

AWSC\Budget Teleconference Meeting

Draft Minutes 09/27/2025 – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Quick recap

The Area World Service Committee meeting focused on planning and budget discussions for upcoming events, including the 2026 budget, assembly locations, and various coordinator expenses. The Finance Committee reviewed budget allocations for state conventions and general assembly expenses, discussing travel reimbursement policies and expense consolidations. The conversation ended with discussions on World Service Office contributions, background checks for members, and insurance coverage issues for upcoming events.

Next steps

- All attendees: Put their position on their Zoom name for identification.
- All attendees: Submit their reports by November 8th to Judy R. for inclusion in the assembly minutes.
- All attendees: Inform Linda if they are not attending the Winter Assembly or attending via Zoom.
- Presenters: Email their presentations to the secretary, Linda, Jolene, and Terry for the hybrid meeting.
- All members: Submit content for the Butterfly newsletter by September 30th.
- Linda: Continue working with the AA chair on space utilization at the venue.
- Greta: Share the budget during the discussion.
- Coordinators: Prepare for possibly not having coordinator tables at the Assembly.
- All attendees: Email Linda if interested in being a female roommate.
- Colleen: Finalize job descriptions for the 2026 State Conference committee positions.
- Colleen: Bring sign-up sheets for the 2026 State Conference committee at Assembly.
- Heather: Present the AMEAS AMS Training for Alateen process at the Assembly for permanent approval.
- Assembly: Affirm Marsha as the GR Connection Chair for 2026.
- Assembly: Elect a co-chair for GR Connection for 2026.
- Assembly: Elect Keough as the Weekend in Al-Anon chair for 2026.
- Districts: Submit bids for hosting the Spring Assembly 2026 in Fort Collins.
- Area Treasurer: Send \$6,850 surplus to WSO per guidelines.

Summary

Meeting Opening and Traditions

The meeting began with Linda requesting attendees to introduce their positions next to their names for better identification. Colleen was tasked with presenting the traditions, while Bill was assigned to read the concepts. Linda mentioned she was recording the meeting and shared that she had recently returned from a trip to Scotland. The group engaged in a moment of silence and recited the Serenity Prayer before proceeding with the agenda.

AWSC 2026 Budget and Planning

The Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting focused on the 2026 budget and assembly planning. Linda announced the winter assembly will be held November 21-23 in Cripple Creek, with limited space and no lunch speaker. The committee approved sending \$6,850 to the World Service Office as an ample reserve surplus, though there was discussion about potentially using these funds for special projects if requests are submitted before year-end. The meeting also covered updates on the 2026 State Conference, GR Connection chair appointments, and the need to select a site for the DIA 2026.

Budget Review: Assembly Expenses

The Finance Committee reviewed the budget, focusing on assembly expenses and reimbursement policies. Grete explained the importance of accurate budgeting, including tracking in-kind donations and expenses. The committee discussed travel reimbursement limits, with Tom raising concerns about individuals exceeding the \$375 per assembly allowance. Janice reported that 23 people were reimbursed for the Spring Assembly, with one person exceeding the limit, and 18 people for the Summer Assembly, with four exceeding the limit. The committee also considered consolidating line items for thought and task force printing expenses with general assembly expenses. They decided to keep the unfunded Finance Committee budget assembly attendance line item for now, but agreed to revisit its necessity.

Budget Review for Event Coordinators

The meeting focused on budget discussions for various coordinators and upcoming events. Dennis, the Archives Coordinator, explained his travel expenses for state conventions and Al-Anon events, noting that he typically stays in single rooms but may switch to double occupancy to save costs. Brandi requested a budget of \$325 for Alateen outreach materials in 2026, which was approved. Jen clarified that her \$250 budget as Public Outreach Coordinator is for coordinating efforts, not for large projects, and special projects must go through the reserve fund. The group also discussed the need for additional funds for the Literature Forum Coordinator to conduct workshops in districts with limited budgets. Colleen mentioned she would be chairing next year's state convention in Fort Collins.

