

AWSC Meeting - Feb 2

Attendees

Officers: Linda (Chair), TMF (Delegate), Janice (Treasurer), Grete (Alt Delegate), Hannah (Secretary)

DRs: Jessica (Alt 20), Tierney (4), Colleen (20), Rich (16), Kara (11), Willard (Alt 3), Katherine (8), Wendy (2), Tammy (14), Mike (24), Marie (22)

Coordinators: Sheila (Web Coord), Sue (Butterfly), Adrian (IT Media), Jen (Public Outreach), Julie (Literature/Forum), Dennis (Archives), Heather (Alateen Coordinator), Brice (Group Area Records), Chris (GR Connection), Lori (AAPP)

Past Delegates: Eloy, Kari, Rick, Tom, Marylin, Teri, Marcia

Members at Large: Bill

Serenity Prayer, Steps and Traditions

Statement of Meeting Purpose

Approval of Nov 24 AWSC Meeting Minutes

- Kara moved to approve.
- Reminder that members with voting rights are Officers, DRs, Coordinators, Liaisons.
- Colleen seconded.

Approve- 11

Abstain- 9

Deny- 0

Treasurer Report

- Request to remind GRs that the address has changed and checks should include both group name and group number.
- We may start to use Zelle to accept donations, but officers are still discussing
 - Colleen commented that many groups in her area use Zelle and find it helpful.
 - Sheila gave feedback that Zelle would be fantastic and would allow her electronic group to donate.
 - Grete gave the information that Zelle is free for the area to pay reimbursements or accept donations. She and Janice are still discussing.
 - Katherine asked to clarify that there is currently no option for donating electronically. Janice said that yes, there currently is no option. Katherine agrees that groups in her district would like to be able to contribute electronically.
 - Tom said that Zelle can be set up using a phone number or email address, and he recommended setting it up with the email address.

- Janice pointed out that although it will be connected to the treasurer, her name as an individual will show on the account.
- Wendy asked if they could just move for a vote currently on using Zelle
- Linda said that Janice and Grete are going to keep working on it and let the body know if it will work out.
- TMF noted that Zelle does require having a bank account or pre-paid debit account associated with the Zelle account.
- Colleen said that DIA last year used Zelle but that the majority of participants used Zelle. It worked well for them.
- Chris said that electronic contribution is here and everyone uses it, so he doesn't see why we wouldn't use it.
- Tierney agrees

Alt-Delegate Report

- Area lost the Registered Agent (receives legal docs on behalf of a business and file annual reports on behalf of the organization). It is a small position. The officers discussed asking past delegates if anyone is willing to hold this role, and Grete will send out an email with this request soon.
- Weekend in AI Anon (WIA) - We don't have a chair currently and have not signed a contract for a location. There has not been as much communication as would be desired with WIA in the past. The past WIA panel is still getting together numbers for how the event went last year.
 - Katherine thinks it would be important to see the financial impact of the event when we discuss it.
- Received the DR orientation packet and heard that it was not widely circulated with the last panel. She will be revising it for use at the Sunday meeting at the end of the upcoming assembly.
 - Katherine asked to clarify that there is a handbook of sorts for DRs. Grete confirmed that there is.

Delegate Report

- In lots of meetings for the past month and has the Chairman of the Board Meeting (COB) coming up. He will bring a detailed report to the assembly.
- He wants to plan a workshop based on what they are talking about at conference for the assembly, and wants to do skits. Anyone who wants to participate in those skits, let TMF know!
- If you have a request for the delegate to attend a meeting in the upcoming months and he does not come, heads up that he is finishing out his last semester as a student and is juggling a lot right now.
- Tom asked about love gifts and whether the delegate has to carry them physically.
 - TMF responded that he does have to carry them in his suitcase other than letters, which can be sent by mail.
 - Send love gifts to TMF no later than the 12th of April if you wish to.

