

**SPRING ASSEMBLY
MARCH 18, 2017
COMFORT INN
BISMARCK, ND**

8:00 Registration
8:30 Assembly begins

The meeting was called to order by Sheila S. at 8:35 AM.

Announcements: Sheila, Acting Chairperson, announced a card is being passed around for Walt who lost his daughter recently.

The Serenity Prayer was said by everyone.

The Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties were read by everyone.

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

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves. Voting members were: Erika S., Dee S., Gayle D., Linda M., Judy S., Molly W., Steve B., Tanya V., Lynelle K., Patty M., Cathy S., Lana N. Non-voting members were: Connie B, Brenda G., Carol T., Nancy H., Sheila S., Sheri S., Kerry P., Darcy A.

Secretary Report

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

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report and appeal letter was distributed by Connie B. Carol T. asked what the actual cost was for the Delegate to attend the 2016 Conference. Connie reported the actual amount was \$1,909.00 and the equalized expense paid to WSO was \$1,260.00. The Delegate also receives \$400 for Conference from the Area. This is intended to cover any expenses which might not be reimbursed under the equalized expense. In addition, the Delegate receives \$400 towards expenses to attend the Northwest Regional Delegates Meeting. Connie referred members to the Bank Service Charge for \$5.00. This was an error at the bank and it has been corrected and the money returned.

Judy S. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was 2nd by Brenda G.; motion carried unanimously.

District Reports

District 1: Tanya V. Nothing new.

District 2: No one attending.

District 3: Brenda gave the following report:

We had our 6th Annual Holiday Kick Off Party on December 3, 2016. We had a fair turnout and lots of good food and fellowship. We decided to do Love Gifts for Carol to take with her to Conference [stress relievers and these were given to Carol at the Assembly Meeting].

Spring Fling will be April 8th. District 3 will be serving lunch with a free will offering. Brenda G. will be the Al-Anon speaker. Finances in District 3 are good.

District 4: Lynelle reported there were no additions/changes to the report in the Alavine.

District 5: No one attending.

District 6&8: Sheri S. reported there were no additions/corrections to the report in the Alavine.

District 7: Erika S. reported their Public Outreach person has stepped down. The only position filled in their District is the Treasurer.

Coordinator Reports

Alateen - Dee S. No additions/corrections to the report in the Alavine.

Alavine - Darcy A. No additions/corrections. She did request that anyone can share Next deadline is August 1, 2017. Erika asked that she and Gail D. be the contact people for District 7.

Archives – No one attending.

Forum – Lynelle reported there is nothing new on behalf of Liv.

Group Records - Nancy H. reported there are 52 total groups in our Area; 40 active, 12 inactive.

Literature – Linda reported there are no additions/corrections to the report in the Alavine on behalf of Judy J.

Public Outreach – Brenda reported she has not done the letter to the libraries yet. She will get that done.

Website – The following topics related to the website were discussed.

1. Erika asked if everyone has seen the new website and if there were any recommended changes.
2. There was discussion about the AA Assembly Meeting Agenda posted on our website and that it might be causing some confusion to Al-Anon members. It was suggested we make our own flyer to post in the future. Since the next 2 assemblies are in Minot and Brenda is the DR for District 3, she offered to draft flyers for both the Fall and Spring Assembly Meetings and send them to Erika.
3. Erika shared that the total cost for the website is \$222.36. It was suggested at the previous meeting, that each group donate \$15 to help cover this cost. So far the amount needed has not been raised. There may be a number of reasons some groups have not donated.
 - GR's may not have taken this request back to their groups. All GR's are asked to do this.

- Many groups do not have GR's in attendance, may not get emails following Assembly as their names and email addresses are not on the roster, and may not be checking the website to read the minutes. Therefore, the information may not be getting to those groups.
- There may be some confusion about the wording the donation being for the "Alavine/Website" as the Alavine is already available on the website. It was suggested the wording be changed to clarify that the donation is really to help fund the ND Al-Anon website.
- Some groups are sending donations without indicating what the funds are for and may be intending the donation, or part of it, to be for the website.

Erika suggested we send out an invoice or appeal to request donations to cover the expense of the website. This would assure it reaches all groups and that it is clear what the funds are for. All members felt this was a great idea and Erika offered to take on this task. She will get the GR or group contact information from Nancy H. It was decided this will also be added to the Alavine and to the Area Appeal Letter.

