

Colorado Area Assembly, Greeley, CO

March 25 – 26, 2023 Minutes

OPENING / PURPOSE / WELCOME: Chair Nancy opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Wendy read the 12 Steps. Debbie read the 12 Traditions. Rhonda read the 12 Concepts. Nancy read the General Warranties and the purpose of the Assembly.

Nancy announced all and welcomed the Past Delegates who are all great resources for us.

HOST ANNOUNCEMENTS: Cindy made announcements.

ASSEMBLY RULES: Kara and Kellie did a skit of "The Sweet Rules of the Assembly"

ROLL CALL: Kara announced all of the Area Coordinators and Area Officers and had them stand to be recognized. Be sure to sign in on the green ledger, as we will be using this as the official record of the voting members of this Assembly. There are 21 districts who have sent GRs here today. There are 66 GRs. [See Addendum #1.](#)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 2022 Assembly was made by Cindy, and seconded by Kathleen. The motion passed with 10 abstentions.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

CHAIR REPORT: Nancy gave her report by referring to her article in the Butterfly. She wanted to talk about how service is recovery.

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer Kellie F. gave her report. [See attached presentation - Addendum #2.](#)

ALT-DELEGATE REPORT: Tom B. gave his report.

I would like to thank the members of the Assembly for the opportunity to attend the 2023 Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting (SWRDM) in Salt Lake City earlier this month. This year's program allow me to witness the power of our spiritual principles in action. It renewed my belief that one voice can make a difference. At the end of the 2022 meeting, our Regional Trustee heard a member's voice that the report she had given was not reflective of the work that the Board was doing. Her report this years was an interactive report where she allowed the members of SWRDM to prioritize the topics for discussion, had questions members had given her on these items, and delivered a report that I believe had excellent content and showed in greater detail the work of Al-Anon's Board of Trustees.

I also watched members bring up some very difficult issues, allow them to be discussed, and watched the Chair of this year's meeting guide us through the conversation, once again using the spiritual principles to guide us.

Later this afternoon I will be giving a review of the 2022 financials. I'm hoping to talk more about the spiritual principles of abundance, prudence, and cooperation brought us from a budget that showed a proposed loss of just over \$8,200 to a positive balance of approx. \$6,350, a positive swing of just over \$14,500.

Area Banner & Ask-It-Basket: Nancy explained about the traveling banner quilt. Rick explained the Ask-It-Basket.

OLD BUSINESS:

-TASK FORCE: Selling Literature at Area Events - Chuck gave his report

Task/Thought Force Charge:

Determine guidelines to implement the distribution of CAL at Area Events. Some items to consider:

- *Thought Force presentation slides.*
- *Which LDC/District/Host will sell at an event—one or all? How will the seller be selected?*
- *Who will coordinate interfacing with the literature seller for an event—Area-literature coordinator/District/Host?*
- *The Colorado Area does not budget expenses for travel/hotel to events to sell literature.*
- *Confirm what the different LDC's sell (pamphlets, books, etc. has changed during the pandemic, may be back to more full stock.)*
- *Explore the benefits and/or downsides of possible solutions and how that would best serve our Colorado Area.*

Overview of Task/Thought Force Work Plan: The task force met in December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023. We reviewed the Thought Force report and the charge. Dennis G. submitted a series of questions which were addressed.

Summary of Task/Thought Force Findings:
See recommendations below.

Task/Thought Force Recommendations:

1. Literature should be sold at area events. (As recommended by Thought Force)
2. An LDC registered with WSO should be the seller. There are presently three LDCs in Area 5: Pikes Peak Al-Anon/Alateen Service Center, Fort Collins, and Denver Area Service Center.
3. The event host should invite the closest LDC first. If they are unable to serve, invite the next closest, etc.
4. The LDC will be responsible for staffing their booth.
5. The location of the booth depends on space available. For example: the location in Burlington offered nothing but the back of the room. The DoubleTree in Greenwood Village has space at the back of the room, but sales (both to Al-Anon and AA) might be better in the hallway outside the room. Additionally, it might be beneficial to set up the booth at the Saturday night speaker's meeting.

