your Delegate might not be allowed to vote at the WSC meetings.
 - Reference to new Bylaws, page 4 section 4: Eligibility of Members: "A. Any person selected as a GR by a registered Al-Anon Family Group or Alateen Group is eligible for membership in NCWSA. The method of selection is up to the group conscience of the particular group, except that the current policies of the World Service Conference must also be followed". We cannot change the bylaws until after WSC changes the current policy. We have aligned ourselves with WSC policy, and the policy of the Conference is that Dual members not serve as GR, DR, or any position that affects policy. I think the motion needs to be withdrawn because we cannot pass it.

- I was a member of the 1977 WSC which voted not to allow dual members into our service structure as a GR.... After much discussion. This motion speaks of positions above the group level which do not lead to the WSC. This is our Delegates. The Conference will not seat a dual member delegate. According to our own Service Manual, which we use, all positions beyond the group level may lead to the WSC. . We know there are 3 levels of service, the group, district and area. A GR is eligible, to become DR, a DR is eligible to become an Officer or a Delegate, according to our Service Manual. We are a separate entity according to Tradition 6. We always cooperate with AA. At the 1977 WSC, Lois shared with us that when she asked permission from Alcoholics Anonymous to adopt their 12 Steps, AA said yes. But with the stipulation that we would be a completely separate society, and NOT a subsidiary of AA. See page 176 *Lois Remembers*.
- I have tremendous respect for the history of this organization and the people who went before us. But this is a dynamic that changes over time. Reality is a lot of our members are dual members. I would like to also address the idea that members here going to another group and not saying they are a dual member. That is doubting their ability to tell the truth. We request them to leave their other 12 affiliations at the door. We are separate organizations, yet we ask them to break their anonymity in this particular case. I think it is a major conflict of interest. I think if it is in the bylaws we may have to remove this motion, but I think we need to bring forward a motion to change the bylaws in this particular case. We are separate entities and we are asking these members to break a tradition of anonymity.
- I remember from my first meeting hearing talk to each other and reason things out, let there be no gossip. Wow that sure was different from where I was from. I served from the beginning in one service area or another. Then we needed a new GR, and I did it, not out of obligation, but because I was grateful and I wanted to. I went to District meetings and then my first assembly. They stated the Dual Member restrictions and I turned to my sponsor and said what? My sponsor said yes, if you are a Dual member, you can't vote. At break I went out the door and shredded my membership card to AA. I think this policy is wrong. It is very unclear and ambiguous of what a member of AA is. It might have made a lot of sense back in the day when Bill W said keep us drunks out of it. But that was 70 years ago.
- I would like to point out that as this is written it would have to be changed as it is a bylaw change not a guideline change. As it is written it could not be passed. Response 1: This motion as written was in order the way the Bylaws were written before they were changed yesterday. Response 2: That is not accurate. This was in the Bylaws previously; we just moved it from Section 4 letter B to Section 4 letter A. If the assembly decides to go forward with this it would require a Bylaws change.
- I do not think we are prepared nor have the information to vote. Let me start with anonymity. I do not want to know if you are a dual member. It is none of my business, and it does exclude people. Autonomy, each group can be autonyms, and can decide what they want to do, so please do not tell me what to do. Please talk to people you know, it is not black and white. We have checks and balances. We will not vote you in if we don't like you. Through our vote we have power.
- Our District does allow group members above group level. I was surprised to find we were not in line with WSC. Maybe those who really want to change this at the area are trying to force solutions and you need to think maybe taking Al-Anon as it is and if you want to change go through the proper channels. I suggest keeping our side of the street clean.
- I have felt passionate about this subject. I know a lot of dual members that I have a lot of respect for as well as respect for the Traditions and how they came about. In 1977 it was important to keep it the way it is. But I also believe it needs to be dynamic. I believe we need to look at our control issues around this. One of the comments from my group was as a member of AA and Al-Anon, AA permits me to serve above group level. Another thing is women did not have the right to vote until 1920, and we didn't say for 120 years our country was based on male vote lets not change it because it's been that way.
- This motion allows Dual members to vote as GR at Assembly. It specifically states these members from becoming DRs. Because we cannot change this motion and vote today if changed, I suggest if passed we make a motion to change the Bylaws.
- The way this is worded it cannot be approve. I would like to see this withdrawn and a committee of people formed who would like to work within our current policy to create a balance, an opportunity for Dual Members to work within NCWSA. That is how we work to make change. We work within the current policy to expand it, not try to change the policy altogether, work in small steps.
- Bylaws Page 2 Section 3 states #B states: In the conduct of its business NCWSA shall refer for guidance to the California Nonprofit.....and to literature, memoranda, procedural manuals and guidelines published by the WSO. As a result of my groups discussion it became clear to me that I want to stay a part of World Wide fellowship of Al-Anon and we need to follow their guidelines.
- It appears to me based on previous information we cannot vote on this because it is in direct conflict with our Bylaws. It appears to me Jackie that we have only one alternative to have this motion withdrawn. Response: I am not interested in withdrawing this motion as many people asked it be made. You can vote either yes or no or vote later.
- This discussion seems to becoming a rehash of the discussion we had last year, instead of addressing this motion. I would appreciate discussion on this motion only and not the history.
- We allegedly practice the principle that we are all equal in Al-Anon. It seems we are considering some members more equal than others if we don't allow Al-Anon members who happen to be members of AA to serve above group level.
- A Dual Member states "I have no interest in any of this because my job in life is to control my disease and it is all I can do to do that. I love AA I love Al-Anon but I would not take a spot." Two weeks later after 13years he fell off the wagon. "Bill W. was right in the first place.

- I would like a perfect world where everyone read the Service Manual and policy regarding this, because we don't have to ask somebody to break their anonymity because they would read it, see what the policy was, and never volunteer to do anything above the group level. I feel Alcoholics have to pay attention to their primary program or they will relapse, go insane or die. That is number one.
- Tradition Four states: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting another group, Al-Anon or AA as a whole.

Motion #0810.08 (Tabled until Spring Assembly)

Moved: Stephen R.

Seconded: John B.

Motion Text: Delete the words "except that the current policies of the World Service Conference must also be followed" from Article III Section 4 paragraph A of the NCWSA Bylaws.

- **Explanation:** In light of notification requirements for Bylaw changes, I ask that this motion be tabled until the Spring 2009 Assembly.
- **Discussion:**
 - Peggy Bylaw Coordinator: That would not resolve the issue as far as the Bylaws: Article II Section 3 paragraph B there is an additional reference that guides us to WSO also. Response: This statement refers to guidance not a requirement, and I do not see it as a conflict. I think we can use this for guidance but not rule.
 - We would need to eliminate Section 3 completely because it states in paragraph A, adherence to Al-Anon Principles; Step, Traditions, Concepts take precedence over Bylaws. If we don't follow this principle we would be in violation of Tradition Six. So we would say we are not following Traditions. To me it is an issue of people not accepting the group conscience of Al-Anon as a whole. We have to decide at some point I am a minority and I have to accept the results of the majority whether we like it or not. Tradition Six says we are a separate entity from Alcoholics Anonymous, so when an Alcoholics Anonymous member becomes part of our service structure, it ties the two together, and we violate that Sixth Tradition. Response: I feel with this issue there are a number of things that we have contradictory things in our wordings. I think Al-Anon as a whole has a number of contradictory things around this issue. We can quote certain things from Al-Anon to get things one way and then quote other things to support the opposite.

