

AWSC Meeting - June 8, 2025

Attendees

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

DRs: Bill (Alt 7), Rich (16), Willard (Alt 13), Honey (13), Mike (24), Kara (11), Tammy (14), David (9), Kara (11), Colleen (20), Katherine (8)

Coordinators: Brice (Group Area Records), Marcia (GR Action Co-Chair), Julie (Literature/Forum), Jason (DASC Liaison), Sheila (Web Coordinator), Sue (Butterfly), Lori (AAPP), Brandi (Alateen Co-Coordinator)

Past Delegates: Eloy (P56), Tom, Kari (P62), Marylin

Members at Large: Edward (D12 Treasurer)

Meeting Location: Virtual

Serenity Prayer, Steps, Traditions and Concepts

Approval of March 21, 2025 AWSC Meeting Minutes

- Julie moves to approve minutes as written, Bill seconds.
- Withdrawn, because there were some corrections.
- Some corrections:
 - Request to add a date to the minutes section.
 - Teri's name was misspelled in some locations. → Fixed
- Sheila moves to approve the minutes as amended, Julie seconds.
- We voted a second time because the first vote failed due to technical difficulties. The tallies below are for the second vote.

Yes - 16

No - 0

Abstain - 1

Officer Reports

- **Treasurer Report:** Janice put the information for sending payments to the treasurer in the chat. We have been discussing adding an electronic payment method (Zelle) for accepting donations and doing reimbursements.
 - "Please send donations to:
Colorado AFG
% Janice Zamora
2606 E 148th Drive
Thornton, CO 80602

Make checks payable to Colorado AFG

Please include your group name and WSO# in the memo section of the check"

- Sheila asked if it is possible to pursue an alternative electronic payment option such as PayPal.
 - Janice responded that we have not investigated that yet. Zelle was the first option considered because there is no fee and it is already attached to the bank account.
- Julie asked if Zelle will be the only reimbursement option moving forward.
 - Janice clarified that it would be another option, but physical checks still could be sent.
- Rich asked if there was a survey regarding what electronic payment options groups are already using.
 - Janice responded that we have not.
- Linda summarized that Janice is offering Zelle as an alternative and that, in future, we may consider other options.
- There was some discussion of Venmo as an additional option, though it has the down-side of requiring an individual's phone number to be attached to the count.
- Colleen asked if there is a reason that we can't use an area phone number instead of a personal number for an account through Venmo.
 - Janice and Greta responded that there is no area phone number at this time.
- Tom asked that the discussion be moved to the finance committee, where the issue can be discussed at length.
 - Kara responded that it does not need to be taken to the finance committee because the Zelle idea is simply an add-on, rather than an entirely new strategy for accepting and sending money.
 - Greta responded that she's happy whether or not there is more discussion at the finance committee, but at this time we are only discussing the idea of Zelle.
- **Secretary Report:** Hannah requested that reports for the Summer Assembly are emailed or physically handed to the Secretary within one week of the Assembly date. The reason is so that the minutes can be distributed two weeks after Assembly so that GRs can use them to bring information back to their groups.
- **Delegate Report:** TMF said that most of his report will be at the upcoming assembly. Tonight he wants to reiterate his gratitude for being sent to Conference. He came back with a series of ideas, which we will slowly try to bring to these meetings for discussion.
- At Conference, group listing policies were discussed (which is a policy that defines what kinds of groups can be listed in the meeting search as part of our area). Other areas have started creating these because it is required for WSO to remove a group from its database, if a group is violating it's Area's group policy.
- The only area with a policy approved by WSO is Southern California.
<https://www.scws-al-anon.org/area-policies/>
- TMF asked if this is something that our Area would like to consider.
- Rich said that he would support coming up with such a policy.
- TMF clarified that this policy is not intended to be punitive. The area must pass a policy, and then the WSO must approve it as well. If a group were ever removed from the

WSO's database, they would still be an Al-Anon group with representation in the organization. Additionally, the policy must indicate a route for the group to be added back to the WSO database.

- Marcia is from California South, and is familiar with the policy. She said that the policy is complicated and a long process to create, and she recommends starting with a thought force to determine if the policy is needed. Initially in California South, it began with groups coming to the Area, so the Area had a Thought Force → Task Force → the policy was then revised at the WSO.
- Linda wanted to check in with District 3 to see if they need anything for hosting the upcoming assembly.
 - Willard said that they have had their first meeting, and attended some initial meetings with the AA hosting group. Things are getting moving, and they are looking for volunteers. People interested in volunteering can reach out to Vicky at dr3@al-anon-co.org.
- **Alt-Delegate Report:** The policy committee discussed the updates to the policy for the trustee application policy. The policy was shared in the meeting chat. Southwest Regional Trustee candidate nominating process as proposed by the Policy and Procedures Committee 6/8/25. This is an outline and a rough draft only.

