

AWSC Meeting - March 21, 2025

Attendees

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

DRs: Rich (16), Kara (11), Willard (Alt 3), Wendy (2), Tammy (14), Mike (24), Marie (22), Pat (6), Judy (Alt 14), Lourdes (25)

Coordinators: Sheila (Web Coord / Alt-DR (9)), Sue (Butterfly), Adrian (IT Media), Jen (Public Outreach), Julie (Literature/Forum), Heather (Alateen Coordinator), Brice (Group Area Records), Lori (AAPP), Jason (DASC Liaison)

Past Delegates: Eloy (56), Kari (62), Debbe (52), Rick (59), Tom (47), Marylin (53), Chesley, Marcia

Past Trustees: Nancy Belle, Teri

Members at Large: Donna V.

Meeting Location: Hilton, Fort Collins
425 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526

Reading of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts

Approval of Minutes: Jennifer moves to approve. Julie seconds. 2 abstentions.

Officer Reports:

- **Chair:** Linda shared her gratitude to be serving as Chair for this body. She shared a reading on tradition 1. Reminder to ask questions, talk with others and participate fully this weekend. She enjoyed getting to meet other chairs at SWRDM and shared a personal takeaway from that experience.
- **Delegate:** Will report to the full assembly body tomorrow. SWRDM was last weekend and was a huge success.
- **Alt-Delegate:** Will report to the full assembly body tomorrow.
- **Treasurer:** Reminder to submit expense reports within 30 days, sending them to the treasurer email address. Remind your groups of the change of address for donations.
- **Secretary:** Please submit your assembly reports either by email or in-person during the assembly meeting tomorrow.

Coordinator, DR, Liaison Reports or Announcements: How has transitioning into your position gone?

- **Public Outreach:** Tomorrow she is looking forward to sharing her vision for having an al-anon presence at a wellness fair this summer. She feels like her transition into the position has been slow, but she is grateful for the space to grow.
- **Literature:** Received some info/ideas from the previous literature coordinator. She is hoping to get all of our groups to subscribe to the forum.
- **DASC Liaison:** He knows little about the position and stood for the position for an opportunity to get involved. So far he has been learning the job by attending meetings. Blue Ribbon Luncheon is coming up May 21st in Greeley by the 2608 Club.
- **AAPP:** Served previously as interim area AAPP so she is not having a difficult transition.
- **Records:** The previous coordinator has been helping, so he feels good about his transition. Area group records will be going out in the next few months, so they can be submitted electronically or by mail.
- **Alateen Coordinator:** Received information and guidance from the previous errycoordinator, so things are going well so far.
- **IT Media Coordinator:** Not on AFG Connects, so he is going to look into that. Reported that the assembly equipment is in good shape, and he is working on hybrid assembly tech.
- **Website Coordinator:** Smooth transition, meeting a few times with the previous web coordinator. Experience: Keeping the website running has been challenging, making for a steep learning curve. She is also working on enabling the necessary access for AWSC members to their emails. Strength: She has been receiving lots of strength from the support of al-anon members in service. Hope: Creating a thought force for moving the website into the future, technologically.
- **Butterfly Coordinator:** She got the first Butterfly out with the support of other members in service. She hopes to continue to print the Spanish version of the Butterfly, and requested support. The Spanish coordinator responded that she'd like to get in touch.
- **DR District 24:** Started a new meeting that is going well. A year ago there were discussions of dissolving the district, but attendance has been really good at district meetings so things have been turning around. Mike also shared about some upcoming public outreach opportunities.
- **DR District 22:** Started her position last year but is getting more of an introduction than she received before. She has one GR starting to come to meetings, so her district is rebuilding and working on some community events.
- **DR District 11:** Transitioning out of panel 62 went great! Transitioning into being DR went smoothly since she previously served as an alternate DR. Also received binders with lots of info from the DR before her. She enjoyed going GR → Secretary → DR in her service experience. Her district started an alateen meeting which is going well so far.
- **DR District 14:** Getting lots of emails! Meetings are well-attended, they also started an alateen meeting in the last year. They have a potluck speaker meeting every third Saturday. Will be putting on a workshop in August.
- **DR District 13:** Got a bank account! The handoff was a little challenging, but things are moving forward. The district is discussing what they want to accomplish this year (public outreach / concept study).