6. The LDC should carry liability insurance. Special event coverage can be purchased for between \$40 and \$60

Action to be Taken: The Task Force asks the AWSC to adopt the following resolution:

1. Literature shall be sold at area events.
2. An LDC registered with WSO shall be the seller.
3. The event host shall invite the closest LDC first. If they are unable to serve, invite the next closest, etc.
4. The LDC shall be responsible for staffing their booth.
5. The location of the booth depends on space available as determined by LDC and Host committee.
6. The LDC shall carry liability insurance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chuck N., Sharon T., Dennis G., Betsy P., and Marcia S.

Tanya, GR district 12 - made a motion to move forward

Martha, GR district 25 - seconded the motion

Brooke asked a question and Chuck clarified that WSO gives an 8% profit on selling literature. If you travel to the assembly and sell literature, your expenses will outweigh the profit. The LDCs are invited and are not forced to attend.

Tom B. gave a history on the Area being an LDC, not being an LDC, and not budgeting this as an Area and the history of the task force.

There was a question about why we need liability insurance and about collecting tax. Chuck-Most of our venues require liability insurance. Our non-profit status doesn't prevent us from collecting sales tax. Tom clarified that "we" does not refer to the Area, we do not need liability or to collect tax or be responsible for this. It has nothing to do with the area except for the invite.

TMF - DR for district 20, one of the LDCs in Colorado. This is about all Area events, so some of us wouldn't be reimbursed to be at events other than Assemblies, so there may not be sales at some events. Question to TMF was asked if their LDC takes donations. A- Yes we do and don't make any profit on anything.

The motion was made again and the motion was actually read this time. Original motion:

1. Literature SHALL be sold at area events.

2. An LDC registered with WSO shall be the seller.
3. The event host shall invite the closest LDC first. If they are unable to serve, invite the next closest, etc.
4. The LDC shall be responsible for staffing their booth.
5. The location of the booth depends on space available. For example: the location in Burlington offered nothing but the back of the room. The DoubleTree in Greenwood Village has space at the back of the room, but sales (both to AI-Anon and AA) might be better in the hallway outside the room. Additionally, it might be beneficial to set up the booth at the Saturday night speaker's meeting.
6. The LDC shall carry liability insurance.

Donna asked that the wording for #1 "Literature MAY be sold at area events" and Tom added "by non-area related LDCs"

Kim wanted to define LDC, first line should say "Literature Distribution Center (LDC)"

Nancy suggested we circle back on this with amendments.

-THOUGHT FORCE: Moving one In-person Assembly to Virtual per Year - Debbe read her report - Add presentation - Addendum #3

This thought force is done and disbanding. Questions?

Brooke - There is conference software that can put people in separate rooms and control people speaking, but can imagine it is expensive. Debbe said that wasn't part of their charge. You can vote to look into other means of establishing or increasing participation in the area.

A proposition was made to establish a task force to look into the cost of having a hybrid assembly.

Jane asked about the percentage of GRs and did it drop. Debbe said it seemed to have stayed the same. It got started just because there was a thought.

Question about the security of being in an online platform. Debbe said it wasn't part of their charge.

Comment about not having enough tech people to do a hybrid assembly. We may not have the adept people to do this.

Nancy announced this thought force is done. The potential motion is if we want to continue in this vein to consider hybrid or something else. Think about it and bring it to us this afternoon and we can vote on it.

-TASK FORCE: Procedures for Electronic Groups in our Area Structure - Add presentation - Addendum #4

Mike, District 16 gave his report

Mary asked why we can't have both going on simultaneously - Mike said that would be a hybrid meeting and is out of the scope of this. If the online part wants to break from the face-to-face meetings, then they can petition to be part of the GEA or the CO Area.

The question came up about not feeling good about being able to attend in-person and the response was that they would probably be better off joining the GEA.

Hannah proposed that we move to accept the motion. **Attach motion here (Rick to send amended motion to me)**

Sheila seconded the motion.

Discussion -

Jen asked if the district has a right to decline when an electronic group asks to be a part of the district. Answer was that the district would have autonomy to respond as they would want.

Brice asked if 1c can be changed to the group may find a member to attend CO Area. Rick responded that it is in the service manual that groups should have representation at Area Assemblies. It's the same idea for regular groups.

Judy said the need to select a member to attend assemblies is a way for the e-groups to feel connected.

The vote was taken - There was no opposition, there were 4 abstentions. **The motion passed.**

Kari said it would be her honor to call WSO on Monday and let them know that the Colorado Area is prepared to accept electronic groups!