Outline of process

- Send out information about the role and duties of the Regional Trustee to the AWSC to educate/consider/discuss the role of RT/Trustee at a district meeting, attach Regional Trustee form/application to the email.
- Applications are sent to the Delegate by July 4, 2025.
- More education at GR Connects and maybe present applications.
- Delegate presents candidates applications at Assembly on screen and during reading of candidate's application.
- Candidate/proxy reads their application, time for questions and answers.
- Assembly votes.
- Tom asked if the proposed procedure will be voted on at the Assembly.
 - Grete responded, no
 - Tom asked why
 - Grete responded that the policy is not ready yet and needs another policy committee meeting before it goes to the Assembly floor.
 - Tom clarified that the procedure is a 'work-around' procedure because we don't have the time to put an appropriate policy in place in time. He said that we should bring it to the Assembly for review and vote even if it is only a temporary measure.
 - TMF commented that we will be voting on candidates at the Assembly, but will not be following the guideline precisely at that time.
 - Tom clarified that GRs should have the process for *this* Assembly presented to them and give them an opportunity to agree or disagree with the process.
 - TMF commented that it could be challenging, practically, because the AWSC is supposed to select one resume to present to the Assembly beforehand, which does not leave time for GRs to be involved.

- Linda clarified that we may nominate a Regional Trustee every three years, and said that we will continue this discussion at the AWSC meeting in July.
- Kari was chair of the Regional Committee on Trustees when the Southwest last had a trustee candidate. She suggests taking it to the GR Connection just to explain why we are electing a trustee / what it means.

Announcements

- The updated yearly calendar will be sent out soon by Linda.

Old Business

- Kara has a report from the task force on the hybrid assembly:

June 8 th , 2025

Our first Zoom with GRs voting had a few bumps that maybe only the team and I really knew about. We will be working with our Chair to get it just a little smoother next assembly. The good news is that the Zoom account keeps records, and we have those records if there is ever a question about the votes we are taking. I did send the survey results to the Secretary, which she did add with the minutes. Thank you, Hannah. The results were very positive. I hope you have all had a chance to look at them.

Next steps will include continuing what we have been doing, the Task Force has only met once since the last assembly. That included going over the results of the survey and voting plus Adrian, IT Coordinator, has refined some of the jobs we are doing. We will be meeting at the end of June before the assembly. Job descriptions will be something to consider moving forward.

One thing that really helped making the online people feel heard and connected to the assembly was achieved by including them in the workshop. I would ask that moving forward we continue to do this and that whoever is doing a workshop give the Task Force a heads up, so we might have necessary documents ahead of time to share. That really goes for any documents that are given to the GRs prior to assembly, including agendas, minutes etc. We have linked them in the chat and that has worked very well. Having the GRs part of the district count for the traveling quilt was also something that happened organically and will continue.

Since this is only the second Zoom that will have voting, there are no major changes, other than to continue what we are doing at present. I believe since this came from the Assembly, they will help us with more direction if/when needed.

We have 5 signed up as of June 7 th . The Website coordinator and Butterfly Coordinator both had added the registration link for the next assembly. Thank you! And of course, our members of the

Task Force

DR11 -Kara

DR2- Wendy

Alt DR3- Willard

GR -Joanne

Spanish Coordinator- Joleen

IT – Adrain

Past Delegate- Teri

- **Tom and Eloy on Al-Anon and AA Shared Assemblies:**

Report to AWSC, June 8, 2025 – Cooperation with A.A.'s Subcommittee on Al-Anon's participation in holding joint assemblies.

Thank you to everyone who submitted responses to the survey questions and the Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) questions. The responses were very helpful in determining where we are and where we might need to go.

A quick summary of the responses to the survey questions show:

1. Members of our Area would like to be fully self-supporting for Assemblies.
2. Members feel that there is a need for a greater role in the scheduling of
3. Assemblies and the location(s) where Assemblies are held.
4. Members enjoy the fellowship, participation with A.A., and the ability to hear both Al-Anon and A.A. speakers at our Assemblies.
5. If we were to separate from A.A. at Assemblies, this would allow the Area to look at the structure of Assemblies, number of days for an Assembly, how business is conducted, the introduction of hybrid into our Assemblies, etc.
6. Members are concerned about the cost of holding Assemblies independently from A.A.

