

**FALL ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2016
MEDORA COMMUNITY CENTER
465 PACIFIC AVENUE
MEDORA, ND**

8:00 Registration
8:30 Assembly begins

Announcements: Donna J. shared housekeeping information and thanks those who brought snacks to share and items for the silent auction.

The meeting was called to order by Walt G. at 8:45 AM. He thanked everyone for attending and mentioned that silent auction items were on the back table. He reminded the group that there will be a panel to do a workshop at 3:00 on The Power of One. Presenters will be past delegates, Darcy, Connie and present delegate, Carol.

The Serenity Prayer was said by everyone. The Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties were read by everyone.

Introductions were done by everyone.

Walt asked for Group Representatives (GR's) or their alternates (voting members) to raise their hands; there were 14 present. They were: Cathy S., Brenda G., Darren H., Laura F., Erika S., Jan R., Maralee G., Vonnie A., Tanya V., Judy J., Joan M., Lynelle K., Dee S. Non-voting members in attendance included: Liv F., Carol T., Connie B., Nancy H., Walt G., Sheri S., Darcy A., Gayle D., Barb S., Lisa C., Cheryl M., Donna J., Dale P., Sheila S., Jeff.

The Welcome was read by Sheri S.

The Steps and Traditions were read by all. Walt read the introduction to the Concepts and Concept 9.

Tradition 7 – "Passing the Basket" was read by Carol and an anonymous container was passed.

Secretary Report

Motions were read by Sheri S. Cathy S. made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Erika 2nd; motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was reviewed by Connie B.

Tradition 7 and Registration will be added topics to the Funding Area Assembly Thought Force that Liv is leading.

Sheila S. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as corrected. The motion was 2nd by Barb S.; motion carried unanimously.

Connie B. also shared the Area Appeal Letter and asked that everyone take this back to their groups.

Connie reviewed the budget. There was discussion of some of the budgeted amounts, such as expenses to the delegate. The members were reminded that this is a budgeted amount only

and that there could be changes made throughout the year. Liv reported that the Thought Force had not met but would do so and report at the March Assembly meeting. Members are: Liv F., Cathy S., Barb S., Donna J., and Ericka S. Nancy H. Lynelle K. also volunteered to participate.

Erika reviewed the ND Web Site expenses on the budget. She asked that all GR's bring back to their groups a request to donate \$15.00 towards the Alavine. This funding would help to support the website on which the Alavine resides.

Cathy S. made a motion to approve the budget. Jan R. 2nd; motion passed unanimously.

The treasurer's report and appeal letter are attached below.

The proposed budget is published on the website.

Walt G. asked whether or not the group wanted to break for the AA speaker at 10:30 AM. It was decided to keep moving through the agenda but to take a 15 minute break at this time (10:00 AM). Following the break, there was discussion of whether or not GR's should stay at the meeting as they are voting members. It was the consensus of the group that GR's should have a choice. If they missed a vote they would be considered abstaining.

District Reports

District 1: Tanya V. reported there is hope that this District will be getting more active in the Area. There are four groups now and three of them are pretty active. There are also a few more members from the district attending this assembly. Darren H. stated they would be reaching out for help in getting their District offices set up and, for his group, Group officers as well.

District 2: Donna J. gave the following report:

We have our meeting on Wednesday evening and have 5-10 people attend. We are planning to start a step meeting this winter. We helped organize the fall roundup in Medora.

District 3: Brenda gave the following report:

District 3 is planning our 6th Annual Holiday Kick-off Party. The tentative date will be December 3, 2016 with a pot luck supper starting at 6pm. There will be a speaker, a raffle and lots of fellowship!

We ordered 100 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2017 to pass out to all of the groups in the district who in turn will distribute them in their communities and to their new comers.

District 4: Liv F. No additions/corrections.

District 5: No one attending.

District 6&8: No additions/corrections.

District 7: There is no District Representative (DR) for District 7 at this time, but there are 5 members present at Assembly.

Coordinator Reports

Alateen - Dee S. No additions/corrections. Joan M. reported that Alateen has donated books to the school libraries in Bismarck. Kids don't usually want to check them out but, they do get read. She recommended others Groups and/or Districts consider donating Alateen books to their school libraries. This could also be a project for Public Outreach. Public Outreach Coordinator, Brenda G. offered to develop draft letter on this topic that could filtered to DR's who would filter to the GR's.