TIME WITH OUR DELEGATE: The Wider World of Al-Anon - Kari shared her report

Add presentation - Addendum #5

We broke for lunch - Nancy opened with the Serenity Prayer

AREA EVENTS:

Weekend in Al-Anon - Dana gave her report

The WIA committee had its first Zoom committee meeting the last Monday in February, 2/27/23, from 6pm-7pm. At the meeting Bev A. volunteered to be Secretary, Erika B. volunteered to be Treasurer and computer wizard, Judy P. (Co-chair of WIA) volunteered to make the "save the date" flier, do AM stretch session, lead the fire ceremony, night owl meetings, and lead the closing ceremony. Pat G. agreed to do crafts during the WIA. Dana S. (Chair WIA) agreed to do opening ceremony and to do early bird meetings (if no one else wanted to do it). We will meet the last Monday each month on Zoom (except Memorial Day - May meeting 5/24/23) from 6pm-7pm and starting in July, every 2 weeks on Zoom. We will

hopefully get confirmation from Meg V. as registration person and volunteers for silent auction, hospitality, and silent hike. Contact for volunteering is Dana 303-827-4663 (call or text).

[At the Assembly, Pat G. and Donna H. agreed to do Ice Breakers at the opening ceremony and Donna H. agreed to do line dancing.]

DIA - Kim shared about Day in Al-Anon - Alphabet Soup pot luck, April 1st in Colorado Springs

State Convention - Jim gave his update - Location will be here, in Greeley - TMF and Bill F have been helping and working with AA. Monica from Highlands Ranch will be lunchtime speaker and Kari our Delegate will be the Saturday night Speaker. September 1-3.

I would like to thank TMF and Bill F. for their help and support with the State Convention. To try to do it yourself would be nearly impossible. The State Convention will be held on Friday, September 1 through Sunday, September 3, 2023, right here at the Island Grove.

I am working with AA on some changes to the flier, which we will pass out later. It is posted on our website.

Our luncheon speaker will be Monica H, District Representative from the Highlands Ranch Area. Secondly, our Saturday speaker will be our delegate, Kari O, from Lafayette.

We look forward to you supporting us over Labor Day weekend.

There were some more host announcements from Cindy.

We circled back to vote on an **amended motion on selling CAL at Area events**

I move that motion be amended as follows:

1. The Colorado Area allow non-Area related Literature Distribution Centers (LDC) located within Colorado to sell conference approved literature at Area event at the LDCs discretion.
2. An LDC that is registered with the World Service Office (WSO) should be the seller.
3. The Area event host or host District for an Assembly may invite the closest LDC first. If they are unable to serve, invite the next closest, etc.
4. The LDC will be responsible for staffing their booth.
5. The location of the booth depends on space available.
6. The LDC may be asked to carry liability insurance as required by the meeting venue.

Amended motion first: Tanya

Amended motion second: Martha

The Assembly voted. No one opposed. 2 abstentions. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: Financial recap/2023 Budget - Alt-Delegate - Tom B.

The 2022 budget for the Area was approved with a loss of \$8,202 and we ended the year with an approx. gain of \$6,350. We are working on some year end adjustments and this figure will change, but it's important to know and understand how we went from a proposed loss to a gain, a difference of over \$14,500.

INCOME: Total income was budgeted for \$34,365 and we received a total of \$43,924, we were almost 128% over budget. Thank you to the Groups, Districts, Event Chairs, and members that were so generous.

Some highlights are:

	Actual	Budget	% of Budget
Assembly Collections	4,098	4,000	102.45%
Birthday Donations	882	250	352.80%
Day In Al-Anon	0	1,000	-100.00%
District Donations	5,092	3,700	137.61%
Group Donations	19,484	25,000	77.94%
Weekend In Al-Anon	3,310	0	

In summary:

2022 Budgeted Income - \$34,365

2022 Actual Income - \$43,924

Positive Difference - \$9,559

Percent of Budget – 127.82%

EXPENSES: Total expenses were budgeted at \$42,567, of which, we spent only \$37,572, a difference of \$4,995 (under budget). Once again, thank you to Officers, Coordinators, event chairs for being prudent with the Area's funds when addressing expenses for their positions.