And the responses to the KBDM questions will provide a great foundation to begin our discussion as an Area.

After meeting with one of the A.A. subcommittees, it appears that they are:

1. Interested in working with us to obtain clarity on this matter.
2. Are looking at how they can best function in the changing environment of Service.
3. They currently have subcommittees looking at: Scheduling of Assemblies, their Location and Bidding process, going to a Hybrid format, Working with Al-Anon, and Communications. As you can see Al-Anon's participation with A.A. in Assemblies is just one of the many parts they are taking into consideration.
4. A.A. was surprised to learn that their 6 th Tradition and Al-Anon's 6 th Tradition differ
with the fact that Al-Anon's 6 th Tradition talks about cooperation with A.A. Keep in
mind that Al-Anon had not been fully formed when A.A.'s Traditions were adopted.
5. There is a spirit of common welfare for both fellowships in our discussions.
6. There is a sense that A.A. would like to move forward, looking at their interests first for their organization and Al-Anon may need to find their own path.
7. They are pleased to know that we would like to be fully self-supporting and with that in mind, separation of our Assemblies might be the next step.
8. We don't fully know where A.A. is in their process on this matter, as they have several subcommittees working on multiple items.

With this information, what are our next steps:

1. Thought Force to consider what separation from A.A. at Assemblies might look like.

2. Thought Force on what items we will need to consider as an Area to run our Assemblies. This might include items such as: Scheduling, location(s), hosting, registration fees, hybrid, etc.
3. Task Force to consider the costs associated with having an independent Assembly.
4. Thought Force on what changes may be needed to our current structure (Coordinators and/or Officers), Assembly Requirements, Area Guidelines, Bylaws, etc.
5. Thought or Task Force on the Site Selection and Planning process/committee to hold an independent Assembly.
 - Eloy reiterated that there is a great sense of cooperation between our two fellowships, but that he does feel that it is wise for us to start deliberating amongst ourselves about our options.
 - They will invite a few AA members to our next AWSC meeting (to listen).
- Kara asked if any part of AA's decision making is based on how separating will affect AI-Anon.
 - Tom responded that he thinks they will prioritize the spirit of their first and second traditions first.
 - Eloy responded that he doesn't feel that they have made a decision yet, but that they are treating us with great respect in this process.
- Rich asked how much advance notice AA will give us if they do choose to separate.
 - Tom said that we will have nine months to a year of advance notice since they schedule venues for Assemblies two to three events in advance.
- TMF commented that he asked other Delegates about their Areas at Conference. Not many other Areas do their Assemblies in conjunction with AA. He asked to clarify what Tom's suggestion was with regards to thought / task forces.
 - Tom responded that we will likely need several thought forces which may then get transformed into task forces over time. The purpose would be to get facts and figures for critical areas of running a new Assembly for ourselves.
 - Eloy responded that it also may require a new service position.
- Linda said that AA does have a guideline with regards to interactions with AI-Anon. It does not talk specifically about cooperation. She is also going to ask in AFG Connects for experience, strength and hope surrounding this discussion.

New Business

- Website thought force still needs a GR interested in service. Sue says that the committee is starting to look at what they don't know, and considering creating a survey for members to get information on what users go to the website for.
- We will elect the State Convention Chair and Co-Chair at the next Assembly.
- AWSC Budget Meeting will likely be in-person (if possible) the first or second week in September. Date is still TBD. We are still looking for a district to host the budget meeting.
 - Janice responded that she would not be able to attend either of those weekends, and that the only free weekend she has that month is the 27th.

- Marcia asked if the body could vote about doing the budget meeting in-person / online.
- Linda asked that DRs ask their groups if anyone is interested in hosting the AWSC Budget Meeting.
- Edward asked if the AWSC meeting at the Summer Assembly will be hybrid.
 - Linda responded that it is in-person only.
- Kari stated that she feels that it is critical for the Treasurer to attend the budget meeting.
- If you are not going to attend the Summer Assembly in-person, please let Linda know.
- Hannah asked for a volunteer to perform her duties at the Summer Assembly, since she cannot attend. She is looking for a volunteer who has been to an Assembly before, so they will not be overwhelmed.
- Willard asked if a theme has been announced for the Summer Assembly.
 - Linda responded that she thinks AA comes up with their own theme, but that we can come up with one if we want to, for ourselves.

Close with AI-Anon Declaration