Chair Report

- Heads up that for the spring assembly AWSC meeting as a DR or coordinator, please write it and send it to Hannah to be included in the minutes.
- Spring Assembly is March 21-23 in Fort Collins.
- Checked in if everyone is connected with their emails etc. If anyone knows someone who is not, have them reach out to Sheila.
- Kara asked about the information for the hotel for the upcoming assembly. Linda responded that if the info is not on our website yet, go to coloradoaa.org and look under assemblies.
- Tammy said that the hotel is already sold out of the special room rates at least for Friday night. (Kari agreed that she saw this as well).
- Reminder that Linda sent out a yearly calendar. If anyone sees something missing/incorrect on it, feel free to email her.
 - AA has the winter assembly set for Nov 21-23 in Cripple Creek.
 - Katherine asked if Linda could send the yearly calendar again.

Eloy & Tom - On Assemblies Conducted with AA

- Historically al anon has done assemblies with AA, and AA has booked spaces etc.
- The previous chair, Nancy, asked for a group of people to be in conversation with AA to determine if al anon still wants to do assemblies together with AA.
- Eloy and others did research about why al anon started doing the assemblies together, but did not find evidence.
- There have been four meetings so far with AA's liaisons.
- Questions to consider:
 - Are we ready to do assemblies alone?
 - Do we prefer to do assemblies together with AA?
 - What are the benefits of doing our own assemblies?
 - What are the benefits of joint assemblies?
 - How does this impact the proposal of hybrid assemblies?
- Please send questions / comments / a paragraph response, to Eloy and Tom (Panel47@al-anon-co.org and Panel56@al-anon-co.org).
- Tom provided more clarification that AA is exploring a lot of options (virtual assemblies, one-day assemblies etc.) He also clarified that if al-anon wants to be fully self supporting with regards to our assemblies, AA doesn't quite see why we don't just do it on our own. AA may ultimately ask us to no longer do assemblies together.
- Rich asks: Why is AA looking into making a change? What do other areas around the US do?
 - Tom responds that most assemblies meet separately from AA, and that they are looking at ways to streamline their assemblies and reduce cost.
- Marcia is grateful that our area is starting to look at this, and would be happy to participate in KBDMs. She also asks if they had considered a poll to go out to the wider membership of al-anon.

- Tom asked that DRs bring the questions back to their GRs. He feels that a poll would be premature at this time.
- Eloy says that this is the starting point and they will bring the issue to the spring assembly as well.
- Linda asked if Eloy and Tom have the list of people who volunteered to be on a thought force for this topic. They have not, so Linda will send it to them.
- Linda also reminded everyone that this is the beginning of a process and it could take up to two years for there to be a decision.
- Jessica is a new Alt DR but has a lot of experience in service. Their assemblies are a very large endeavor and are planned far in advance. She thinks it would be valuable to split up from AA for the sake of being self-supporting.
- TMF asked if AA is looking into hybrid or virtual assembly options?
 - Tom said yes
- Chris thinks that if we did do this, we might be able to consolidate Friday night and Sunday morning into one day instead of being separate. He also asked if assemblies generally have the same format as ours?
 - Eloy clarified that the discussion currently is purely around whether we should stick with AA or not.
- Sheila feels uneasy that work is being done without the thought force having started. She'd like to see the work pause until everyone is on board.
 - Tom responded that they are currently working in the spirit of cooperation with AA to have communication open, and that their work is purely investigative.
- Katherine has career experience with event planning and believes that it is something we would be capable of as an area. It might require a position responsible for it. She is glad that the work is starting in case AA decides to uninclude us.

Teri - On Implementing Hybrid Assemblies

- Her report is in the Butterfly
- The task force will send some info out to DRs, which should make it to GRs
- They are starting to work on allowing GRs to vote electronically at assemblies.
- Tom asked if the task force currently has a way to reach out to districts without DRs
 - Teri said that she will post the information on the website
- Linda asked how GRs indicate that they want to participate electronically
 - Teri said there will be a registration link, which will be sent with the information to the DRs.