ELECTIONS: for a three year service panel from January 2009- December 2011

- Motion and voting procedures were reviewed based on form A13 .
- Confidentially Statement reviewed

Delegate and Officers: Only elected persons are listed:

Delegate:	John S.	Elected by 2/3 majority
Alt Delegate:	Joan W.	Elected by 2/3 majority
Chairperson:	Patrick B.	Elected by simple majority
Treasurer:	Carol G.	Elected by simple majority
Secretary:	Johanna M.M.	Elected by simple majority
AAAP:	Bonnie M.	Elected by simple majority

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bylaws Committee: Peggy P.

- Committee: Peggy P. Vicki H. Joan W. Jim S. Art B.
- 12 Stepper page after 72. – beginning of the Bylaws draft.
- Two Motions #0810.05 #0810.06 were presented. (see motions section)
- Reminder: The Bylaws are a legal document. They do not contain every requirement or guideline established and followed by our area. They do contain the legally required definitions and procedures. It is to our benefit not to include everything because when we choose to change something, for example the guidelines for our coordinators, or even just listing the coordinator positions, we would have to change the Bylaws. The content of our Bylaws meets the legal requirements of our area for a Non Profit Corporation, but also gives us the flexibility to adapt and change without continuously updating the Bylaws.
- Types of revisions; Addition; Deletions; Housekeeping; Clarification/Correction; Substantial Change; Endnotes. Endnotes were added for explanatory notes not needed in the Bylaws but helped in clarification.
- Johanna proofread end copy and is taking notes today in case there are any additional revisions.
- Post Assembly – after approval the revisions will be incorporated into the Bylaws, reviewed editorially, copies will be distributed to all registered groups in NCWSA. They will be posted to the web and will be available to GRs attending next May Assembly and mailed to GRs not attending that Assembly.

- Reminder: As required by CA State Law for Non Profits: Any revisions to the Bylaws the corporation is required to notify its members (groups) of the changes at least 45 days in advance of the meeting. We use the 12 Stepper for this notification. Any other changes brought to the floor today, will be considered by the Bylaw Committee and would have to be presented at the next Assembly with notification of 45 days in advance.
- Substantial revisions as presented in the Assembly issue of the *12 Stepper* will be reviewed by sections.

Questions:

- What do you mean by housekeeping revisions? Answer: Spelling, grammar, punctuations.
- Page 23 – Preamble why was the language changed in Suggested Alateen Preamble paragraph two ...we cannot change or control our parents? Answer: It was changed to match the current service manual. If they left something out or changed it, we are making ours the same as theirs.
- Page 4, Item B – Term of office for Group Representatives is being stricken. What is the intent behind that? Answer: We do not want to specify that in the Bylaws and give more flexibility to the area. In case the area wants to make changes as well as the groups. We are not going to extend the term beyond three years. We are not defining the term Group Representative; we are allowing the groups to define that. We do not have control over what a group decides. It says here that the GR coincides with the term of office with the NCWSA Delegate and officers. That has been our expectation for the last years. The GRs get elected now and they serve three years with the same term of officers. There has been some discussion with the LRPC to maybe change to one third rotating each year. This couldn't happen without the bylaw change and besides it is none of our business is why we took it out.
- Page 5 Section 2. I thought we were trying the two assemblies on a three year trial basis. If we change it in the Bylaws then the decision to change after three years is out of the assemblies hands you can just do it. Answer: It is the Chairpersons choice to call assemblies as needed. The GRs voted for the second assembly, but it is still the Chairpersons responsibility to call assemblies. This was not added it has been there it was part of the deleted paragraph also. If in three years the Assembly votes to continue with the second assembly it would not need to be noted in the Bylaws. The Chair can call as many Assemblies as necessary if there is legitimate business to discuss.
- Peggy and her committee were given a cheer for a great job done in a professional way.
- Page 18 Section 3B. Requirement for Teen Safety, in accordance with the mandate of the WSC and state that they meet this requirement on all flyer and announcements... Does this mean when we encourage Alateen participation there is a lot to put on a flyer and do we have to put this statement, as I am not sure this on a flyer provides any additional safety for our teens. Answer: This is in the Bylaws and a requirement for NoCAC. It is a requirement that any flyer that includes Alateen have that on the flyer. Clarification from Jim S.; Any flyer (including AA Conventions) posted on the Web site requires that statement on them. In your District or Groups it is required, but there is no way to regulate that. Guideline B17 has the statement. More questions regarding the Alateen Safety requirements were brought to the mike. As these are not Bylaw questions Peggy referred them to Jackie to place on the agenda for a later time.
- Page 24 Tradition changes: seems since there are changes, it is somewhat flexible. Answer: These changes were made to match the Service Manual. Comment from Sandi C. At some point a long time ago some editor at WSO changed these two things. WSC was not aware of the changes and then when some other research it was discovered that unknowingly somewhere in history these had been changed. These are housekeeping to go back to correct verbiage.

Discussion:

- Peggy presented another question for the Assembly: Would this Assembly want the committee to investigate changing the By-Laws to require two-thirds (2/3) majority on all votes which supports a substantial unanimity as stated in the Service Manual? The bylaws would not be revised now; it would be taken back to committee for review and brought to the Assembly for consideration the next time the bylaws are revised. A Majority is defined in the By-Laws in endnote number 14 as a simple majority (50% +1/2 person). Delegate Alternate Delegate and Chairperson require a 2/3 majority.
- It makes a lot of sense that if we had 2/3 majority on each candidate, it shows a lot of support, whereas 50% you could have 49% really not happy. In Al-Anon we recognize a group conscience and a simple majority is not a substantial group conscience. I suggest we change the election votes required to 2/3 for Delegate and Officers, not general voting.
- Is substantial unanimity = 2/3 vote? Answer: I do not know if it is defined anywhere but 2/3 is a lot closer than simple majority.
- Why are we discussing this without a motion? Answer. We are doing Knowledge Based Decision Making. The idea is discussion first to see how far along we are and get a sense of what this group wants before we make a motion.
- The spirit of Al-Anon, the spirit of substantial unanimity, is sported by 2/3 vote on any thing we do. If it gets down to counting ½ persons, I would not feel comfortable of either side of the vote.
- Reminder: the Bylaws are a legal document and Incorporation Laws of the State of California require 50% majority. Why impose on the Assembly anything greater than this requirement. In the Bylaws on Page 28 endnote 14 last sentence “The members may by a 2/3 majority choose to use a 2/3 Majority for particular items brought to the Assembly.” It is also stated in the Service Manual on page 136.

- Once again this is not written in the Bylaws because we want to keep the Bylaws as simple as possible and state only what is needed for the Non Profit status, but the endnotes are used for clarification and flexibility.
- Warranty 3 states: that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible, by unanimity.
- Page 2 Section 3 #A of the Bylaws states Adherence to Al-Anon Principles: ...In the event any Bylaw conflicts with Al-Anon's Twelve Steps, Traditions and Concepts, application of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts shall take precedence over adherence to the Bylaw. We have this principle of substantial unanimity in our endnotes. There is a difference between what is legal and what our principles are.
- I keep thinking about our meetings and how the unanimity holds us. Anytime in a business meeting that we make a decision that is close to 50% vote there is a loss of this sense of being held and there is a sense of dissension that lasts. The 50/50 shows we are not ready to vote yet.