4. Erika stated that the Minot AFG LDC Price Sheet is posted on the website.
5. Erika and Heather are getting emails related to changes in meeting times and other things that should be going to the Group Records Coordinator, Nancy H. She asked that this information be sent to Nancy as appropriate. Nancy will notify WSO and will then share with Erika and Heather who will update the website.
6. Erika asked if there was interest in facilitating donations by individuals to Area 43. She could create a button to click, labeling it "Donate" for example, and include text explaining what the donations are for. This was enthusiastically received by members! These funds will be tracked separately as individual donations via the website so we can see those donations separately.

Literature Distribution Center (LDC) –

Minot AFG LDC Report (sent prior to meeting)

Did you all notice the table cloths on the literature table? The information came in an email on DOL (Delegate's on Line). I was going to show them for the first time at the [2016] AA Fall Round Up, [but] most of you know I stayed home & played hooky with my family. My oldest nephew brought my sister here from Upper Michigan. Back to the focus! I thought they looked great in the email, so I ordered the LDC some. I feel the Area should have one or two for the front table. What a great picture for our Delegate to take to WSC (World Service Conference). Ordered out of California.

Here is some FYI for you all regarding the LDC: 1) 2015 the total amount of literature sold is \$6737.64; and 2) 2016 the total amount of literature sold, and this is without [my] being at Fall Assembly, is \$10,511.82. What a great job you all did at getting the literature out there. Give yourself applause and a pat on the back.

Way back when I was ND's Delegate, during one of the Conferences, we heard educate, educate & educate, it does mean to repeat, repeat & repeat to get the message out there.

That's the same that I needed when I came into the rooms of Al-Anon. So, here is this for the first time: The LDC's (Literature Distribution Center's) are under the business part of WSO (World Service Office), not the AFG (Al-Anon Family Groups) part. For ND to keep their LDC, you need to pay for your order in a timely manner. Just like every other business, if the bills aren't paid, nothing can be re-supplied, I need money to ship, to order more literature and supplies I need to do this. If you don't pay in a timely manner, you will be ordering from WSO again and that takes 3-5 weeks to get.

I am first and foremost an Al-Anon member and I have the LDC business in my home. I can honestly tell you, I am not lying to you when I tell you I have not received a payment, just to extract more money from you. That is why I wait so long to contact about payment. Please, when I ask you to look up the number of your check, please get it for me because I really need to know the date the check was written and the check number. Also, if I receive the first & second check I will tell you that, so you can decide what you want to do, either I reimburse you or you can order more literature. Carla & I didn't start the LDC to make money, we started it to help Al-Anon groups to get literature faster, a lot faster.

Here is the information I need at the time of ordering:

- 1) Name of the person responsible for ordering
- 2) Address to where you want the order shipped to
- 3) Email address
- 4) Phone number

Please, remember to use the minotafglcdc@srt.com for ordering literature, not lamine@srt.com.

Here is a little good news with shipping with Spee Dee Delivery. I am working on establishing a shipping account, and that can save up to \$.80 per package, if they do not have to write anything up. They will send me everything I need to get the package ready and all I need to do is drop it off, no more waiting in line. Spee Dee bills me monthly. That means I write one check per month. Another savings passed on to you.

LIS,
Lana Nelson
Panel 38, ND

During the Assembly meeting, Lana N. distributed an updated list of the literature available at the LDC. On the list, there is a meaning to the letters in the literature pieces: P=Pamphlet, B=Book, K=Kit, S=Service, M=Misc. Lana shared that she adds \$.50 to the cost of books to get more money to order more literature. She also took us through the answers to the quiz she'd included in the Alavine.

Break: 10:00 AM

Delegate Report

Carol reported that the Service Manual is being updated. WSO has discontinued sending a new service manual to every registered group. However, it continues to send a manual to any new groups registering. Existing groups will need to purchase their own service manuals.

She received 7 individual responses to her questions from the last Assembly meeting as well as 7 group responses. There were lots of comments on Question 5: prayer on back of the "Just For Today" bookmark. She will share all responses at Conference.

Carol will be attending the Regional Delegate meeting next week and Conference April 23-29. Delegates attending provide Love Gifts for other Delegates or financial donations to WSO. She thanked District 3 for the Love Gifts they provided. Any other Groups or Districts interested in sending Love gifts (either craft items or a financial contribution to WSO) should send them to arrive on or before April 23. They should be addressed as follows:

Carol Tepley (Hold for WSC 4/23-4/29, 2017)
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront
5700 Atlantic Ave.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Return address (in case mail gets delayed):
Carol Tepley
2922 Eagle Dr.
Moorhead, MN 56560

Carol shared that donations to WSO from Area 43 grew from 71% of groups giving to WSO to 79%; and average donations increased from \$120 to \$196.

