

AWSC Meeting, July 12, 2024

Colorado Area, Grand Junction, CO

OPENING: Chair Nancy opened the AWSC with the Serenity Prayer. Wendy read the 12 Steps. Patricia B. read the Traditions. Kathy read the Concepts. Nancy read the purpose of the AWSC.

ROLL CALL: Secretary Kara E. took roll. Members present during roll were **District Representatives:** Wendy - 02, Vikki - 03, Tierney - 04, Holly - 06, Bill F. - 07, Kathy - 08, Tom F. - 09, Janice – 11, Edward - 12, John B. – 13, Marcia - 16, TMF - 20, Marie - 22; **Alternate District Reps:** Bill S. - 09; **Coordinators:** Dennis – Archives, Willard – Group Records, Joanne – IT/Media; **Event Chairs:** Barb P. – State Convention 2024; **Service Center Liaisons:** Pikes Peak Service Center - Chesley ; **Service Center Coordinators:** ; **Officers:** Nancy – Chair, Tom B. - Alt-Delegate, Kari - Delegate, Kara – Secretary, Kellie - Treasurer; **Past Delegates:** Chesley - Panel 29, Nancy B. - Panel 32, Michelle - Panel 35, Dennis - Panel 38, Tom B. – Panel 47, Teri - Panel 50, Marilyn - Panel 53, Marcia - Panel 58/CA-S, and Rick - Panel 59.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Edward moved to approve the June 2, 2024 AWSC minutes. TMF seconded the motion. There were 2 abstentions. The motion passed.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Chair Nancy gave a short report about tomorrow.

Delegate Kari will give her report tomorrow.

Alternate Delegate - Tom B. - sent a message about getting your budget, if needed, to Kellie by July 15. If you think something needs to be included or needs to be taken out, please get that to Tom and Kellie by Monday.

Treasurer Kellie said she has her checkbook with her so if you give her your expense reports before we leave on Sunday, she will have a check for you.

Secretary Kara reminded everyone with a report to please send it to me tonight OR let me know I will receive it BEFORE you give the report at the Assembly.

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

Nancy invited the Coordinators to give reports tonight.

Archives - Dennis will give a report tomorrow

IT/Media - Joanne - main report will be tomorrow. We purchased some new mics and a mixer and we'll be using it to demonstrate our Zoom capabilities and it should make it easier for us to hear each other.

Records - Willard - will give report tomorrow

State Convention - Barb - Will give a report tomorrow. There are extreme difficulties with online registration. Hopefully they will work it out this weekend, but if you are having difficulties, please fill out your registration and mail it. The State Convention will be in Pueblo, August 16-18

Day In Al-Anon - Will give a report tomorrow

Pikes Peak - Chesley shared this is the 50th anniversary of the Pikes Peak Service Center. They will have a celebration on September 18th from 5:30-7:30 pm.

Nancy asked if there are any reports from DRs or anything else to bring up.

Holly will have a report tomorrow. She wanted to bring it to the attention of the AWSC that we may need to pay someone to do our technology and it is clear in the service manual that we can pay professionals for jobs we can not do.

Gene, AZ Panel 62 delegate. AZ made a decision over 3 years ago to bring in outside professionals to manage their website and technology. It was the best move they ever made. They had started 6 months behind because it took that long to get their emails. They went through the Thought Force, Task Force, and then did it. Technology is always updating and new, so it was difficult to do all of the updates and add-ins without the professional assistance.

Rick asked how much they pay? Gene said they paid an initial fee and they use about 2.5 hours a month and it is about \$4k a year.

Kathy asked if it was an organization? Gene said no it was a professional person who has his own business. Gene said this is for the Area. They designated 2 people as the chief contact people for content (Chair and Delegate).

Barb said it's become a job that is more time consuming and more professional experience to be expected from a volunteer.

Linda, previous Website coordinator, asked how do you address anonymity? Gene said they sign an anonymity document and they understand our principles. It is in our contract with them.

John said it's standard to have a non-disclosure statement with IT professionals.

Kari said we have paid workers at WSO who are not members. Asked if this person also does their PCs. Gene said no, specifically website and all emails tied into the website.

Rick asked if AZ would share the contract with us, Gene said yes, he wrote it.

TMF asked if they have a Website Coordinator, Gene said no, they have a temporary Tech person who is on AFG Connects.

Tom asked if their tech person includes all of their hybrid stuff and Gene said no.

They get 400-600 people at their convention, the tech guy is reasonable, but charges by the 15 minute increment. Gene said it's a great thing, but they have to be judicious. One year their expenses got pretty high, so they need to keep it in check.

Nancy said the next step would be to put together a Thought Force. Wendy asked for that to get started. Marilyn asked if it's a problem to start a Thought Force too soon to the end of this panel?

TMF said Thought Forces usually start with a charge from our Chair.

Tom F said the GRs need to be involved and said we should bring it to them and have their involvement.

Kari said charges at the WSC have dates on them stating when they need to be completed. She suggests we have a due date on it so you can bring it to the Budget assembly.

Gene said the Thought Force looks at what the Area needs. The Task force takes what the area needs and makes it happen, but doesn't happen until the Area agrees what the needs are.

Tom explained that since this is starting in the AWSC, we would possibly bring it to the Assembly in November and rush it to a decision. But we can bring it up during the Assembly and start the Thought Force in that body.

Nancy took a straw poll consensus to see if we want to add this to the agenda and bring this to the Assembly tomorrow. 12 for, 3 against, 3 abstained - Nancy said it passed and she will add it to the agenda.

Minority opinion - John asked what problems are we trying to solve?