Summary:

- We have determined that this is covered in the Bylaws and endnotes and that the option is available to any member to go to the microphone and request a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any time for a specific motion. The Assembly will discuss that request and vote on whether they want to use a 2/3 majority or stick with a simple majority. That provides the opportunity for anybody to request substantial unanimity. Chairperson may request 2/3 majority for a sensitive issue. We do want an idea of our clear voice and the only way to do that is based on substantial unanimity.

Group Consensus: With a show of hands, by substantial unanimity, the group wants to leave things as they are.

- Peggy stated: I thank the Assembly for the opportunity to discuss this, because several people approached me with concerns about this as well as I had some concerns. I wanted to know and understand what some of the options were, why it is stated the way it is, and where our flexibility is. I think we have provided everyone with exactly that. I would like to close this discussion with the Serenity Prayer.

Executive Committee: Chris A- C. Chairperson:

- Because we are a nonprofit corporation in the State of California we are required to have a Board of Directors. Our EC serves that purpose.
- Members: Claudia M.D10; Patti M.D12; Harlan H.D23; Joe G. D17; Chris A-C.
- Have served the last 12 months with Gratitude.
- Hope to turn over an organized binder to the next EC in Feb.
- We were asked to review the surveys from the May Assembly. After discussion we decided this is outside of the scope of our responsibilities and it did not fit the venue for which it was intended. As a result they will be returned to the Chairperson.
- We interview and support our officers. Provide oversight of officers. We have a new position, AAPP and Lori is the new person in that position. The EC interviewed her and found her to be doing a very good job.
- Approved the financial assistant or the Assembly.
- Rotation of EC duration 18 months during panel we have rotation once during panel. Suggested changing rotation to a three year commitment. LRPC to look into and waiting to hear back. Wondering if we overlap rotation of GRs and DR how that would affect the EC.
- Recommend that EC membership is comprised of past DRs not current DRs. This would decrease the load on current DRs and would add continuity to our panel. We understand this would add an additional expense to our budget, but this would balance out as we have fewer past Delegates currently attending our meetings than we have had in the past.
- Working to have better hand off information to successors.

Budget Committee: John S.

- A budget committee's responsibility is to meet with Treasurer to complete our audit. This has not happened for various reasons; Nancy has assured me we will meet by the end of the year.

Discussion and Questions

2009 Budget: This discussion was lead by John with questions from the floor:

- See 12 Stepper October Assembly Issue page 23
- A new line item has been added for the Alateen Special Event, Sponsors workshop.
- Investigating Telephone conferencing to eliminate excessive travel reimbursement.
- An Additional line item reflects the cost for second assembly. As this is a new event it will take a couple of years to get an idea of actual cost.
- Question: Do you know what the attendance at the previous spring assembly? Response: GRs 274 + NCWSC approximately 325 total.
- Question: Isn't it a mathematical process $325 \times \text{Registration fee} = \text{income}$? Response: It is the chairperson responsibility to set the fee based on various factors. That happens after the budget. We could make that assumption may not be valid once the assembly is planned.
- Line 6z, column 2007, the *12 Stepper* should read \$9058 to reflect correct Profit and Loss. Items were just posted to wrong account.
- The line item totals are listed in the budget presentation. For example one coordinator may not spend a lot of money and another coordinator can use it. This allows some leeway. The actual budget shows expected income or expenses for each event or position.

- Question: Why do you project the reduction on line 30z coordinator expenses, from 2008 to 2009? Response: Usually the first year of a new panel we raise the budget because incoming coordinators have supply expenses related to a new position. We did not do that this year. We are expecting a reduction in contributions this year because of the economy. We cut expenses where we could. Alateen and Institutions were both high this last year because of very active coordinators with special projects. Also it seems there are some expenses are posted to incorrect line items. Nancy is working with a CPA to correct.

Action to be taken: amendments to Budget:

- Add Archives \$500 travel to Archive Workshop in Santa Ana.
- Adjust: Line 6z \$12000; line 15z \$2000; line 55z \$12000; line 68z 2000.

NoCAC Committee: Savanna

- There have been lots of fundraisers.
- Items for sale as fundraiser. Pins, shirts,
- Preregistration is now for the November event
- T Shirts with our 30year coin on the back is for sale.
- Alateens passed pumpkins buckets for NoCAC 7th Tradition contributions for NoCAC \$739 was collected

Convention Committee: Patrick B. Chairperson 2009 Convention

- June 12 – 14, 2009 In Santa Clara
- Logo “Keep the change” T shirts available for sale.
- Preregistration available. Room rates on web site: \$114 per night; \$5 per day parking.
- Watch the web site for schedule and any additional information.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Alateen Coordinator: Chris M.

- Reminder Alateens have Group Representatives too. Encourage attendance at your district meetings.
- Serving Alateen expands my heart and my soul beyond my wildest dreams and it has been a lot of fun to watch and support these young people as they find their own path to recovery and an honor to have them love and support me in my recovery. Chris encourages members to consider Alateen service.
- Created Alateen Sponsors weekend and we celebrated our 2nd year. Last year 50 people attended and this year 60 attended. It was a weekend full of incredible recovery magic. It was an awesome weekend.
- NoCAC’s 30th anniversary is this year. Come to this NoCAC and other Alateen events to support our young people. Remember today’s Alateens are tomorrows Al-Anons. They are our future. Together we can make it, recovering from this disease called Alcoholism.
- Sponsors can sign up for bulletins about events and news at nocal-alateen@yahoogroupd.com. The updated Alateen Safety requirements are also online at ncwsa.org.
- How has Alateen touched your heart? On a table were hearts available with a pin which members were encouraged to share on a heart how Alateens have touched their hearts. The completed heart display will be taken to NoCAC.
- Next year the Sponsors weekend will be in September.
- I participated in a conference call with other Alateen Coordinators from the US and Canada. Great Ideas and lots of energy. The Alateen Sponsor Training Modules was discussed: We would like feed back as this will be used for workshops and training and education District coordinators can check it out once it is finalized. A power point presentation was put together to help train Alateen Sponsors. There are four modules: Overview of Alateen Service (seen today); Second one is geared towards the Alateen meeting; Third module is Alateen Events; Fourth Module is Alateen Challenges. The first of the modules was presented.

Discussion and Questions:

- Reminder we have Alateens in Juvenile Halls and there is the additional step for Sponsors to be certified by the facility also. Schools will also require an additional background check.
- How do you determine who is not mentally qualified? We rely on our local District Safety Persons, Coordinators and District Reps. to do an interview with the perspective candidates, to see who they are, know they go to meetings, know they have a home group, know they are working their program. Even if they get that far in the teens still decide if they want that person as their sponsor. They are very sharp and intuitive.
- New Communication ideas: Area Sponsor conference calls, maybe quarterly. This idea will be passed onto the next coordinator. Not sure of cost or if feasible.