Some highlights are:

	Actual	Budget	% of Budget
Coordinators & Event Chairs	982	4,210	23.32%
Assembly Expenses	11,512	19,400	59.34%
Officer Expenses	356	2,330	15.29%
Archive Rent	2,510	2,200	114.09%
SWRDM	3,089	3,630	85.10%

In Summary:

2022 Budgeted Expenses - \$42,567

2022 Actual Expenses - \$37,572

Difference - <\$4,995>

Percent of Budget – 88.27%

2021 Reserve Fund Analysis:

At the November Assembly, I presented our Ample Reserve Analysis. The calculations I presented at that time showed that our reserve funds were over funded by \$10,390 and based on our Area Guidelines, this amount was to be sent to the World Service Office.

Our previous Alternate Delegate, Kari O., and myself felt that this amount just didn't seem right and funds were not sent until a review of the analysis was completed. At a recent Finance Committee meeting, the members of the committee reviewed and discussed the calculation. It became evident that I did not account for the balance in the Special Project fund that was still needing to be paid.

Many of you will remember that we discovered that we had accumulated \$22,570 in excess reserves that the Assembly approved to be spent on special projects.

In 2021 the Area paid out \$10,132 of these funds, leaving \$12,438 to be expensed. When the reserve calculation was done, the \$12,438 balance (still in our checking and savings accounts) was not taken into consideration.

When the total account balances were adjusted, removing the \$12,438 from the calculation, our analysis of the reserve funds for 2022 was actually under funded by \$2,049.

I would like to apologize to the members of the Assembly and the members of our Area for this error and any confusion that it has caused. I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee for walking through this discussion and process with me.

COORDINATORS REPORTS:

Archives - Donna gave Dennis's report

The restoration of tapes to Disk has spent the \$12,000 at Airshow Mastering and Restoration. There are some tapes that are not converted to disk. In order to convert them the Area will have to decide how to use other funds to do those tapes to disk. Now that the Area has tapes converted to disk the Area has to decide how to make them available to the Area.

I have reached out to Dennis R., past Archives coordinator. He is willing to help me start doing Oral history again. Also I am looking into when and how Archives can release oral history to the Area.

Donna D. has brought the quilts with all patches the districts have put on them on display to the assembly.

Donna D. has put together the display board so the assembly can see it.

In Service Dennis G.

Pikes Peak Service Center - Sharon filling in for Mary Rose - They are able to access their email account. Emails are being archived. The service center is fully stocked with literature, expanding hours, and when approved, all groups will be notified. All positions have been filled. Finances are down, put out an appeal letter and hope to get more funds from that.

Denver Area Service Center - Chuck shared his report

The Denver Area Service Center is alive and well.

In the 4 months between November 1, 2022 and February 28, 2023 we

1. Received 282 phone calls
2. Sold 2096 Pieces of CAL
3. Had 95 people visit the office

Our biggest challenge is the lack of volunteers. We have 16 phone shifts a week which are 3 hours long. Presently 7 members volunteer for those shifts.

Urgently, we elect new board members in May and need to fill those positions. They are: Chair, Co-chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Chair of Volunteers, Liaison to Area, and Member at Large.

Alateen Coordinator - Karis shared her report

The AMIAS training has started out as a success. Training started Sunday, November 20th, 2022, and once a month up to March 19, 2023. Five training sessions in total. Trainings have been on Zoom and lasting 2 to 3 hours, depending on how many people are in attendance. Most AMIAS are interested in annual training.

Continued training will resume. Future AMIAS training dates to be announced. Stay tuned, I will keep you posted.

One of the observations I have had in facilitating AMIAS training is some hot topics. One has come from the "Tough stuff" section on suicide. I will be offering future Zoom meetings in April and May to discuss this topic. Dates for these discussion meetings to be announced. This is not part of training, it will be a time for AMIAS and anyone interested in discussing this subject to come together and share experience, strength, and hope.

There have been interest from Districts 2, 4, and 25 in starting, or reactivating Alateen meetings.

How many AMIAS have trained? 23 of 38 current AMIAS have trained. 8 of the 38 AMIAS are not planning to recertify. 23 new AMIAS, or members have trained (I am not sure if they have all certified, check with AAPP on that).