Alavine - Darcy A. stated that the next set of reports should include information from after Assembly and through the November due date.

The deadline for submitting reports to the Fall Alavine is November 1. We would welcome news or activities created after the September Assembly. If you are a District Representative, Coordinator, Chairperson, or Delegate, please submit a report. Members' Corner section is where any member can add "Things to think about" or create a piece on recovery.

Archives – Cheryl reported that Brenda, previous Archives Coordinator, brought her 3 totes and a scrapbook. She asked everyone for feedback on what should be done with this material as she does not personally have a place to store it. Discussion followed regarding the kind of material and the feasibility of scanning it for electronic storage, however it is understood that the original materials are to be kept. One suggestion was to rent a storage facility. See further discussion under the Website Coordinator's report.

Forum – Liv reported that overall, electronic subscriptions are up.

Group Records - Nancy H. Dee S. reported there is a new group in Fargo called the Saturday Night Clubhouse Meeting.

Literature Distribution Center (LDC) – No report; Lana N. was not in attendance.

Literature – Judy J. reported the following report. She also shared that on the website B=Book, P=Pamphlet, A=Audio:

Information on the Al-Anon On-line Store ([www.al-anon.org/online store](http://www.al-anon.org/online%20store)) and the Electronic CAL Fact Sheet has been updated. We currently have four Al-Anon books approved for e-book and also the Forum Magazine is in electronic version. Details of these books, plus audiobooks, can be found on the Electronic CAL Fact sheet located on the on-line store.

Sharing's are still needed for the NEW DAILY READER (working title), INTIMACY IN ALCOHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS (working title) and PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS OF YOUNG PROBLEM DRINKERS (working title). Writing guidelines can be found in the Guidelines & Procedures folder under "library" in the community. See the "How to Submit a Sharing to the WSO" handout. Sharing's can also be submitted on-line at the Members' site in the "Featured Publications" portion of the "Individuals" section, under "Submit a Personal Sharing."

The Following Publications have been revised and are now in print:

- Alateen's Share with Adults in Their Lives (P-67) (Formerly Dear Mom & Dad).
- Information for the Newcomer (S-4).
- Lois Remembers (B-7) includes changes to the historical timeline in the back of the book, so that the timeline ends when Lois wrote the book. A thorough timeline of Al-Anon's entire history can be found on the Members' Website under "WSO".
- Getting Started (S-15R), a service tool included in the Newcomer Packets to introduce Al-Anon literature to newcomers.

- Links of Service (S-24) and Joy of Service (S-57), two service tools from Group Services.

Pamphlets about CAL (Conference Approved Literature) are free and downloadable. "Why Conference Approved Literature?" (P-35) and "Group Inventory: Use of Conference Approved Literature" (S-62) can be downloaded at <http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/P35.pdf> and <http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/S62.pdf>.

Have you listened to CAL CHAT yet?? This is a podcast for Al-Anon members or anyone interested, started by an Al-Anon member, available on Apple iTunes or Google Play Music, under their podcast categories. Just search by the show name "CAL CHAT". Podcasts will be about pieces of Al-Anon Literature, with members discussing them. Goal is to do a new podcast at the beginning of each month.

Lastly, **members can get news directly from WSO** via emails by subscribing to AFG ANNOUNCEMENTS. It is free to all members. Go to Al-Anon members' website and sign up. Some examples of announcements include new literature, surveys, WSO Employment opportunities, Group eNews etc. A great way to stay current with WSO!

Love, in service,
Area Literature Coordinator
Judy J.

Carol shared that WSO is in the process of updating their site. Individuals can sign up on line to get these eNewsletters

Website – Erika reported that 5-8 emails are received each month with most being requests on how to find an Al-Anon meeting. She brought up the website for everyone to see and asked for suggestions to improve the site to make it easier to find meetings. It was decided to add "Click here to find an Al-Anon Meeting." right below the HOME OF NORTH DAKOTA AL-ANON & ALATEEN.

There was also discussion on the accuracy of the Group/Meeting information. It was thought that this may be related to communication between District and Area Group Records Coordinators. Sheri S. shared, that for that very reason, District 6&8 did not elect a Group Records Coordinator. Erika made a motion that Nancy H. be the only source of information for groups. Lynelle K. 2nd; motion carried with a vote of 12 and 2 abstentions.