Archives Coordinator: Irma C. (Me Ma Uma)

- Thank you for looking at the Archives table and taking the duplicate copies.
- Thank you for taking the Archives starter kits. Great to see interest.
- It was great seeing you look through the Sweet 16 panel. That was my panel.
- We now have 32 boxes filled with archival material. I expect two or three more boxes then I will be caught up.
- A group in Susanville wanted to know when their group was registered. I found it was registered with WSO in 1973, but it had no WSO number. This prompted me to write WSO Archives to find out when groups were issued a group number. It was 1983.
- Our archives show the service and recovery paths we have followed with interesting happenings, growth and progress.
- We have a section labeled controversies that is only available to current and past delegates.

An 'Irma' story told by Art B.

- When I was asked to write the History of Al-Anon in Northern California the Journey to Recovery, Irma coauthored it with me because she had the archives and I had some words. I would send her a note and say, Irma I am trying to find out about this or that. She would send me an email back saying, 'I'm very very busy, I don't know when I can look.' And at two in the afternoon I would get the answer. Over and over and over again. Irma was elected Delegate of this assembly 33 years ago.

Bylaws and Insurance Coordinator: Peggy P. The report for Bylaws and Insurance was delivered in two parts

Bylaws and Guidelines:

- See Bylaws Committee Report for Bylaw revisions and discussion.
- Guidelines working to NCWSC to identify a better method for updating the guidelines and keeping the Committee members' binders current that will take advantage of web-based updates. Each committee member is supposed to have a binder that has all the guidelines and forms in it that the Area follows. Many of the guidelines have not been updated for years. The new Bylaws and Insurance Coordinator will have the opportunity to aid NCWSC with these updates. I look forward to participating and helping with that effort.

Insurance:

- Working with broker to establish insurance and because of various problems there has been many delays which have affected certificates being issued to our groups. We are close to resolution and certificates of insurance to groups requesting them should be available by the end of October 2008. If your group has requested a certificate over the last 4-5 months contact Peggy to confirm the certificate is still needed.
- Will be able continue to offer to groups just taking time to get there.

Diversity: Pleas S.

- No report prepared.
- Apologized for not being the Diversity Coordinator he wanted to be.

Facilities Coordinator: Gene H. (better known as Fatalities Coordinator)

- Main part of job is getting facilities and making sure all your needs are met.
- Stand for this office if you would like to accelerate your recovery.
- February 2009 committee meeting in Santa Rosa contract signed.
- Convention in Santa Clara contract signed.
- Would like to revise selection process of facilities.
- Presently DRs from section hosting event brings a bid to committee meetings to be voted on. This is a difficult process. I am willing to work with the next coordinator to improve this process.
- Suggest setting up a committee which represents the geographic diversity we have to make selections for locations. This is becoming more difficult because of our size and cost to do this with less than a years notice to find suitable locations.

Group Records: Debbie O.

- Updates are current
- I would like to thank groups in my area for helping with the voting cards the last three years.
- As of October 14, 2008, 759 groups are registered in our area. That is up 31 overall. Hospital and Institutions has 20 meetings; 49 Spanish Speaking meetings (up by 4); 22 men's meeting; 19 women's meetings.
- Any reports or updates that have to do with an Alateen meeting must be approved by the Alateen Area Process Person (AAPP) and then they will be forwarded to Group Records to update the data base from WSO.
- Remember Concept 4 states Participation is the Key to Harmony.

Institutions: Louise M.

- As a member of the State of California Correctional Facilities 12 Step Advisory Board I spoke to a meeting full of Community Partnership Managers (those at the prisons who manage outside groups to into the prisons) to tell them about Al-Anon. After the board members talked about their specific groups, the managers had an opportunity to ask questions of us individually. Several people approached me and I have had a chance to deliver more literature to San Quentin. (The inmates descended upon the literature and gobbled them up. It was requested I send more).
- Literature has also been delivered to Chowchilla State Prison for Women; Deuel Correctional Facility; several of the Friends Outside Organization which distributes literature to county, city and state facilities.
- Still opportunities to go to Solano and a few other places.
- Delivered 2 boxes of literature to Soledad because the manager stated there are two facilities in that compound. After a discussion with the manager he stated they have an early release program that he could probably fit us in there.
- AA H&I conference with Al-Anon participation will be held in Galt at Littleton Civic Center, May 29, 30, 31, 2009. Watch for flyer. Participation is about 700-1000. There will be an Al-Anon panel of professional people in institutions and hospitals, Al-Anon volunteers speaking of their experience, plus the many panels of AA. I (Louise) will be the main speaker.
- Thank you NCWSA for granting me money to buy literature for various institutions.
- Literature goes to Elmwood county institution and Juvenile Hall.

Literature Coordinator: Carol C.

- Forum from way back when until now and pamphlet (sample of available pamphlets) tables displays are or viewing only.
- D13 has literature for sale as well as order blanks.
- WSO Web site great contacts for public outreach (www.Al-Anon.Alateen.org) as well as members (www.Al-Anon.org/members); for member site type group name, AFG or, AFG for your password.
- Member Website has things like Bylaws, Literature order, and Calendar of Events, There is a section to contribute to; eCAL (a multi-media sharing); Cal corner (where members share comments about literature on the web site as well as in the Forum), and Forum opportunity to supply your comments.
- Workshops: Ideas using our new books. These would be great for a Day In Al-Anon or workshop. They use Opening Our Hearts, Transforming our Losses and Discovering Choices. Let Carol know and she will get you a copy of the workshop questions and ideas.
- WSO is considering a blog for CAL.
- Please get involved with the committees being presented here today. You will have the experience of a lifetime.

PI/CPC: Linda D.

- All the Public Outreach coordinators from US and Canada participate in exchanging ideas during the Public Outreach conference call. The main issues discussed were Updates:
- PSA (Sketches): this has been the most effective PSA in the 10 years they have been keeping track. There were 35,471 airplays in 2008 compared to 25,000 in 2007.
- PO poster; Posters: possible idea: Outreach project create Alateen posters. See Service manual page 100. Once created need to be cleared thru WSO.
- Pod casts are like a meeting. There are a series of 6 Pod casts on the WSO web site.
- News Releases: Healthy Relations are possible
- Forum: 2009 Al-Anon faces Alcoholism. Great way to inform not only professionals about us but any one anywhere. You can leave a copy along with your local schedule in numerous locations. Also available in Spanish.

Web Site: Jim S.

- At the last Committee meeting the Web Site Committee Chairperson was changed to a Coordinator position. This gives that person a vote at committee meetings. Web Site Committee members are Art B., Jennifer G., Bruce D. (in Oregon who helps with the architecting of the site) and Jim S. Other volunteers at the District/AIS level keep the independent (15 total) and separate web sites updated. We do the updating for 10 web sites. And there are 2 districts that have separate sites that we are linked to. Thank you for your volunteer work.
- Meeting changes, flyer posting's to the calendar or questions can be sent to any of the three web site committee emails at: change@ncwsa.org, info@ncwsa.org or contactus@ncwsa.org. Please check to see if your group and other information is listed correctly.
- Calendar of events 2009 has been updated. <http://ncwsa.org/calendar.html>. DRs please check your data has been input correctly.
- Officers & Coordinators: www.ncwsa.org/forms.html & www.ncwsa.org/guidelines.html have contacts for those who have responsibility for updating these documents. Please make sure they are up to date for the next panel.