Carol T. distributed a packet which included the following.

- Chairman of the Board letter (WSO Board) and information on work being done by various committees. She reviewed the topics being discussed by the Policy Committee.
- Finance Committee Update: Contributions increased 27.21% from the past year and all were individual small donations or small increases from regular donators. It is felt that word of the state of finances got out and the increase in donations is the result. This is great! WSO is not out of the woods yet, but great strides have been made.
- Chosen Agenda Items (CHI) – These items are the opinions of those who gave them. They are often from Delegate who are hearing things from several groups/people. They are summarized and sent out. Of all submitted, the top 3 are selected. These start on page 10 of the packets. She would like feedback from everyone on which of these topics we would like to see chosen as the top 3.
 - **Carol asked that we send her top 3 choices (just the number of the topic in the packet). This should be sent to her by texting to her cell phone; 701-261-7617. Please text her by this coming Saturday, March 25.**
- Carol reported she has received positive feedback on hosting a TEAM event. She passed a sheet and asked anyone interested in talking more about hosting a TEAM event to sign it. She also shared that there will be a TEAM Event in Montana June 17-18, 2017.

Carol then brought up the WSO Website, <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>. She noted the link announcing the International Convention in Baltimore Maryland, July 6-8, 2018.

On the website, you can click on Members' Site to get to many topics of interest. She pointed out that member surveys are happening all the time and run about 30 days. Click on "Survey". WSO looking for more people to share their stories. You can submit on-line; click on "Send your sharing."

Lunch Break: 12:00 – 1:15 PM

Following the lunch break, Sheila announced the upcoming State Roundup locations: 2017 – Minot, 2018 – Fargo, 2019 – Jamestown, 2020 – Williston.

Old Business

1. Motions Document: Connie B. has a document that has the past motions by topic. She will email it out after the meeting to everyone attending.
2. Walt had an item in the agenda about consensus of GR's be listed as abstaining from voting when they left the meeting (to attend a workshop or needed to leave early for example). This was what was actually happened at the 2016 Fall Assembly Meeting. His question was whether it was a policy or a procedure or if this practice was actually ever discussed and voted on in the past. Connie will check the motions document she has that is sorted by topic and report back.
3. Recap of motions made at last assembly as related to Thought Force groups and the responsibilities of those groups. It was felt there has been a lack of either progress of those groups or no action taken by the Area when those groups actually reported back findings at Assembly meetings. Sheri suggested that it may be difficult to get members in the groups together outside of the Assembly Meetings. She suggested that rather than taking time for a workshop, we could do breakout sessions and have round-table discussions with each thought force/task force in a group and get the work done during that time. Each group could then share findings after the breakout sessions and decisions could be made and action taken, if needed, during the meeting. Another suggestion, if more time is needed for certain Thought or Task Force topics, we could complete Thought Forces work at the Spring Assembly Meeting and Task Force work at the Fall Assembly. Cathy suggested details for that scenario to be:
 - a. The Thought Force would do the following:
 - 1) Brainstorm ideas
 - 2) Assign a Chairperson
 - 3) The Chairperson would assign tasks to members and let them know their tasks are due at the next Area Assembly.
 - b. The Task Force would do the following:
 - 1) Summarize the Thought Force ideas
 - 2) Present the findings/recommendations
 - 3) Facilitate resolution/voting at the Assembly Meeting
4. Finance Task Force
 - a. Members discussed the need to move forward on the work of the Finance Task Force as the budget needs to be completed. It was decided to work through this discussion while everyone was together at the meeting and forgo a workshop. It was also decided that, for a task force discussion, input and voting from all present was needed and appropriate.
 - b. Erika shared a list of questions to start discussions and a few more were added. The questions for discussion were:
 - 1) Why are past delegates still getting a \$40 stipend?
 - a. It was clarified that most past delegates also hold an office so they get reimbursed the \$40 anyway. They do not get both stipends. It was the general consensus that their experience, strength and hope is valuable.