Erika then brought up a request received to put on the website information about the death of a member. She checked with WSO and was told this was not a good idea as it could be interpreted as "glorifying one individual." The general consensus of the group was that our website should include only official Al-Anon events and there agreement with WSO recommendation.

There was a lot of discussion about the amount of material saved in archives and what to do with them. Judy J. made a motion that a thought force be formed to explore options for storage of archive materials. Jan R. 2nd; motion; 13 approved; one abstained. Cheryl offered to head this. Other volunteers were: Connie B. and Erika S.

Erika also stated that for all future assemblies we need to make sure the site of the assembly has web access. Spring Assembly is in Bismarck and the Fall Roundup is in Fargo.

Public Outreach – Nothing to add.

Delegate Report

Carol T. shared a tub full of love gifts from conference. She also shared a handout titled "Resources for Financial Discussions about AFG, Inc." She thanked the Area for this opportunity to serve and then did a presentation on the conference.

WSO is looking for feedback from all the Areas to a number of questions. They are listed on the attached document. Carol asked that everyone to take this back to their groups, get ideas and email responses to her at ct2922@aol.com by November 1, 2016.

Old Business

1. Walt asked what has been done with the findings/work of the various task forces created over the past few years year following their presentations at previous assemblies. This led to a discussion about the Motions document and the difficulty of finding/following discussions on topics. We may be discussing things over again unnecessarily just because it is not easy for members or coordinators to know about previous decisions and or discussions on topics without digging through minutes and/or the motions document. The question posed was if the motions document should be indexed or reorganized by job description/coordinator position. This would allow for a "running record" of topics, discussions, motions/votes to be easily found by the succeeding coordinators as they take office. It would assure that those individuals know how to "do their jobs" and provide a means of orientation and consistency in practice from one coordinator to the next. It would also make our meeting more efficient by reducing the probability of topics being hashed over time and time again. The Motions document also includes unimportant information at this time, such as who made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Connie B. shared that she actually had such a document that she had created from the Motions document for her own use and for many of the stated reasons. After much discussion, it was decided that making her document available to members for review would be helpful in deciding how to move forward in the future. This will be put on the agenda for the March Assembly meeting.
2. The next topic of discussion related to financial responsibilities of the various levels in our Area. It is felt there is inconsistency between Groups and Districts and even the area. One example is the reimbursement of expenses to the GR for attendance at Assembly. Per the Service Manual, it was concluded that each Group is to be fully self-supporting and that the Groups are responsible for their GR's expenses. Expenses are reimbursed per receipts the GR submits after Assembly. If a Group is unable to pay that amount in full at one time, it can reimburse the GR over the period of several months, provided that works for the GR. The Group could also submit a request to their District to request support if they are unable to fund that expense. Such a request would need to be discussed and voted on at the District meeting and would depend on the financial position of the District. It was suggested that flow chart of the financial responsibilities at various levels of our area might be helpful to all Groups and Districts. This was added to the list of tasks for the Thought Force on finances that Liv is heading.
3. Carol shared input on the survey completed after the last survey. One common theme was a need for mentors. There was a question about how new people learned their roles when taking a coordinator position or some other office. Cheryl mentioned that a previous coordinator helped her with learning her new role. Judy J. suggested we might consider

making Service a focus or part of our mission for next year. Walt asked Judy to draft a mission statement. Judy and Sheri volunteered to develop a draft and Sheri will send with the draft of the minutes and other materials for everyone to review and react to before the March assembly meeting.

4. Walt asked GR's for feedback on how they are feeling after the meeting and what more they might need that would be helpful in sharing back with their groups. Various members shared their insight.
5. Walt asked if anyone is interested in going on a hike through the petrified forest.
6. Spring Assembly 2017 is March 16-18 in Bismarck.
7. Motion to close was made by Tonia V, Erika S. 2nd; motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Humbly in Al-Anon Service,
Area 43 Secretary
Sheri Schweitzer

ASSEMBLY
TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

BALANCE FORWARD: MARCH 17, 12016 \$ 1,531.85

INCOME:

GROUP	\$ 2,062.25	
ALAVINE – WEB	\$ 140.00	
REGISTRATION	\$ 270.00	
TRADITION 7	\$ 197.00	
SILENT AUCTION	\$ 292.00	
INDIVIDUAL	<u>\$ 160.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,121.25</u>