Thank you,
Karis Holveck
Colorado Area Alateen Coordinator
Panel 62

AAPP - Suzanne shared her report - [Add presentation - Addendum #6](#)

Literature/Forum - Marcia reported that the new reader "A Little Time for Myself" will be available at the International Convention at \$17. LDCs will be able to make preorders and the book will be available after the convention. The "Just for Tonight" Alateen bookmark is in its final stages and will hopefully be available within the year. We are always looking for stories or writings on CAL in the Forum.

More from Marcia's written report:

New to the role, this is my first Assembly in an Area servant role and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and grow.

2023 Literature Coordinator Conference Call: 38 gathered for the annual call. Key New Info: the \$10 shipping fee from Afg.inc (the Al-Anon/Alateen business responsible for production and distribution of CAL): Their cost to process any order is a minimum of \$10 and it encourages members to use, therefore support their local LDS's.

1. New Daily Reader: A Little Time for Myself releases at the International Convention and will be available on the Al-Anon.org Online store immediately following the convention. LDC's may preorder 2 months prior to the release. If your LDC isn't already taking names, you may want to start soon. List Price for this book is \$17.00 (B-34)

2. Alateen Just for Tonight Bookmark is undergoing final review by the Executive Director. Upon approval Spanish and French translations begin. Final release is not yet set, but as it was approved by the WSC in 2021 members are asking.

3. Sharings are needed for future issues of the CAL Corner of the Forum: please consider and encourage members to write about any piece of CAL that has helped them with their recovery. Sharings about any of the following are especially appreciated right now:

Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships B-33 (Needed by May 15th)

Discovering Choices- Recovery in Relationships B-30

As we Understood (B-11)

Al-Anon Spoken Here P-53

Al-Anon Sharings from Adult Children (P-47)

Al-Anon Family Groups-Classic Edition (B-5)

Submissions can be mailed in or submitted through Al-Anon.org <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/literature-resources/send-your-sharing/>

Literature Purchased through the Al-Anon.org online store, Local Literature Distribution Centers, and electronic materials purchased *by Clicking the Links* in the Al-Anon.org Online Store provide the most support to the WSO.

Spanish Coordinator - Deborah shared her report

Spanish Coordinator's Report

I cannot believe a year has passed already! I am grateful for the opportunity this position has afforded me to learn more about District 25. While my role at assemblies is generally that of interpreter, the larger role is to serve the needs of the Spanish speaking al-anon community and to act as a liaison or conduit between the groups. I have attended three district 25 meetings and have worked with the records coordinator to make sure the information from the groups is up to date. I have learned that District 25 mainly communicates through the What's App so distributing information is a bit more challenging than sending to an e-mail list. They were gracious enough to add me to the group. District 25 still does not have a DR- once that role is filled, communication and service should be much easier.

If you signed up to volunteer for the committee during a past assembly, please look for an e-mail from me in the coming weeks. Fatima and I have worked together to define the roles we think the committee needs so we welcome everyone's participation. If you are interested in serving on the committee please come talk to me or send an email to Spanishcoordinator@al-anon-co.org Spanish Coordinator. We are looking to become a committee of more than two people. Anyone with Google experience is particularly welcome. We respectfully ask that all translation requests be submitted a month in advance if possible (2 weeks minimum). Our committee of two has many other responsibilities and we want to make sure we can fulfill the needs of the group.

Thank you all for your patience,

Deborah A.

Spanish Coordinator

- This is the first time since 2016 that Fatima and Deborah had no one to interpret for.

Records Coordinator - Willard shared his report

Willard D.

Colorado Area Group Records Coordinator

As Area Group Records Coordinator, my primary task is maintaining the Area Group's records. During my first 15 months, I have learned a lot about the groups and their challenges. The

record changes I make are from the efforts of anyone that decides that a change in the people, places, and things about a group should be brought to my attention. An unreported very small change given enough time, can become a big deal. A Big Thank You to all who keep me informed of their Group's changes.

In December, a Workshop was held on Zoom to help GRs with how to make changes to their group records and addressing Electronic meetings and their place within the Area's Service Structure. I have the link to the Workshop, if anyone is interested in watching the video of it. Please email me at Records@al-anon-co.org and ask for the link to the Zoom Workshop. Additionally, Task Force work is determining the future policies, procedures, and practices associated with Electronic meetings in the Colorado Area.