- Event flyers with any Alateen involvement must be approved by our AAPP at AAPP@ncwsa.org. Request form from DRs and Coordinators in each District Business Meetings. All related flyers handed out and/or posted to the web must follow - Guideline B17.B.3.D.4.c: and have the underlined and highlighted sentence below at the bottom of the flyer. In order to use the Alateen name in the geographic area served by NCWSA, Alateen Conferences and other conferences that include Alateen activities are required to abide by the (B17) NCWSA Requirement for Alateen Member Safety, register their intention to do so by notifying the Area Process Person (AAPP) of procedures placed into service for their function and place the following statement on any flyers publicizing their activities. – The (name of conference or convention) abides by the NCWSA Requirement of Alateen Member Safety.
- In the last year NCWSA web site has had almost three times more hits than WSO site. We had 2,470,166 hit.

12-Stepper Editor: Bruce H.

- The 12 Stepper has everything you guys produce and it is as good as it can be. It is our commucation from NCWSA to our members
- Web site and May Assembly will give you some ideas about this job.
- Anyone can write an article, send in art work, your report as a DR or coordinator or officer.
- This thing is pretty big and let's keep it that way. Northern California is a great place.
- The first year as editor is a little bit of excitement, because you are getting into something you don't know. It is kind of like walking on a tight rope. It is kind of like that relationship thing that I used to get into. The second year is smoother a little more comfortable. It is kind of like working the steps you get to feel pretty good about it. The third year is like not saying good bye, the people you have been with here for three years are friends. The job is over but the friends are there forever.
- If you see a correction that needs to be made in the 12 Stepper send me an email. If it is an address or phone number there are four of us who work together via email to update all our records. If you send it to Connie, Sandi, Debbie or me, we let each other know of the update.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 1: No Report

District 2: Cynthia F. (Treasurer giving report) Location: Mendocino and Lake Counties (4700 sq miles)

- Holler: "2 from district 2"
- 21 meeting; 1 Alateen meeting and 1 Spanish speaking meeting. 1 parent's and 1 couples' meetings.
- Laura new DR
- Goal is to visit all the meetings has been in contact with most via phone or email.
- Day in Al-Anon in January
- Speaker Meetings
- Wonderful workshops which highlight our experience, strength and wisdom of our members.
- Present district projects: planning more speaker meetings; expanding Alateen in the District: Developing more outreach.
- We keep coming back because this program works.

District 3: No report

District 4: No Report

District 5: Peggy P. Location: Napa and Sonoma County

- Holler: "Fun Rap –Yo! We are District 5; The A l-Anon family; We the Gangsters of Recovery – We gonna hit you with Self Discovery."
- 57 meetings; 4 of them Spanish; 11 of them Alateen. 4 officers and 19 coordinators
- Bi monthly Alagram publication
- D5 Website.
- Several workshops a year
- Annual holiday bash December 6 2009
- Lots Alateen activity. Outreach -. Literature Distribution in high schools
- Close to 30 GRs at assembly

District 6: Jane; Location: Solano and Yolo Counties

- Holler: "We're from District 6; there is not-quick fix; its progress not perfection that keeps us in the mix; One Day at a Time; and that's our rhyme."
- Fundraiser in Dixon theme: "We've Got Attitude: Attitude of Gratitude" included 4 workshops. Speakers.
- Elections will be in December.
- Public Information project. We bought 400 English and 100 Spanish Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism2009 Forum after reading them ourselves, we suggested GRs insert schedules, place anywhere in public; bus stops, beauty shop, Drs., dentist, hospitals, laundry rooms, even shopping carts.

District 7: Kathy H. Location: Sacramento Rio Linda and No Highlands

- 15 groups including 2 Alateen 1 men's and one babysitting meeting. 2/3 meetings attend District
- Hosted the Assembly in 2007.
- 2008 Convention in Monterey prepared entertainment and fashion show. Accessorizing with Al-Anon.
- Good Intergroup participation and service on committees
- We have monthly business meetings and quarterly Speaker Meetings which includes Alateen speakers and fundraisers such as chili dinners, spaghetti dinners, ice cream socials and selling soft drinks and slogan pins to support scholarships to NoCAC and Westminster Woods.
- Public Outreach: Sept 2008 Recovery Happens event in recognition of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. This event is celebrated throughout the US and hundreds of people came out to the Capitol to hear how recovery happens and visit the A l-Anon booth sponsored by Intergroup. We also participated in North Highlands Jubilee, a community event with nearly 100 booths, one of which was manned by Al-Anon and Alateen.

District 8: Carol G. Location: Sacramento and 1 Galt meeting

- Holler: "Oh Great its D8"
- 31 meetings
- January held our annual Soup etc fundraiser. Great speakers and wonderful food.
- New GR has started 2 new meetings in the past 6 months.
- Fall Speaker meeting was best attended in the past 6 years.

District 9: Joan W. Location: El Dorado and Amador Counties

- We have eleven meetings of which three are new Al-anon and one new Alateen meeting (after many years of no Alateen). One meeting has recommitted to follow AFG guidelines and continue as an Al-Anon meeting.
- Institutions: Started an Introduction to Al-Anon meeting as a women's recovery home in Camino. Continued to attend similar meeting at a men's recovery home in Coloma.
- Started a bi-monthly Open Speaker Meeting Friday nights in Cameron Park.
- Continued to hold a summer fund raiser in Pollock Pines and winter in Cameron Park.
- Alateen: Certified five new Alateen Sponsors for Shingle Springs and a new 2009 meeting in Jackson.
- Held a Sponsor Workshop in Cameron Park.
- PI: Attended a Health Faire with focus on Grandparents raising children due the Alcoholism. Prepared a mail out to schools and professionals announcing new Alateen meetings. Purchased literature to distribute to outreach programs.
- Studied 12 Concepts at our Bi-monthly D9 Business meetings.
- Financially supported start-up meetings. Financially supported GRs to attend Area Assemblies.
- Enlarged our local newspaper meeting listings. Listed our contact phone number on the AA schedule.
- Participated at Sacramento AIS meetings, birthday meetings and Office Committee.
- Held an Area Assembly review prior to Assemblies.
- District elections for new panel and wrote a new holler for this Assembly. Made beautiful butterflies to identify our district at past and current Assemblies.
- Discussed "How are we Working Together" at the last district meeting.
- Continued to 'suit up and show up' whether we wanted to or not. Continued to love our program.

District 10: Claudia M. Location: Placer, Nevada, and part of Sacramento County

- Holler: "Lois and Anne showed us we can find recovery in District 10!"
- February we had an Alateen Sponsors workshop and got several new sponsors as a result and added another Alateen meeting to make five.
- March fundraiser- theme: Opening our Hearts (referring to new book) we raised \$1200 and revised our budget.
- Rotate our Business meetings to our far reaches of the District. We took road trips to Grass Valley, Orangevale, and Truckee besides our regular meeting place in Rocklin.
- We created a Scholarship guideline to encourage more people to go to like H & I conference and the new Alateen Sponsor workshop weekend. We sent three of our members to the H & I and 5 members to the Alateen Sponsor workshop. We spent all our money, which supported was our goal to help our members to participate in the District.
- Unity day in Auburn – AA day with Al-Anon participation. Hope to have a Liaison to help support that.
- We were not successful establishing group at Folsom Prison.
- June we participated in the Rocklin Jubilee which is a public forum where we have a table with literature.
- We are happy and ready to go for next year - We had District elections and all positions are filled except PI CPC.
- We have a monthly speaker meeting which is hosted by a different group each month. This gives long timers as well as newcomers an opportunity to speak in front of a group, and we have food.
- Service is a great way to keep your program active.