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 4,653.10

EXPENSES: SPRING ROUNDUP

DELEGATE:

MEALS	\$ 20.51	
MILEAGE	\$ 98.00	
ROOM	\$ 41.44	\$ 159.95

CHAIRMAN:

MEALS	\$ 13.05	
MILEAGE	\$ 100.00	
ROOM	\$ 82.88	
SUPPLIES	\$ 6.50	\$ 202.43

COORDINATORS / OFFICERS TOKENS \$ 440.00

ASSEMBLY ROOM \$ 150.00

WSO LOVE GIFT \$ 50.00

WSO DONATION \$ 60.00

WEB EXPENSE \$ 193.05

WCO TOKEN EXPENSE \$ 400.00

NWRD MEETING TOKEN EXP \$ 400.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 2,055.43

BALANCE AS OF: SEPTEMBER 17, 2016 \$ 2,597.67

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
CONNIE B. AREA TREASURER

FALL 2016 APPEAL LETTER

As I start to think about an appeal letter for the Fall Alavine I am reminded of a saying that I read “We Create TOMOROW by what We Dream Today”. Have you thought about where Al-Anon will be tomorrow? Some ways to think about tomorrow is doing service work, sharing the Al-Anon message and financially supporting Al-Anon at the following levels: Group, District, Area and World Service.

Some upcoming estimated expenses are as follows:

Fall Assembly Expenses:

Delegate/Chairman	\$ 1,000.00
Coordinators/other officers	\$ 600.00
World Service Conference	
Equalized expense	\$ 1,500.00
(Paid by 12.31.16 for 2017 WSC)	
Delegate Token to WSC	\$ 400.00
Regional Delegates Meeting – 2017	<u>\$ 400.00</u>
 Total Estimated Expenses	 <u>\$ 3,900.00</u>

Please remember to support North Dakota Al-Anon as an individual, group or district. If we dream today that Al-Anon will be here for us, it will be here tomorrow for anyone who needs the help of Al-Anon.

In Al-Anon Service,
Connie B.
Treasurer
604 Douglas Ave
Henning, MN 56551

Questions from Fall 2016 Assembly

1. How does your group or district use the September Forum?
2. Do you know why our literature sales are dropping?
3. How are we presenting literature in our groups?
4. How can you use literature better in your personal service work?
5. How do we feel about the "Just For Today" prayer which is included in the "Just for Today" wallet card/bookmark? There are some members across the country who feel it should be revised or discontinued as it may give newcomers the impression that Al-Anon is a religious program. See pg. 57-60 in the Conference Summary
6. What types of meetings do you attend and where are they?
7. Would we do a team event? This would be a joint venture for WSO and our Area. We could choose the topic from a list WSO provides. Pg. 41-42 in the Conference Summary. The application form and more information can be found in the members' portion of the Al-Anon website www.alanon.alateen.org/members. Once in the members' site, hover on "Service Structure", then click "Area Resources", and you will see the icon labeled "TEAM".
8. She would like input on revision of the text regarding "Conventions and Other Events." Pg. 62-65 of conf. summary.
9. How can we adapt and evolve to attract and retain younger members (under 40) while staying true to our purpose, traditions and concepts?
10. What does the Forum mean to you?
11. How do we ensure that the Forum continues to be a vital part of Al-Anon recovery?
12. Could we host a Board Week in our Area? Pg. 36-37. More information and forms on the members' site at www.alanon.alateen.org/members. Since the "Meet the Board" event is still in a trial period, contact WSO for more information. You can see it on the calendar of events for October on the WSO website.

Carol asked that everyone to take this back to their groups, get ideas and email responses to her at ct2922@aol.com by November 1, 2016.

Helpful Hints

www.alanon.alateen.org is our WSO website.

Go to "members", and the password is your meeting name plus AFG (easydoesitafg).

EXPLORE!! If you have never been here, there is a wealth of information and resources for you!! You can find workshops, webinars, etc. Get connected to the worldwide fellowship!!

If you did not receive a hard copy of the Service Summary at Assembly, it is now available online! Go to www.alanon.alateen.org/members and login. Hover on "Service Structure", then click "Area Resources", and you will see the icon labeled "Conference Summary".

A Calendar of Events for WSO can be found in the members' site. Hover on "WSO", then click on "Events and Conventions"