Since the last Assembly, I started attending the Task Force meetings to increase my understanding of, and help in whatever way I am able to with the Task Force's charge.

As mentioned in my last Assembly report, I standardized the Active Group's Meeting type. A meeting is described as Face-to-face, Face-to-face EX, or an Electronic Only meeting. A Face-to-face meeting is a physical, in-person meeting. The standard Al-Anon meeting for 60+ years. The Face-to-face EX meeting has a physical, in-person meeting segment and an electronic meeting segment that EXtends the reach of the Face-to-face meeting discussion. They always meet on the same day and time. Most Electronic Only meetings originated with Face-to-face meetings but have become their own individual meeting. Either having been a Group that registered with the WSO as a Temporary Electronic Meeting (TEM) during the COVID-19 lock down or having been an Electronic meeting segment of a Face-to-face EX meeting that voted to go independent. The Electronic Only meetings meet at any day and time the meeting agrees to. The TEM are recognized by the WSO with all the rights and responsibilities of any Face-to-face meeting. Unregistered 'independent' Electronic meetings do not have any rights at this time.

Please consider creating a Group email address for your meeting, if it doesn't already have one yet.

Here's to a Continued Great 2023.
Regards.

Public Outreach - Margarita brought some pamphlets, so come to her table and pick some up to hand out as public outreach. She has the schedule for the spring health fairs.

WORKSHOP: "Where do I find that in the Service Manual?"

Kari, Delegate, discussed some examples of commonly used terms that are not in the service manual or CAL.

Workshop - "Obedience to the Unenforceable" Keeping Al-Anon, Al-Anon.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 25 is very much alive, they just don't have a DR yet.

District 4

Written by Tierney Skahill, District Rep
Read by Kathleen Delzell, Alternate District Rep

-All is well in SW Colorado with Al-Anon. Our goal has been to rebuild meetings back to pre pandemic levels and that has happened!

-We decided to keep all meetings in Durango hybrid because we have large areas to cover. Some people were driving 45 minutes one way.

-Cortez and Pagosa Springs have not embraced zoom due to unreliable internet. There are two meetings in Pagosa and one in Cortez.

-We have an Alano Club now in Durango and five (5) of our seven (7) groups meet there. We have invested in new zoom equipment there.

-We were able to restart a 5:30 evening meeting that failed during the pandemic.

-We have reinstated the 1st Wednesday shared AA Al-Anon speaker meeting and potluck. We had 30 people in March in a major blizzard!

-We have had an Alateen Outreach including Zoom training which will become a meeting as soon as we achieve a second sponsor hopefully in the next 4 weeks. This makes us very happy to have an evening of family recovery A.A., Al-Anon and Alateen.

-When you are traveling this summer to Durango come to see us and enjoy Al-Anon.

District 20, TMF shared his report

-Half the groups have a GR and most attend the District meetings. Looking to fill the SOC position, will hopefully have one in April and start back up with Outreach.

-We're looking for more AMIAS to join our Alateen team since we are struggling to hold meetings consistently

-Been handling a "security risk" at multiple group levels and working with groups to keep the District safe.

-LDC is working well and open to anyone's literature needs who are in Northern Colorado. Running the Friday hospitality room for Assembly and volunteering to help out with the State convention so the district is good in active service.

District 21, Joleen shared her report - **Attach report here - Joleen to send accessible report**

District 7, Bill shared his report - 5 in person groups, strong meetings, no electronic meetings, they do events about every other month, sponsorship event in April - there is a flier about it

District 11, Janice shared her report - getting more active participation from GRs, 10 meetings and 6 GRs regularly attends District meetings and some Alt-DRs, during the district monthly meeting we share from the service manual, public outreach, and participating in Pride festival.

Participating in the Health Fairs in Broomfield and Westminster in April. Partnering with District 12 to have an Al-Anon booth at Pride Fest. We will donate \$100 towards the cost of the booth and ask members of our groups to volunteer to serve at the booth on the days of the event.

District 13, John B.

-New meetings started in District, "Change of Heart" and "Serenity Seekers".

-Team is planning Spring into Recovery

District 6, Holly shared her report

Tracy stepped down 12-2022. I stepped up in Jan 2023 and was affirmed. We are having regular District Meetings 3rd Saturday at 11 at the Sun Rise Church Pueblo West, 3 regular meetings are represented. We have 4 regular meetings, 3 in person and 1 hybrid in Pueblo, 1 in Trinidad, 1 in Florence, 1 in Canyon City, 1 in Westcliff, 1 in Colorado City virtual only. 9 meetings.