Barb said yes we are having problems. She has not been able to get a response back from the Website Coordinator and hasn't been able to get access to her email or any correspondence since she started as the State convention chair.

TMF disagrees and doesn't think it's a problem. Concept 4, if we are trying to eliminate a coordinator position that we have filled to this point, those who volunteer for this position know the role, technology is not that scary, and personally I don't think the Website Coordinator is that scary or difficult of a position for one person.

Marcia shared, that's the beauty of a Thought Force to look into if this is really a need. Maybe it's not a need now, but maybe it's a need in the future. The Thought Force starts the process.

Chesley read page 140 in the Service manual, Area World Service Committee. We meet together to plan the agenda for the assembly, initiate projects, and ... We are initiating a project here, setting up a Thought Force, and then we make a recommendation to the Assembly or just drop it.

Joanne mentioned it would be good to bring to the GRs but would they know the issues because they don't have emails, just the AWSC does.

Kathy said if the DRs aren't getting the emails, then the GRs aren't getting the emails.

Revote - Take this to the assembly tomorrow for a Thought Force?

Tom called for a point of order. Based on the info presented by minority opinion, does it make sense to call for a new vote? 10 people said yes, 6 said no. The revote went ahead.

New poll, do we want to take this to the assembly tomorrow to create a Thought Force. In favor - 12, Against - 4, abstained - 2. It goes to the Assembly under new business tomorrow to form a Thought Force charge.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:

Redistricting Activity in the Colorado Area, Nancy said this is somewhat on hold as there is some activity going on in the district with the need to eliminate itself, so doesn't think there is anything to report on. Edward wanted a review of this issue. Nancy reviewed what was going on. District 24 in Loveland was trying to get someone to step up to be DR and thought they could combine with District 20, but since then, there has been some activity and interest in finding a DR over the last few months.

Consideration of all AWSC Members voting in the AWSC body, This is on our agenda but not ready for any discussion or presentation yet. Nancy said this subject needs to be framed with the KBDM process. What is this and why are we doing this? Nancy is postponing this until our next Assembly for more time and support that this deserves.

Task Force for Implementation of Hybrid Assembly, Teri M. said we will be so happy and surprised tomorrow. Our charge was to implement this. We did not spend any money on this that wouldn't have been spent anyway. We know we can do it and will show you tomorrow. More will be revealed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion about GR Connection, Nancy said there needs to be some follow up with GR Connects which she hasn't done. Wendy said one of her GRs said the last Assembly that was in Denver she was given a mentor and a packet of info and it was very helpful. It was different the last couple of times.

WSC Report, Kari said she will hold off until tomorrow.

Summer Assembly Workshop - Area positions and our November election Assembly. Nancy said our workshop will be on Leadership and our service journeys and where we go from here while learning about Concepts 9 & 10. Kari said you were to have read concepts 9 & 10 in the service manual before assembly. When you registered, you should have received a list of bullets summarizing Bill's essay. The other piece you should have received is My Service Journey, where am I headed. An inventory of service and where am I headed.

Tom added that the DRs can start thinking about their next service opportunity and also talking to their GRs about what to start thinking about at the District level, so it is not just about your service journey.

Colorado Area inventory, Nancy said in our Guidelines we are supposed to do an Area wide inventory in our 3rd year. Nancy will be getting it to you soon and it will have deadlines. Michelle clarified that it is an Assembly and an AWSC inventory.

Nancy asked if there was a district that was going to host the Winter Assembly in Denver in Greenwood Village? No one volunteered, so she will ask tomorrow.

Edward said District 12 would gladly host the virtual AWSC Budget meeting on September 21st, roughly starting around 9 am.

Edward said he would take the stuff for Assembly back to the front range from Wendy for the next assembly. Dennis would be happy to store it in the Archives storage.

General Announcements

-Ricked volunteered to run the Ask It Basket at this Assembly

Nancy announced the upcoming Assemblies

Spring, March 21-23, 2025 - Fort Collins, CO - DoubleTree Hilton

Summer, July 18-20, 2025 - only one bid - Grand Junction, CO - DoubleTree Hilton

State Convention in 2025 is in Fort Collins

State Convention in 2026 will be at the Antlers in Colorado Springs

March 14-16, 2025 SWRDM will be in Westminster - hosting 8 other Areas

TMF had a question come up from a GR and wanted to present it to the AWSC. What do districts do to support small group GRs to go to assembly? Do we have to consider tradition 7 when we are talking about this? If we are fully self supporting does that mean that other groups in our district can support the smaller group? Wendy and Kathy are also having this conversation too. John also discussed and the district had money and it seemed sensible for them to support their groups. Nancy asked if it was a question of autonomy? Kathy is working on a workshop in their district and the funds would go to a scholarship to send a GR to the Assembly. Marilyn asked if this lies within the autonomy at the district level, perhaps this is a helpful topic at the Sunday meeting for DRs. Dennis said in District 14 they have the same problem. The answer is in the AI-Anon group members that are institutionalized, they get donations from outside the group, so District 14 does support the women's institute GR. Nancy is with the DRs on Sunday and we can talk about it then.

Tierney's district voted to pool their money and send every GR in their district to the Assembly and they have 100% participation.

Kari wanted to talk about the flow of money. When she was DR in district 8, they offered a scholarship fund to send GRs. Since then she learned a lot about the flow of money. In general money doesn't flow from districts back to groups. When the area is short of funds, we write an appeal letter, we don't call up the WSO and ask for funding. She hopes that becomes part of the conversation at the district level.

CLOSING: Chair Nancy closed the meeting with the Serenity Prayer and the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kara E.

Panel 62, Secretary