- 2) The Chairperson and Delegate are reimbursed for mileage at \$.50/mile. Should we reimburse by receipt for gas or by mileage? If by mileage, should we continue with the \$.50 per mile or at the WSO rate of \$.20?
- a. Erika asked for a show of hands for those who would vote to reimburse by gas receipts and for those who would vote to reimburse by mileage. Those voting to reimburse by gas receipts were 15, those voting to reimburse by mileage were 3, those abstaining were 2.**
- 3) Why do Officers/Coordinators who are not DR's or GR's get just a \$40 stipend? Should they get fully reimbursed for their expenses? Nancy H. was shared as an example. She is the Area Group Records Coordinator serving her second term. She has had an average cost of \$210/meeting and gets a \$40 stipend. It was pointed out that there may be members unable to volunteer for a service position like this without reimbursement of expenses. There are currently 5 people who are officers or coordinator and not supported by groups. A number of ideas and questions were offered.
- a. Raise the stipend
- b. Increase the registration fee to raise money
- c. Take incremental steps and increase slowly. Start at the top of the list with the delegate and be fully self-supporting in that area. Then look at the other officers/coordinators.
- d. A question was raised on whether or not these officers/coordinators are really "required" to be here.
- e. A question was raised on whether or not we really need an Alateen Coordinator since there are no active groups in the Area. The Literature Coordinator position was also mentioned as everything is available on-line.
- 1) These coordinators are still participating in conference calls and sharing information back with the Area. After some discussion it was the consensus that it is valuable to maintain these positions.
- f. Concern was raised on whether or not we'll have funds available, even with the increased giving with passing the basket and now the button we are adding to the website. We don't want to go in the red again.
- g. There may be more funding available now that we will reimburse by gas receipts rather than mileage.
- h. We could make it easier to donate to the Area by using the website.
- 1) Erika created a button on the website during discussion to facilitate on-line donations. These will be tracked separately in the Treasurer's Report so we can see how effective this will be.
- Dee made a motion that we raise the stipend for Officers and Coordinators to \$50 for the 2018 budget. This was approved unanimously.**
- 4) If you are a GR and your group is covering costs to attend meeting and you are also in a service position for which there is a \$40 stipend, should you still get a stipend? If so, should it be yours to keep or go back to the group or back to the Area?
- 1) Those receiving the stipend have the option to return it back to the Area and many do so,

- 5) The Delegate is reimbursed for Conference by WSO and all expenses, including shuttles, etc. are covered. The Area budgets \$400 for incidental expenses that may not be covered by WSO. Carol stated that last year she donated the \$400 to WSO since she had no additional expenses. The Delegate is also reimbursed \$400 to attend the Delegate Regional Meetings which does not cover all the expenses incurred to attend those meetings.
 - 1) It was suggested that these funds be used to help pay for the Delegate to attend the Regional Conference. **Erika asked those who would agree with moving the \$400 to the budget for the Regional meeting to raise their hands. Approved unanimously.**
- 6) There are groups in our Area who do not have the money to send their GR's to Assembly Meetings. Some groups are financially strong. Darcy asked if there could be a process by which one group could help another group by providing funds to help with these expenses.
 - a. It was suggested we consider other means of participation such as Skype.
 - b. It was suggested we try to connect people to share costs via car-pooling or sharing hotel rooms to reduce costs to attend meetings.
 - 1) Something like a bulletin board on the website could be used but there is a concern about privacy.
 - 2) Sheri shared that this might be possible simply with email. District 6/8 has an email group that is used to communicate among members and something similar could be done at an Area level.
 - c. The Finance Task Force also discussed creating a flow chart of this information so that we are all on the same page throughout the Area.
5. Other Thought Forces/Task Forces from previous Assembly Meetings were:
 - a. Increasing attendance to assemblies – Report was given, no action has been taken.
 - b. Alavine
 - c. Archives

New Business

1. Assembly Mission Statement: Sheri shared the District 6-8 Mission and Vision statements.

DISTRICT 6-8 MISSION STATEMENT

1. *To encourage leadership development at the group and district level by sharing our experience, strength and hope through our legacies of the Al-Anon Steps, Traditions and Concepts.*
2. *To ensure that necessary resources are available to carry the Al-Anon message to family and friends of alcoholics.*

DISTRICT 6-8 VISION STATEMENT

All people affected by someone else's drinking will find help and recovery in every community in District 6-8.

She also shared the following draft for Assembly Mission and Vision statements.