State Convention Budget Allocation

The finance committee discussed budget allocations for state convention expenses, focusing on travel and registration costs for chairs and co-chairs. Colleen requested an increase to \$280 for travel expenses and translation costs, and the committee agreed to consider combining the chair and co-chair travel budgets to provide each with \$500. They also debated the necessity of a full convention package for co-chairs, with some suggesting a more limited attendance. The committee agreed to increase the budget for the next chair to \$400 but left open the question of whether to include additional supplies money.

General Assembly Budget Planning Meeting

The meeting focused on budget discussions for various expenses related to the upcoming General Assembly. Kara emphasized the importance of fully funding service positions, while Marcia suggested pulling certain budget items for further discussion at the Assembly. Debbie shared her experience with fully funded chairs in other areas. The group agreed to increase the budget for the co-chair position to \$500. They also discussed

the literature coordinator's travel expenses, with Julie expressing uncertainty about how to budget for potential travel. The group decided to leave the current budget for literature travel at \$50, with the option to request additional funds if needed. They also considered consolidating some expenses under general assembly expenses. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about contribution options for those attending via Zoom in the future.

WSO Contributions and Budget Updates

The group discussed the World Service Office (WSO) contribution, with Tom raising concerns about the increased amount and its impact on reserve funds. Kari provided historical context on the contribution increase, explaining that it serves as a baseline guarantee, with additional surplus funds sent when available. The group also addressed the need for background checks on AMIAS members, with Brandi recommending every two years for existing members. Tom proposed a budget increase for background checks, which Grete incorporated into the budget. The conversation ended with a discussion on updating descriptions for budget line items to clarify purposes.

World Service Conference Budget Planning

The meeting discussed the budget for the upcoming World Service Conference, focusing on the equalization fund and delegate costs. The group reviewed last year's contributions and the new recommended amounts for 2026, which are \$2,183 for the equalization fund and \$3,119 for full delegate costs. There was debate about whether to propose the full amount or a lower figure, with Honey suggesting they present the full cost to the assembly for discussion. The group also briefly touched on the purchase of conference summaries, which typically cost \$5 per copy plus shipping.

Hawaii Delegates Meeting Budget Planning

The group discussed budgeting for the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting in Hawaii, focusing on travel and accommodation costs for both current delegates and past delegates. Tom provided updated figures, noting that the total cost could reach \$8,600 for four people, including airfare, lodging, and meals. The group debated whether to increase the budget to \$8,000 and whether to maintain the \$300 reimbursement for past delegates, with some members suggesting reallocating this money to support the four main attendees. The discussion highlighted the challenges of arranging accommodations, particularly regarding room sharing, and the importance of supporting past delegates' involvement in the event.

Finance Committee Budget Review Meeting

The Finance Committee reviewed the budget, discussing assembly collections, donations, and expenses. They agreed to keep the assembly collections at \$5250 for now but will consider implementing electronic donation options like Zelle or Venmo after the Finance Committee conducts further research. The committee also discussed the potential for a registration fee for hybrid meetings and the impact of hosting separate assemblies from AA. They decided to maintain the current silent auction plans and consider increasing district and group donations. The committee reviewed interest income and other donations, with Tom explaining the accounting process for Weekend in Al-Anon expenses and income.

2026 Budget and Assembly Planning

The group discussed the 2026 draft budget, which includes a deficit of \$14,993, and approved it to be forwarded to the Winter 2025 Assembly. They considered adjusting the budget for travel to assemblies, with Tom suggesting a \$2,000 to \$3,000 reduction. The committee also discussed the possibility of increasing group and district donations to help reduce the deficit. Sheila raised concerns about the draft Assembly agenda, questioning whether to recommend a task force or thought force regarding non-participation in AA assemblies. The conversation ended with a recitation of the Al-Anon Declaration.

Emergency Liability Coverage Approval

Grete discussed an insurance issue with Glacier View Ranch, where they requested an increase in liability coverage from \$300,000 to \$1 million for damage to rented facilities, requiring a one-time payment of \$2,300 for the upcoming Weekend in Al-Anon event. The finance committee agreed to approve this emergency coverage since the event is a week away and cancellation would be likely without it. Grete will follow up with the insurance company on Monday to explore options for potentially lower costs or add it to their existing policy, and will also contact Glacier View to discuss the increased expense.