We have a district secretary, district treasurer, Public Outreach Coordinator, Literature Coordinator. Our Literature Coordinator planson visiting all our meetings in District 6. We have 2 Health Fairs we are participating in; April 15th in Pueblo and April 29th in Canyon City.

Destination meetings - We are going to meetings in our district outside of Pueblo. We visited Trinidad last fall. We visited Florence on March 13. We will be visiting Westcliff on June 10th.

We are talking about putting more focus on prison service and have started to connect with the DOC. So impacted by the speaker from the Fall Assembly - Thank you Donna!

We're excited to go to International in Albuquerque and want to challenge all the other districts in Colorado to beat how many members show up!

District 17, Betsy shared her report

My name is Betsy Porter. I am the contact person for district 17, the one group district. We will soon be a 2 group district! In the past quarter we helped our AA group put on a very successful round robin. The Al-Anon speaker was Eloy M. and we're so grateful for his great presentation. Today we've volunteered to help with the Silent Auction. Thanks to all who helped, especially Nancy F. It is a great success. Thank you.

District 16, Kim shared her report

39 meetings; 3 considering Zoom

Reviewing our guidelines

DR making rounds to all meetings, annually

Public outreach back into activity

Woodland Park - Springing into Recovery - May 20, 10-3:30 pm

District 2, Gai representing and shared her report - 11 meetings active, several members certifying as AMIAS because teens are waiting for them, first meeting on April 3rd

District 14, Donna representing and shared that they have 14 meetings, will be doing a workshop on sponsorship in the Fall. There are now 5 volunteers at the Women's Prison, rather than just her.

District 9, Tom F - not present, but sent report to Secretary to be included in minutes.

District 9 has thirteen Groups with fifteen meetings.

Our monthly district meeting has been going well. We are using the hybrid meeting format. We meet the second Tuesday of the month. Our attendance has been fluctuating since the Fall Assembly. Hopefully our attendance continues to increase with the grace of God.

Outreach:

Our monthly AA & Al-Anon Speaker meetings on the second Friday of the month has been great. The potluck starts at 6:00 PM and the speakers meeting is at 7:00 PM. St. Paul's Lutheran Church located at 10th and Garrison in Lakewood. We have had anywhere from 50 to 70 attendees. Please come join us.

District 9 accumulated an excess of funds from the pandemic and Zoom Assemblies. We decided donate these funds to the Denver Women's Detention Facilities Al-Anon coordinator for Al-Anon literature allowed in the facility.

Nancy reminded the Assembly of the Ask it Basket and that there is a form for a proposed topic for Area consideration

GRs SPEAK:

Adrian - new GR shared a story

Sheila - part of an electronic meeting, curious about how do we get a thought force started about starting a hybrid Assembly

Nancy said we don't need a motion to have a thought or task force. Took a straw poll of who wants to have some exploration into having hybrid Assemblies. Do we want a thought force on hybrid assemblies? 30 Yes; 26 No Nancy will draw up a charge for a Task Force

Judy has a problem about not having cross-talk. Kari read from page 11 in the Service Manual we talk about a loving interchange and giving advice is not one of them. She also read from page 21, dominance.

Sheila - Gave a shout out to GR Connects

Donna - Has an idea that when she reports back to her group after the assembly, include the workshop about delusion and start a conversation. Have a meeting on "What is Al-Anon".

Regina shared a story about cross-talk

Tanya asked for a resource person regarding electronic meeting group registration. Willard responded and had a bunch of electronic registration forms with him. It's him.

Lisa - Put in a plug for Al-Anon literature. Someone in her group said that everyone comes to the GR with questions. She goes to the literature to find (or not find) the answers.

AWARDING OF THE BANNER: Cindy announced that District 17 won because they had 100% and Betsy accepted. District 7 is in second place with 80% with 5 groups and 4 GRs present.

Nancy made a few announcements. She also asked if there is a District who wants to host the Summer Assembly.

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNS – Chair Nancy closed us out with the Serenity Prayer and the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kara E.

Panel 62, Area Secretary

ASK IT BASKET – Sunday, 3-26-23

Nancy opened with the Serenity Prayer and made some announcements.