- **DR District 16:** Transition has gone pretty well. He's trying to go to lots of meetings to meet people. About half of the meetings are represented in district meetings. All district service positions are filled except for public outreach coordinator. District 16 has some former delegates who have been helping him with the transition into his position.
- **DR District 6:** 4/7 groups coming to vote at this assembly! She is proud that her district made 80 SWRDM gifts, and they will be having a workshop and potluck on May 10th Presbyterian Church in Pueblo. Problem: still getting stuff from two DRs ago rather than receiving the info directly. Will get in touch with the web coordinator.
- **Spanish Coordinator:** Does not speak spanish, but she's glad to be involved and working with others to get translations as needed.
- **Sheila on Behalf of District 9:** Transition has been going well, though he's gotten quite a lot of meetings. The district has discussed getting an alateen meeting started.
- **DR District 2:** She was voted back in by her district and has an alt-DR as well. The district secretary stepped up, but a new person stepped into the position before the next meeting even occurred! They will be hosting DIA: Bloom Where You're Planted: Growing your Program. If you like dessert and fellowship in al-anon, come! If you need a place to stay, reach out to Wendy and she might be able to hook you up.
- **DR District 3:** The district is surviving despite major churn: groups closing, new groups opening. Having a tough time getting people to serve within groups and the district.
- **DR District 25:** She is excited to be serving in this position and is now connected with her email address. She's got a lot of emails to catch up on, and is working through that. Her district is working on having public outreach. There are around 10 groups throughout Colorado. 8 in person, 2 hybrid. The district meetings occur every two months.

Old Business:

- Linda: If you are in records, you should have received an invitation to AFG Connects. If you have not received it, then reach out to records. It is useful to facilitate conversations between al-anon service members in the same positions.
- Hybrid assembly task force update: Tari said that we are doing the hybrid assembly test tomorrow, and there are about 24 people signed up to attend through zoom. GRs will put two asterisks before their name, their group and their district. In the future, we may discuss registration fees.
 - Someone asked if the whole day of the assembly is on zoom, and Tari responded that it will be.
- Thought force for al-anon participation in AA assemblies update: Tom and Eloy.
 - At the last assembly in November, Nancy introduced the topic of whether we will continue to do assemblies together with AA. Tom and Eloy were asked to start discussions with the AA members who are working on changes to their assemblies.
 - Eloy and Tom have been attending meetings, but Linda has given them the charge of exploring the benefits / downsides of holding assemblies together / separately from AA.
 - Tom passed out a KBDM Question document. They are asking this body to fill out the KBDM for this topic and return the sheets to Eloy or Tom. They hope to use

this information to bring back to the AA committee. Eloy and Tom will also bring some questions to the assembly tomorrow: Advantages of staying with / leaving AA etc. They will also have the opportunity to fill out the KBDM and return it to Tom and Eloy to have their voices heard.

- Eloy wanted to emphasize that they are looking for information, not solutions. Open, honest opinions are appreciated.
- Tom asked how many AWSC attendees are here at the assembly and also have a spouse / significant other participating in the AA. One person in the room responded.
 - Several meeting participants chimed in regarding knowing people who do have spouses attending the AA meeting simultaneously.
- TMF asked if there was a digital version of the KBDM that should be sent out to groups, or if this is just for assembly. Tom said that this is specifically for the assembly, but GRs can of course bring the KBDM back to their groups if they like.
- Response deadline: this Sunday at noon, but late responses will be accepted by email. panel47@al-anon-co.org / panel56@al-anon-co.org
- Rick clarified that AA is involving us in their decision as a courtesy, and Tom confirmed.
- Nancy Belle clarified that AA is indeed giving us a 'vote' in a way in what they choose to do.
- Tom stated that AA has several committees looking into pieces of how they do their assemblies currently / what they could do.
- Tom said that most other areas do their assemblies independently currently.
- There was some extended discussion and questions on the topic. Many attendees seem to feel like it is beneficial to have the assemblies together, particularly with regards to the impact of socializing / fellowship with AA.
- Linda asked if this would impact our state convention with AA, and Tom responded that it would not.