District 11: Colleen M. Location: Marin County

- 26 groups (2 Hispanic; 2 Alateen) plus 7 institution meetings;
- A year of administrative discussion:
- Service commitment is a challenge in our area.
- Donations have doubled.

District 12: Patti M. Location: San Francisco and Daly City.

- Holler: "District 12 is on the move, we are discussing details so things go smooth, our neighbors are Macys and Virgin Music store, there's Bloomies and cable cars and tourists galore, so stop by our office it's going to be swell, and one things for certain, and we won't miss that funny pee smell.
- Our old building is sold and we are moving to Market St. The area has agreed to share the office it will be the corporate office and we can store the corporate records.
- Will be selling literature from our new office with an employee.
- We have 40 groups, and monthly speaker meeting.
- New Alateen groups and we will be sending sponsors and teens to NoCAC.
- Good features on our District web site.
- We use proxy voting for the minutes of our District meeting.
- District officers will be voted in November.

District 13: Patrick B. Location: Burlingame to Palo Alto and from the ocean to the Bay.

- All our coordinator and Officer positions pretty well filled.
- NCCAA participating with AA in this service conference.
- One Alateen Meeting and willing to support Alateens
- GR email distribution list sends flyers etc to GRs between meetings
- We did a painless District Inventory we got a lot out of it. It was a spiritual experience.
- Hosted Al-Anon part of H & I Conference.
- New District Web site. Great way to do Outreach.
- New Answering service which means a live person always answers the phone.
- Added birthday chips to our speaker meetings in Belmont.
- PI participated in several health fairs. Distributed over 800 Al-Anon faces Alcoholism this year
- New subcommittee to explore other ways to reach out to the public.
- Institutions meeting at Project 90 for family and friends of people in that program.
- Also working on starting meetings in jails.
- Reviewed our bylaws and voting to update.
- Doing outreach to groups without GRs. Idea: create binders with flyers and normal Business Meeting information and meeting list and take them to meetings that do not have a GR. Then if they want to update their binders maybe they will send someone to one of the District meetings.
- Hosted current Assembly. Acknowledgments of committee: Agetha & Carol L (decorations); Ilene (Hospitality); Louise (preregistration); Susan (Treasurer); Marciana (greeter chair); Lori (registration); Thrifty (Voter registration) Carol S (set up and clean up) Marie, Flo and Ruth (not chair person but showed in various ways) plus a huge list of helpers. I was the chairperson. It's pretty good being a chair because before Al-anon I was a doormat.

District 14: Johanna MM. Location: Central and Eastern Contra Costa County.

- Independent web site great job Kent. Go to ncwsa.org and click on us.
- My report was published in the Previous 12 Stepper.
- Valentines Day 2009 come to Alamo for our 3rd annual Serenity in Motion Penny from Auburn will be our main speaker.

District 15: James H. Location; Oakland, Piedmont, Hayward, Alameda, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley.

- 26 meetings 6 are Spanish speaking; 4 Alateen meetings and one is bilingual.
- Some Alateens were sponsored to NoCAC.
- Institutions meeting in Oakland at a recovery center for teens. Instrumental in educating parents and family members of Al-Anon and Alateen. This meeting averages about 50 family members and friends each week.
- 48th annual ladies luncheon; brings together fellowship of AA and Al-Anon.
- We share an office with D17 for all Al-Anon members who answer the phones.
- We have a LDC.
- In Sept hosted 2008 Day in Al-Anon; with AA participation Theme: Miracles in Recovery. Several meetings of Al-Anon, AA and Alateen with featured speaker Joan W. Al-Anon and Debbie D. AA.

District 16: Elaine S. Location:

- Holler: "D16 Service, we are sweet 16 and ya know what I mean, we love service, we love service,. We are D16 the lean service machine, we got spirit, yeah we got spirit.
- See previous 12 Stepper for report
- Celebrating Service Event.
- First Dance
- Several new meetings.
- Autumn event – masquerade ball
- Participated with D14 in NCAA.
- Elections of District on Election Day in Nov.

District 17: Joe G. Location: Fremont, Union City, Newark. (FUN District)

- One meeting or more every day of the week except Sunday. We have a beginners meeting and soon Alateen will meet at the same time.
- Monthly birthday fellowship held on third Saturday is strong.
- Day in Al-Anon raising over \$1100. There were 2 other Day in Al-Anon events in the area that day and we were still successful with speakers, workshops and wonderful BBQ dinner.
- PI will host a panel at a local continuation high school and host a table at community health events.
- I would like to thank the area for the scholarship that helped me attend the International Convention in Pittsburg. As the area someone decided to participate in the parade and came up with the idea building a Golden Gate Bridge. The Golden Gate Bridge I built while I was in Vermont, received a great reception and the team had lots of fun in the parade. We got best float, we were the only float in the parade. When we got up on stage someone yelled earthquake and the bridge started shaking. There were great workshops and speakers.
- I had the opportunity to go to South America and while there my Higher Power had me talking to a number of individuals and families about the recovery possible through this program. I'm working to build bridges between a community down there with significant problems of alcoholism, and the country's general service office.
- Our biggest job is to welcome the newcomer and carry the message.

District 18: Bonnie M. Location: Mariposa, Merced Stanislaus counties and we have groups in Arnold, Sonora, Murphys, Newman and Tracy.

- 23 registered Groups. Groups: One men's, two Spanish language; Total 40 meetings – six of them Spanish Language, two Alateen groups, two registered Institutions meetings.
- Our elections filled our officer positions, most coordinator positions.
- Added position of Hispanic Liaison;
- Formed a guidelines committee.
- Institutions Coordinator stays busy with outreach to various treatment centers, including an Al-Anon meeting in a facility Independent Living Care, for graduates of foster care, learning to live on their own.
- Public Outreach team is active. One member of this team is a liaison to AA enhancing corporation between AA and us at events. Each spring we offer a workshop "How Al-Anon Works"; In the Fall we have "A Day in Al-Anon", except when NCAA has their weekend event in Modesto, and we cooperate with them. We have terrific cooperation with AAs.
- We are well represented at NCWSA with election of three alternate coordinators, one coordinator, and an officer.
- Web site link from ncwsa.org/D18.
- Reminder: Yosemite Conference weekend before Thanksgiving
-

District 19: Linda W. Location: Madera, Tulare, and Kings County southern most district

- 55 groups
- NCCAA conference participation AA asked us to participate. We now have a liaison.
- Action committees has not worked out bugs hopefully next panel will be able continue.
- We reduced our business meeting from monthly to bimonthly.
- 2 speaker meetings Visalia and Fresno.
- New DR, with lots of experience, who came out of nowhere volunteered.

District 20: Jennifer G. Location: North Santa Clara Valley

- 23 Al-Anon, 3 Hispanic 4 Alateen and 2 Preteen groups.
- We have a new coordinator position hosting our Speaker Meeting that is 5 times a year. We have a new Speaker Selection committee and we are taping the meetings. We give away CDs. All has helped increase our attendance.
- Challenge to get people to participate as we have Intergroup and lots of people attend meetings in D21 and D22 also.
- We created a Liaison position which allows participation between the group and the District meeting regardless of membership in other programs.
- Outreach: One Library at a time.
- Unity Day: participation with D21 and D22.