AREA 43 ASSEMBLY MISSION STATEMENT

*To meet members needs for a fulfilling experience in service.
To provide support for all Districts and Groups in the Area and for WSO.
To provide a welcoming environment of respect, courtesy and warmth with all endeavors undertaken with the best interests of the Area in mind.*

AREA 43 ASSEMBLY VISION STATEMENT

Area 43 will have a thriving, dynamic membership and its Assembly meetings will be conducted in a manner that assures its continued success in years to come.

Discussion. **The group made some revisions and the approved the following:**

NORTH DAKOTA - AREA 43 AL-ANON ASSEMBLY

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing a welcoming environment of respect, courtesy and warmth with all endeavors undertaken with the best interests of Area 43 while protecting the anonymity of all members.

Meeting the needs of Al-Anon members seeking a fulfilling experience in service while conducting the business matters of Area 43.

Supporting all Districts and Groups in Area 43 and Al-Anon's World Service Office.

VISION STATEMENT

Area 43 will have a thriving, dynamic membership and its Assembly meetings will be conducted in a manner that assures its continued success in years to come.

These will be included on the Assembly Agendas from now on.

2. Following the meeting, the budget needs to be finished. Members to participate are: Alternate Delegate, Area Chair, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Secretary, Immediate Outgoing Treasurer + 3 Members at Large. Volunteers for Members at Large were: Brenda, Lynelle & Judy S.
3. Following the meeting, the audit of 2015 and 2016 needs to be done. Members to participate are: One DR, one Coordinator and the Alternate Delegate. Participants will be: Lana, Sheila & Brenda.
4. There will be an Al-Anon meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. in this room.
5. A motion to close was made by Lana and Patty M.. 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 MARCH 17, 2017**

BALANCE FORWARD: SEPTEMBER 17, 12016 \$ 2,597.67

INCOME:

GROUP	\$ 1,127.75	
ALAVINE – WEB	\$ 75.00	
REGISTRATION	\$ 270.00	
TRADITION 7	\$ 199.00	
SILENT AUCTION	\$ 30.00	
INDIVIDUAL	\$ 500.00	<u>\$ 2,201.75</u>

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 4,799.42

EXPENSES: FALL ROUNDUP

DELEGATE:

REGISTRATION	\$ 20.00	
(SPRING AND FALL)		
MEALS	\$ 7.85	
MILEAGE	\$ 46.85	
ROOM	\$ 142.25	<u>\$ 216.95</u>

CHAIRMAN:

REGISTRATION	\$ 20.00	
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MILEAGE	\$ 29.85	
ROOM	\$ 216.00	<u>\$ 279.85</u>

COORDINATORS / OFFICERS TOKENS \$ 440.00

WEB EXPENSE FOR MARCH 2017 THRU

MARCH 2018 -- DOMAIN 2 YRS \$ 30.34

WEBSITE BUILDER RENEWAL \$ 179.88

TAX \$ 12.14

TOTAL WEB EXPENSE \$ 222.36

EQUALIZED EXPENSE TO WORLD SERVICE \$ 1,260.00

PRINTING – TREASURER	\$ 38.53	
LITERATURE	\$ 12.00	<u>\$ 50.53</u>

BANK SERVICE CHARGE \$ 5.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 2,474.69

BALANCE AS OF: MARCH 17, 2017 \$ 2,324.73

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
CONNIE B. AREA TREASURER

MONEY RECEIVED AT ASSEMBLY 3/18/2017

GROUP DONATION - 30.00 INDIVIDUAL DONATION – 120.00

WEB SITE - 75.00 REGISTRATION – 200.00

TRADITION 7 – 121.00

Spring 2017 Appeal Letter –March 17, 2017

As I sit and prepare my reports for the spring assembly I find myself reflecting on the past year and how we have grown financially. A heartfelt **thank you** to everyone (groups, districts and individuals) who have made sure that we continue to survive financially.

Will you and/or your Al-Anon group continue to be the “one” that financially helps Area 43 Al-Anon (North Dakota) function and survive? Some actual and/or estimated expenses coming up for Area 43 are as follows:

Fall Assembly Expenses:

--Delegate/Chairman	\$1,490
--Coordinators/Other Officers	520
--Equalized Expense for 2018	1,500
Total Expenses	\$3,510

Please send all group and individual donations to me (address below). Your Alavine subscriptions and website donations can also be sent to me at the following address:

Connie B.
604 Douglas Ave.
Henning, MN 56551

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