New Business:

- Past delegate orientation to incoming officers and coordinators (Debbe):
 - Job descriptions were handed out to attendees, along with a set of the bylaws and guidelines and information about KBDM.
 - We are supposed to attend AWSC meetings, but of course it is okay if we are not able to attend.
 - Officers, Coordinators and DRs have vote (and voice) but past delegates and others have only voice.
 - Bylaws are a legal document.
 - Guidelines are traditional, based on the service manual.
 - Both bylaws and guidelines can be changed, as needed, at the request of the body.
 - Highlights of the bylaws:

- States the purpose of the nonprofit.
- States what the nonprofit does in brief.
- States that the board of directors of the nonprofit is the area officers.
- States that officers should perform their duties in a manner that is consistent with our traditions/guidelines.
- States that we must carry insurance to indemnify our officers.
- States how the bylaws may be amended.
- Highlights of the guidelines:
 - Supplements the service manual and bylaws, filling in places where they do not cover the necessary information.
 - Indicates that we must keep position descriptions, which are on the website.
 - Establishes election procedures for the assembly.
 - Provides guidance for the chairperson regarding what to do in special circumstances.
 - Provides guidelines for the treasurer / budgeting procedures.
 - States how much ample reserve is kept by the area.
- KBDM should be used when you have an issue to bring to the AWSC / discuss.
- Tools: service manual, website, al-anon members in service
- Question: Where do we find the schedule of AWSC meetings between the assemblies? A: Linda will send out future meeting invitations via email.
- Kari reminded everyone that coordinators should be aware that they have a budget for them to use in their position. The alt-delegate can provide the budget to anyone who needs it to understand how much money they have to use.
- Jen asked if the IRS id number indicates our nonprofit status. Debbe responded that it is the number representing our 501c3 status.
- Tom clarified that only the area incorporation has nonprofit status.
- Rick emphasized that coordinators can propose special projects to this body and request additional funds beyond their usual budget for that purpose. The assembly will vote on any such proposals.
- Tom asked if the alt-delegate could explain the process for going over budget.
 - Grete: If you need to go over budget, you would email the alternate delegate explaining the amount of the overage and reasons, and she will take it to the finance committee to discuss.
- Tom stated that coordinators should be aware that they should not spend money that has not been approved by the finance committee / assembly because it is possible that it will not be approved.
- Tom asked to clarify how much money officers / coordinators have for the assemblies. Grete said that 325 * 3 within a year is allotted per person. Requests beyond that amount will have to go to the finance committee.
- Tom asked for an explanation of what an in-kind donation is because he wanted to clarify what all should be stated as an in-kind donation.

- Grete responded that it is when an individual has an expense related to the event, but they choose to not ask to have it reimbursed, but they still report the amount that they are doing as an in-kind donation.
 - Will receipts be given for in-kind donations?
 - What happens if equipment is purchased as an in-kind donation once the person using the equipment
 - Tom pointed out that there are remaining questions regarding in-kind donations.
- Linda:
 - WIA for 2025 is in need of a chair / co-chair for the event. Venue extended their deadline for the deposit. It is an area-sponsored event. She asked if anyone is considering standing for the position, nobody responded. She will bring it up at the assembly too, and have a thought-force if nobody stands for the position and asked for feedback on the idea.
 - Pat expressed that the event is valuable, but she has a gut feeling that the event might go away due to the difficulties. Linda clarified that the purpose of the thought force would be to discuss those things.
 - Tom expressed that even if someone stands for the position, there should still be a thought-force to at least look at the financial feasibility of the event.
 - There was extended discussion about the value of the event and some questions about the event.
 - Need a district host for the summer assembly in grand junction. Reminder that more than one district can host the same event.
 - Willard said that district 3 will chair or co-chair the summer assembly.
 - Wendy stated that her district will help out.
 - Wendy provided the information that AA's district that covers Grand Junction happens to be the entire western slopes, which is likely why there have been so many assemblies there recently.
 - Linda shared some history / discussion by the AWSC in the past about the website and challenges with its usability and upkeep. Linda asked if the AWSC has any feedback about her asking for a thought-force on the website at this assembly.
 - There was some discussion, but certainly agreement that a thought-force would be valuable.

Meeting Close