District 21: Jennifer H Location: Santa Clara, San Jose area

- We are part of Santa Clara Valley Intergroup
- We have a lot of meetings but I have not counted them, including Alateen, Institutions, and Spanish.
- Special event Beach Blanket Al-Anon
- Prospect for DR stay tuned.

District 22: Jeff D. Location: South Santa Clara County

- 22 Al-Anon groups, one preteen and Alateen, Spanish speaking, newcomer meetings, one of our groups meets in a hospital and one in a community center
- Supporting Alateens with partial scholarships to NoCAC
- Help a special event 'Coffee, Tea, or Recovery', panel with speaker Zoey from D22.
- Unity Day –AA function with Al-Anon participation. Our District participated in this event
- Intergroup office book store. We revamped office with carpet, paint, bookshelves, new computer desk, chair and flat screen monitor donated.

District 23: Harlan H. Location: Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

- 27 groups with 3 Alateen meetings.
- Our donations are ok.
- As DR I visited the groups this year
- We have a craft fair early December
- PI is an area that could be improved
- I like to use Concept 10 – No double headed management.
- New officers have been elected. Next DR is Lisa
- Speaker meetings attendance improving with great shares.
- Web site going again up to Al-Anon guidelines

District 24: Laura K. Location: Monterey Area

- Great participation, registered eight new meetings this year, (one in Soledad). Currently 33 meetings. Spanish meetings and Alateen growing. Orientation for an Alateen meeting 9 prospective Al-Anon and Alateen along with their parent/relative are encouraged to attend.
- Elections for 2009-2011 panel were at our July meeting and almost all positions were filled.
- Teleservice automated system has saved lots of money. We are looking to update software and equipment and wondering if there are other districts wanting to participate and share cost and benefits. Contact David at david.8723@gmail.com.
- Alateen: Alateens raised funds themselves for NoCAC. Our Alateens are active, enthusiastic and we have a great group of Alateen sponsors.
- District Speaker meeting great attendance. We have invited AAs to share along with Al-Anon whenever possible to emphasize the effect of the family illness. We started a 50/50 raffle to help offset mileage expenses.
- Literature Depot has had successful opens houses on Saturday mornings.
- Website: We went independent this year and it is fabulous. Easy to update and use. Check us out at www.ncwsa.org/d24/index.html.

District 25: No Report

District 26: Susan Location: Berkeley, Richmond, Hercules areas

- 25 Al-Anon and 2 Alateen Meetings including a preteen meeting; 2 Spanish Meetings
- We have a District Lending Library led by Richard
- Active PI led by Tessa with outreach at rehab centers
- Events Committee led by Nancy busy with several events including a picnic, Day in Alateen, a series of events at the holidays with a large event on New Years Day.
- Elections no one stood

District 27: Pam Location: Calaveras, San Joaquin and Tuolumne Counties

- Next month we are voting in new district officers.

DELEGATE'S REPORT: Sandi C.

- This panel has accomplished a lot.
 - Electing a new Officer position, Lori K to be the Area Alateen Process Person.
 - Revising the Bylaws to coincide with that new position and all other housekeeping items which needed changing.
 - Reinstating the long-range planning committee to come up with ideas for the Area which will/can streamline the Area process.
 - Adding a second one-day Assembly in May on a trail basis.
 - Vicki, our Immediate Past Delegate, was appointed to a Trustee at Large position on the Board of Trustees at WSO.
 - The Region had a new Regional Trustee appointed to the Board of Trustees.
 - Various committees have been meeting via conference calls to save time and money for NCWSA.
 - We gave three scholarships to GRs and a DR to attend the Pittsburgh International Convention in July.
 - I got to participate on a committee on Abundance at WSC. This was a new type of committee and we continued to meet via email and conference call to continue to do the work of AFG. Once all is fine tuned, it will be presented to the WSC in April and then passed on to the Area for its use. Your new Delegate will have the opportunity to bring it back to you in several formats – a presentation, a panel discussion sharing, and a skit, or all of the above.
- I gave a copy of the WSC conference summary to all the Committee members.
- I have three more tasks before the year is over:
 - A speaking engagement in District 5.
 - Send all the names, addresses, phone numbers of the new Delegate, and Committee members to WSO so the next committee will receive their information at the beginning of the year.
 - Send information on what our Area would like to see, what special projects they want WSO to spend bequest funds (if ever received) on. I have one suggestion so far, please email me no later than the end of November so I can meet WSO's deadline for responses.
- Thank you for all your trust, love, friendship and dedication to carrying the message of AFG.

OFFICER REPORTS

Chairperson: Jackie B.

- I have enjoyed serving as your Chairperson.
- Thank you to all those who have loved and supported me in this position.
- I am grateful for the challenges this position has given me, even though at the time they were difficult, I have had the opportunity to grow from them, more than from anything else in service.
- Please remember Al-Anon doesn't ask for proficiency in service, only willingness to be of service. After that we reach out for help from one another as we grow in our positions.

Alternate Delegate: John S.

- Attended SWRDM (South West Regional Delegate Meeting)
- Attended our first May Assembly
- At districts invitation I have spoken both personal share, about my job and at D27 for a meeting to discuss their elections and service.

Area Alateen Process Person: Lori K.

- Currently 51 registered Alateen groups. 296 certified Alateen Sponsors. There has been a spike in new meetings and sponsors in our area.
- Bi-annual updates from WSO will be out in January and distributed to DRs at the February Committee meeting. This is for data verification and to make updates for any changes. Use form A22-3 for group changes and A22-2 for sponsor changes.
- Vital step in communication: When AAPP sends DRs communications please immediately forward to your District Safety Administer and/or District Alateen Coordinator.
- New Alateen Safety Advisory Committee has not been able to meet. Welcome any suggestions for ASAC to address along with our first commitment to review all of the safety guidelines for Alateen participation in any events they attend as it regards our presence as an organization in public venues.

Secretary: Connie F.

- Even though the time served in the position was short (I became Secretary in May 2008), the opportunity to learn, catch up filing and updating documents was at a premium.
- I updated various items including NCWSA roster, motions passed/failed for both the Assembly and Committee Meetings. My biggest learning experience was preparing current year minutes. They are completed and available for viewing on the web site, www.ncwsa.org, then click on service. You will find various useful and informative items at this site.
- Thank you to all the Al-Anons who helped me not only with my many questions, but also the help with everything from editing the minutes to updating the web site with items I submitted.
- I would like to welcome all the new GRs to NCWSA and congratulate you on your commitment to your group. I am looking forward to meeting you and our new NCWSC and serving Al-Anon with you at the NCWSA. We learn in AFG, ODAT and this is especially true when our DR suggests we look something up in the CAL manual. If all those acronyms don't make sense that is ok, not a requirement for service. KISS and Keep Coming Back and before you know it you will be part of a KBDM and actually know what that means!

Treasurer: Nancy M.

- Thank you for trusting me with the books.
- Reminder: Please read and be careful when filling out the expense reimbursement reports.
- Mileage reimbursement is 58.5 cents right now and possibly going up to 70 cents per mile. It is a strain on our expenses. I suggest the next committee reconsider this reimbursement amount. In the meantime it would help if people could donate back some of their expenses.
- Flavia has been incredible; she has kept every single donation and deposit that has come in. I would also like to thank Judy and Lois from my district for sending out the donation thank you notes.
- There is a new revised Profit and Loss and Balance sheet which was passed around. Changes are: Line 110 on the Balance Sheet: Advances: these have been collected. Line 6 on the Profit and Loss: needs to be increased by \$875; line 36 H & I Conference needs posted to a different line. The bottom line did not change, and is in balance. Changes involved posting line items to different lines.
- Books are balanced, taxes are in, and forms are completed.