Linda - Weekend in AI-Anon

- History: in 2017 there was a task force regarding WIA location, and in 2019 there was a motion to continue with WIA for that year.
- Asked DRs to reach out to their GRs and see if there is interest in WIA for this year, because we need to get moving if the event will happen.
- Linda said that if we don't hear anything from GRs, we may want to have a task force to discuss if WIA is an event that the area should continue with.
- Colleen asked what the proposed WIA dates were.

- 1st weekend in October at Glacier View Ranch.
- Wendy expressed the concern that WIA is not handicap accessible, and that it could impact attendance.
- Linda responded that she has heard that feedback before. A task force previously looked at different venues, but costs were prohibitive elsewhere. She agrees that maybe we need to revisit it as an area.
- Grete said that way back when venues were changed from Trails West to Glacier View, they scrambled for a location. She also agrees that maybe we need to revisit WIA financially, with regards to the location etc. She also agrees that there are drawbacks to Glacier View.
- Tom said that so far it looks like the event made money (about \$1,000 in the positive), but he and the treasurer are still working to sure up the expense.
- Grete asked if there would be time to get feedback from GRs at this point.
 - Linda said that she cannot make that decision, which is why she is asking GRs for opinions ASAP. If it cannot be done in time to get the deposit in to Glacier View, then maybe a thought force and task force will follow up.

TMF - World Service Conference (WSC)

- If you have any chosen agenda item suggestions, send them into TMF by February 14th.
- Chosen agenda items for SWRDM are not the same as those for WSC.
- What is a chosen agenda item? → Items that delegates submit for being on the agenda. Each delegate gets 2, and then similar topics are combined and voted on.
- If you want to review some of the past chosen agenda items, that information is on the website.
- Sheila is confused about why there are different agenda items for SWRDM vs WSC
 - Tom responded that SWRDM is to prepare the delegates, but not to discuss current agenda items. At SWRDM they create an agenda that would mirror the WSC item and ask for items to discuss and help prepare the delegate. It is similar to a mock trial - they want the delegate to have the opportunity to practice.
- Marilyn asked if TMF wanted to mention the number of words allowed for the suggestions.
 - TMF said that chosen agenda items have to be formatted specifically. 25 words for the topic and 75 for the rationale. He plans to ensure that submissions are formatted correctly, if they are not submitted to him in that state.

Other Business

- Linda asked DRs to ask GRs what kind of workshops they would like to have at upcoming assemblies. Email Linda any feedback
- If you are interested in helping host virtual AWSC meeting and district / area events, reach out to Linda
- Call for Districts to host the summer assembly (Grand Junction) and the winter assembly (Cripple Creek).
 - Wendy said that District 2 will not be hosting the summer assembly, so she asked another district to step up.

- Rich said that his district will host the Cripple Creek assembly for winter. They would be interested in finding a go-to checklist of what to do for hosting the assembly. Linda responded that there is a checklist on the website.
- Wendy said that the guidelines for the assembly host are missing the tech help, especially with hybrid assemblies coming up.
- Linda reminded that for SWRDM they are accepting love gifts. Kari is the contact for that.
 - Kari said that anything colorado-ish is good for this, if you want to contribute. Post cards / candy etc. If you want to send any 7th tradition contributions, they will be used to get love gifts.
 - Eloy also suggested the idea of colored sharpies.
 - Katherine asked who is getting the love gifts for SWRDM. Kari responded that they make about 80 gift bags for the attendees of the event. The attendees are past-delegates from the southwest region, plus past and present trustees.
 - Marcia recommended attending SWRDM for anyone who has not been before. 7th tradition donations are accepted for SWRDM, but it needs to be separate from the group's usual 7th tradition funds.

Linda asked for any final business:

- Sue mentioned May 15th butterfly deadline for submissions
- Wendy said that the information in the butterfly about the DIA was partially incorrect, and the event will be slightly longer than stated. DIA is April 5th in Grand Junction.
- Kara said that if anyone wants to volunteer for SWRDM, email her and she will add you to the volunteer list. dr11@al-anon-co.org
- Teri and Tammy said that Tiffany (a past-inmate and al-anon member) will be speaking 7-8, speakers 8-9 Saturday the 15th. Teri has a flyer with info.

Close with AI-Anon Declaration