1. Tom B

Q: I was just recently informed that “Keep coming back it works if you work it.” Is NOT Al-Anon – After today, I wonder if it’s Al-Anon? Is it?

A: After our workshop today (yesterday) on dilution ... where is it in our Service Manual? On page 19 of the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual v2, the Suggested Closing ends with “Will all who care to, join me in closing with the _____ prayer?” and goes no further.

Concern over the length of meeting closings because of the additions of chants was a discussion topic at the 2001 World Service Conference. The Conference members concluded that it is not appropriate for the WSO or the Conference to make a policy or issue a statement regarding the use of chants in the closing of a meeting. Conference members were in agreement that it is within group autonomy to determine the use of chants and/or prayers at the end of a meeting by making a group conscience decision that abides by the Traditions. The group conscience decision could then be stated at the end of the meeting. Conference members were reminded that our co-founder, Lois W., “It doesn’t matter what (prayer) we close with, but we close with a spiritual moment.” Details of this discussion can be found in the 2001 World Conference Summary, page 21.

So there is no official policy regarding chants; how groups close their meetings is the decision of an informed group conscience.

It is believed by some that the chant entered our rooms from treatment centers or other 12-Step recovery programs. If this is the case, Page 134 of the current service manual, under Dilution of the Al-Anon Program, see the section on Outside Therapies which states: "Our Al-anon experience helps us understand that we are powerless over another person's drinking. This makes us aware at a meeting of the danger of being diverted from our own recovery by techniques that are focused on the recovery of the alcoholic."

Some members believe that this is a way of encouraging newcomers to return to the meeting. Some members believe that this can cause confusion with the newcomer and possibly scare them away. While others feel that use of a chant can give the impression that Al-Anon is a cult.

A group inventory around this practice may be a helpful way for the members of the group to understand how this may be affecting the newcomer. A review and full discussion of Tradition 4 may be in order to see if this could be affecting another group or Al-Anon as a whole.

Our 5th tradition tells us that we are to welcome and give comfort to families of alcoholics. By using the chant, thinking that we are welcoming and encouraging the newcomer to come back, are we truly honoring the spirit of this Tradition. Let it begin with me comes to mind. Have I warmly welcomed the newcomer in person? Have I taken them to the literature table to offer them a pamphlet or suggest a book that might be helpful to them? Have I asked them if they have any questions? Have I offered them my name and phone number? And the list goes on ... all things that a chant can't do.

Last but not least, as a member, I have a choice as whether or not I want to participate in the chant and swinging of my arms. For me, the answer is no, I do not. People have asked why I don't say the chant and I have that opportunity to educate the member.

2. Kellie - Q - What is the current mileage rate for expense report reimbursement? A - \$ 0.14

3. Kari - Q - I am a GR for a meeting currently meeting in a hybrid format. We are discussing the possibility of discontinuing the hybrid and being face-to-face only. We have a member who believes we can have a face-to-face meeting and a separate zoom meeting at the same time and as long as we hold joint business we are not actually two meetings. Does this fall under group autonomy?

This is one of the Thought Forces that the WSO is working on and I should have an answer for you at the Summer Assembly.

4. Nancy - Q - How can we encourage our groups to embrace the service manual more? Can we have a workshop?

A - We can always have a workshop. The GRs will be meeting with me soon. If you are a GR or a DR we usually go to the service manual first. The traditions get well worn. Until I need it then it begins to gain attraction to my go to and understanding.

5. Kari - Q - What is the area website to look for postings from yesterday's workshop? Answer: www.al-anon-co.org

6. Tom - Q - If we are not supposed to sell things why does Al-Anon have a flea market? Q - I assume this is referring to the Silent Auction. Pages 106 - 107 in the Service Manual - Talks about what we can sell and staying non-commercial.

7. Kelly - Butterfly Coordinator - Q - How do I get a Butterfly? A: Give your email address to Kelly, Butterfly Coordinator. The Butterfly comes out 3 times a year about a month before each Assembly. You can also go to our Area website al-anon-co.org. butterfly@al-anon-co.org and you can send an email at any time and it is completely free.

FINAL NUMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

7 th Tradition	\$726.50
Silent Auction	\$885
Total:	\$1,611.15

Chair Nancy closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.