INTERGROUP LIAISONS

AIS District 6-10: Denice E.

- Represent: Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Nevada, Amador Counties.
- Group Representatives: I would like to encourage you to attend our Intergroup meeting. You also have a voice and vote in this group. An opportunity to serve!
- LDC open Saturdays.
- We are slowly filling our open positions.
- Public Outreach: We are asking our members for ways to get Al-Anon information out of their meetings into the community. We are looking at advertising on buses, bus stop benches. We have talked about providing literature to a facility that needs it. We participated in the Recovery Happens event at the Capitol in Sacramento.
- We have a committee revising our bylaws.
- We plan putting together an Intergroup Workshop.

Hispanic Intergroup: Julieta D. Intergroup office in South San Francisco. Business meetings for RSI first Sunday every month.

- Public Information: Meets every 4 months at Intergroup office. This committee also counts with three Public Sub-committees in the area of Santa Clara, East Bay and San Mateo; Participated in health fairs in San Jose; We also visit AA to bring the message of Al-Anon.
- Records: Keeps our entire Al-Anon/Alateen directory updated every two months. Bulletin news letter "La Antorcha" has renewed its edition as June 2006. This newsletter is to inform all Spanish groups about the current events and activities in our fellowship in Northern California.
- Hospitals and Institutions: Two groups open in San Jose.
- Alateen: Alateen committee workshop that meets every four months in the office. Two Alateen groups that are bilingual speaking. Located in Alviso and Oakland.
- Literature: Intergroup offices manages the literature center that supplies our 37 Spanish Al-Anon and Alateen and Preteen.
- Intergroup office: open three days a week; Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, from 1pm – 5pm. A member of Al-Anon is there during these times.
- Guidelines Study Workshop: Guidelines committee meets every 3 months in the Intergroup office to provide guidelines study workshops.
- Activities Committee: Coordinates fundraising activities.
- Magazine ad: Ad in Spanish magazine, "TV Espanola" that pertains in the Bay Area.
- Hispanic Convention: presently have rooms set up for English speaking meetings. Will check to see if we can get translations for English at the Convention.

Spanish Intergroup East Bay: Elisa G.: Office located in Pittsburg: Intergroup represents Napa, Sacramento, Pittsburg, Stockton, Concord, American Canyon, and Richmond.

- Meeting 1st Sunday Monthly.
- We have 15 meetings; 5 adult children meetings; 2 Alateen meetings;
- PI is working with Hispanic Health Fair in Pittsburg.
- Institutions – visits centers on Tuesday in Concord.
- Hispanic Convention is held in the north every other year. It was in Palm Springs and next year we were asked to coordinate the next convention. A new member asked what that means, “There is going to be a lot of service which means a lot of recovery.”

Discussion:

- At these Hispanic Conventions are there also interpreters available so English speaking people can attend?
Answer: We are working on it. An English speaking room is usually set aside for meetings. If enough people show interest we can get equipment there.

Santa Clara Valley AFG Intergroup: Chris A-C: Districts 20, 21, 22.

- 75 meetings Mt View to San Jose, Milpitas to Los Gatos.
- Break outs – we went thru a trial period using break outs of action committees including group services, and PI. Every other month we broke out to our action group.
- Even months we heard District Reports.
- Inventory of our group. Invited Vicki (Past Delegate) reviewed our new structure and get ideas for developing it further. Voted to keep the action committee as part of our Intergroup.
- Facelift: D22 generously contributing to revamp old office.
- Unity Day: Precipitated with Santa Clara Valley AAs. Awesome experience. We had two rooms with speaker, meeting, PSA presentation, Spanish speaking speaker and meeting.
- Annual Fundraiser at Community Center in San Jose with Father Tom featured speaker with panel of speakers also Theme: Change Attitudes. Food, Raffle, Fun.
- Insurance Coordinator: Has gotten all the groups covered through the insurance.
- Newsletter one of our best Assets: on our web site. We are linked to www.ncwsa.org/scvafg to see newsletter. Mike is trying to reach everyone thru the newsletter. He has a clipboard in hand and will ask everyone – have you seen our newsletter? No – give me your email and I will get it to you. Goal to reach groups not represented at Intergroup.
- Institutions: Challenge to keep a meeting going at a shelter. Need members to share.
- Challenge: to keep our volunteer base strong.
- Working with Denice in Sacramento 6-10 to host an Intergroup workshop.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 7th Tradition was passed

Announcements:

- Growing together weekend in May 2009 in Occidental everyone welcome Alateen, Al-Anon and AA
- June 12 – 14, 2009 Convention in Santa Clara see web site for details.
- Comment at closing: I would like clarification and someone may answer after Assembly. When we read the Steps, Traditions, Concepts and General Warranties today, for some reason I heard especially loud, Concept Five, the right of appeals protect the minorities and insure that they are heard. I am not exactly sure where that protection goes, but I hope it goes to the fact that if I have a minority opinion that I can express it and not get criticized for it. I hope that is the way we do things next panel.
- PRASA – Pacific Region Area Service Assembly (AA with Al-Anon participation) Like our Regional Service Seminars; March 6, 7, 8, 2009 in Oakland. Sandi C is Chairing. There is a Saturday afternoon luncheon with featured speaker.

Alateen Advisory Committee:

- WSO accepted our bid to host the Alateen Advisory Committee a special pilot project, during our Assembly this year. Mary Lou Associate Director Group Services for Alateen and Special Services and Doris Trustee and Volunteer Alateen Committee Chair from WSO in Virginia Beach joined our Area members; Alateen Coordinator Chris; Alateens Savannah, Christine, and Marin; Alateen Sponsors; Yvonne, Carla and Jay, to form the committee. Chris and Mary Lou reported to the Assembly:
- Mary Lou: Great to see so many Alateens and a very well attended Assembly.

Ask It Basket:

- Questions were asked via the Ask it Basket form. Some were answered during the Assembly as time allowed by the current Delegate and past Delegates. All answers are published in the 12 Stepper Year End Issue 2008.

Presentation: Art B.

- E-CAL (Electronic Conference Approved Literature) Different than our regular CAL although follows the same process. When somebody sends something in for E CAL it goes to a committee for review determining if it is within our guidelines. Much the same as CAL except much quicker. There is a six week deadline. About 15% of submissions are approved through this process. What the committee is looking for in not printed or written words, as those can be in the Forum etc. What they are looking for is Audio, Video, etc.
- Art recently submitted a slide show on Sponsorship which he showed to us. Art's slide show included pictures of the Northwest California coast featuring Sarah and friends.

Skit:

- A skit was presented about the appeal letter.

Bids: None presented

Committee Meetings:

- Feb 2009 Committee Meeting : Santa Rosa details to follow check web site for current information.
- May 2009 Committee Meeting: Location undetermined
- July 2009 Committee Meeting: Location undetermined

Assembly

- May 2009: Location Undetermined
- October 2009: Location Undetermined

